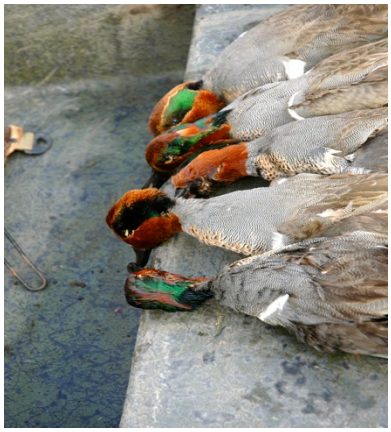
Southern Way Charters

CHANDELEUR-GULFPORT-VENICE-BILOXI MARSH

SWC CHRONICLES
January 2014



GREETINGS FROM SWC AND THE GULF SOUTH

AMERICA'S THIRD COAST

Greetings and Happy New Year from Southern Way Charters. With 2013 in the books, its time to reflect on last year and announce exciting changes in the works for 2014.

First off, we wrapped up our Chandeleur season on the Southern Way in November. Captain Brian and crew ran over 50 trips last year. While the spring was challenging due to windy conditions, the summer patterns firmed up and our overall season was consistent and solid. What many don't realize is that fall and early winter fishing at the Chandeleurs is excellent as was the case this year as well. With one more marsh fly fishing trip in the Biloxi Marsh to go next month, the Southern Way will get its usual yearly maintenance and Coast Guard inspection in February and be ready to start the Chandeleur season again in March. We've had an incredible early response for dates already so call soon to book your trip. Ask Bart about our special weekday trip rates!

The Southern Cross ran over 25 trips last year consisting of near shore fishing and trolling, Chandeleur trips and Expedition Fly Fishing trips as well as supporting our Biloxi Marsh winter operations. We are particularly excited about the "Cross" Expedition trips. For fly fishermen, this trip is a perfect way to fish the Biloxi Marsh, outer islands and the Chandeleurs.

Waterfowl Season Recap:

The Louisiana coastal zone duck season ended January 19th,ending what turned out to be the tale of two splits. As you may remember from earlier Chronicles, we began our season with no tropical activity, a marsh in the best condition in years and ponds full of submergent aquatic vegetation (Duck Food). While the migration seemed a little slow in happening, our first split provided … (continued on p. 2)

Waterfowl Recap:(from p.1)

excellent gunning with over 300 ducks harvested in the 21 day first split resulting in an average of 5.1 ducks per hunter effort. We ended the first split with a large number of birds holding in our marsh and high anticipation for a good late season. Opening weekend of the second split yielded limits however from that point hunting became more challenging. Despite what turned out to be a cold Louisiana winter with frequent strong cold fronts we never received a large number of new birds with each weather system. The ducks bagged per hunter was significantly less in December improving some in January. Our biggest observed difference between this late season and others was the lack of large number of green winged teal. Usually the Biloxi Marsh holds groups of thousands of teal but this never materialized as in past seasons. Our main ducks harvested were gadwalls (gray ducks) with more mallards, pintail and widgeon killed than in past years. Compared to the region (southeast La.) as a whole our hunters had a better average than other areas nearby.

Now that the season has wrapped up, our crew will take some time off from the marsh. but be assured not for long as preparations for next year will start in the spring and continue thru to next opening day. We'll be placing additional pit blinds, platform blinds and working with our biologist and land owner to continue improving the marsh habitat. And like every duck hunter, we'll treasure the memories made this season and dream of limits on opening day this year in the Biloxi Marsh. We hope we'll see you then too.

GREETINGS FROM SWC.....

By being positioned on site in the fishing grounds, fishing time is optimized and chances for that record redfish, jack crevalle, shark or tarpon are increased. We have experienced local guides committed to the year round fly fishery in coastal Louisiana ready to go! Call us to discuss your customized "Expedition" trip. (see " Fly Fishing" page3)

Finally, for 2013, our waterfowl season was greatly expanded from previous years (see our Waterfowl Season Recap on page 1.) Our "Cast and Blast" trips proved to be very popular and we will continue to develop and expand our hunting opportunities in the years to come.

Now for 2014….It's with great excitement that SWC announces the "SWC Sportsmans Lodge" - a 110 foot long, 5,000 square foot floating lodge. The "Lodge" will offer first class accommodations featuring a large lounge area, commercial kitchen, dining area, outdoor seating area, game room and 7 private bedrooms upstairs. A full time chef will prepare dishes featuring shrimp, fresh fish and steaks. She is on the shipyard now getting spruced up. The "Lodge" will be positioned in the Venice Marina in Venice, Louisiana just a short one hour drive south of New Orleans from March thru October each year. This location offers access to the finest offshore fishing just off the mouth of the Mississippi River. In addition vast marshes and several close by barrier islands offer excellent spring and summer light tackle fishing for redfish, trout and other species. In late October, the

SWC Sportsmans Lodge will be relocated to the Biloxi Marsh to support our waterfowl hunting and winter fly fishing and light tackle fishing. While we understand that an exceptional hunting and fishing experience is the reason you're here, there simply is no lodge that can offer the level of comfort, service and location that we will be able to offer with the Sportsmans Lodge. This further enhances our motto that "you don't have to go far if you are already there!"

Please contact Bart as soon as possible to customize an outdoor adventure to Venice or the Biloxi Marsh for you or your family or corporate group. Just tell us when you want to come and we'll do the rest.

Until next time, we'll keep living life the…SOUTHERN WAY!

Bart Haddad

Bob Wilkins

Raymond Whitehead

SWC Sportsmans Lodge

Offshore Fishing

When positioned in Venice, La. at the Venice Marina, the SWC Sportsmans Lodge offers some of the finest offshore fishing in the Gulf South. Our captains target trophy sized tuna, wahoo, marlin, tarpon, snapper and grouper.

Light Tackle Coastal Fishing

When positioned in either location, the SWC Sportsmans Lodge offers the best in light tackle fishing targeting redfish, trout, triple-tail, flounder, cobia and black tip shark. Both locations are surrounded by vast marshlands and fishing is literally minutes from the lodge. Louisiana offers very liberal fish limits.

Fly Fishing

In the fall and winter large redfish move into the outer Biloxi Marsh. The secret is out and fishermen from across the globe now trek here for a chance at world- class redfish on the fly. We can handle all the details, the best guides, boats, and now first class accommodations.

Coastal Waterfowl Hunting

Within the Biloxi Marsh is our 10,000 acre privately managed lease where coastal gunning for waterfowl takes place just minutes from the lodge and private dock.

Fly Fishing with Southern Way Charters

We offer multiple trips and fly fishing options at SWC. In the spring and summer day trips out of Shell Beach and Hopedale Louisiana can be arranged. This time of year offers excellent chances at trophy redfish. Another option is our Expedition trips to the Chandeleurs and outer marsh. These multi-day trips allow for more time on the water and an opportunity to cover more areas thus increased odds at catching the big one. Finally, a fly trip to the Biloxi Marsh in the fall and winter offer chances at trophy reds from a remote marsh location now with first class accommodations on the SWC Sportsmans Lodge. Which ever option works for you, you'll be guided by local fly guides in new flats boats from Hell's Bay, Chittum and East Cape. Let us design a trip for you or your group today.

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