

# SPORTSMAN'S DAY

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia has a great heritage of hunting and fishing that is enjoyed by 1.2 million people each year; and

WHEREAS: Hunting and fishing generate \$61.5 million in annual sales tax revenue, help create 21,000 jobs and have an annual total economic impact of over \$2 billion; and

WHEREAS: License fees from hunters and anglers are the primary source of funds for wildlife management area land acquisition in Georgia, totaling over 100,000 acres since the late 1980s, and for the annual lease payments on approximately 225,000 acres of wildlife areas. These are natural lands which not only provide hunting and fishing opportunities to Georgia citizens but are also used by bird-watchers, hikers, campers and educational groups; and

WHEREAS: License fees and excise taxes from hunters and fishermen have funded the successful restoration of white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear, bobwhite quail and wood ducks in Georgia, as well as the stocking of millions of game fish in lakes and rivers all over the state; and

WHEREAS: Sportsmen of Georgia and the conservation organizations that they support privately with millions of dollars each year work to preserve our state's natural lands and wildlife, including non-game as well as game animals; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 7, 2003, as SPORTSMAN'S DAY throughout our state.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 7th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand three.



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