



*Will McNamara
and son, Kent*

Delta Wildlife Member Highlight:

Will McNamara

BY AMY TAYLOR

Without hesitation, Will McNamara credits his grandfather with instilling a love of hunting in him. He explains, “My grandfather, for whom I am named, was an avid duck hunter. He gifted my brother, David, and me that same enthusiasm for hunting. He took us hunting in the south Delta area. When my grandfather passed away, David and I continued hunting together and still carry on that tradition today.”

A fourth-generation Jacksonian, Will graduated from Jackson Preparatory School and then from Ole Miss. He has enjoyed a 27-year career in the insurance industry and is the co-owner of the agency, EPG Benefits. He hunted on leased or public land until 2014 when he became a shareholder in Float Road, which was founded by a group of eight Jackson physicians and businessmen in 1975. The property consists of 1,200 acres adjacent to the Yalobusha River 11 miles north of Greenwood.

“It’s really a labor of love, to put this land in the best shape it can be.” He explains, “In the summer of 2016, my partners and I turned to Delta Wildlife for their advice on land management and water control. Together, we devised a five-year plan to control our water. Delta Wildlife came out and assessed the property, made recommendations and helped plan the proj-

ects. They helped with survey elevations and provided cost projections. They also helped us apply for approval from the Army Corps of Engineers and gain partial funding through The Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

He adds, “In order to manage a successful waterfowl property, you’ve got to have four things: one, a favorable location (a flyway); two, control of water; three, strategic food plantings; and four, cold weather.” He stresses, “You’ve got to pray for cold weather!”

As vice-president and chairman of the Float Road Habitat Committee, Will takes a hands-on approach and oversees the property at least twice a month in the offseason. He and his wife of 25 years, Jamie, are the parents of three children: Kent and Addison, both students at Ole Miss, and Alden, a 9th grader at Jackson Academy. Two other very special members of the McNamara family are their two British Labradors, Sam and Ace, whom Will has enjoyed training.

Will comments, “Delta Wildlife has been a huge resource in this project. To have the ability to work with their level of professionals gives you a distinct advantage in accomplishing your goals for your property. They are there to offer advice and lend their expertise — from the concept, through the process, to a successful end.”