

KIDS

OUR KORNER

Making a Difference for Wildlife

Today in Mississippi, white-tailed deer number between 1.5 and two million and there are between 250 and 300 thousand wild turkeys. Our state has not always enjoyed such an abundant population of game animals. Seventy years ago, in 1928, Aldo Leopold, known as the "Father of Conservation" conducted a plant and animal survey in Mississippi. Leopold found very low numbers of wild turkeys and deer along with greatly reduced suitable habitat for deer and turkey. While large game declined, quail and rabbit populations seemed to thrive in the newly acquired agricultural setting. Leopold noted that the small county based game law enforcement systems were ineffective in dealing with widespread, unregulated hunting. Leopold made the following statement in his "Report on a Game Survey of Mississippi". "There is one offset to all these defects; a widespread and intense popular interest in game and hunting. In this respect Mississippi excels any other state so far surveyed. The capitalization of this interest...is the only hope for maintaining a game supply in the face of the process of industrialization now underway throughout the South."

Taking positive action concerning these same problems became the life's work of Miss

Frances A. Cook (Fanny) of Crystal Springs, Mississippi. Through her efforts, the first Game and Fish Commission was established. Miss Cook also founded the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science as a part of the newly formed wildlife agency.

She became the Museum's first director.

Today, deer and wild turkey populations are thriving in Mississippi through effective game laws and successful conservation and management programs of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. A healthy environment cannot be maintained by the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks alone. It takes all Mississippians working together to make sure that our state remains rich in fish and wildlife resources.

Who can help wildlife? You can by learning about wildlife and wildlife needs, by being good stewards of the land, and by supporting conservation organizations such as the Mississippi Wildlife Foundation. A good place to learn about wildlife and wildlife habitats is the Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, Mississippi.



SEE IF YOU CAN MATCH THE FOLLOWING

Father of Conservation
Large Bird
Large Mammal
Small Bird
Small Mammal
Conservation Organization
Agency Responsible for Wildlife Laws
Museum Founded by Miss Cook

Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
Turkey
Aldo Leopold
Rabbit
Deer
Quail

Kid's Korner

Courtesy of the
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science
111 North Jefferson Street
Jackson, MS 39202