

# Mike McLemore

*(1945 – 2012) Huntingdon, Tennessee*

Mike McLemore was around 7 when he was joining his father on duck hunts in the marshes and flooded timber of SW Tennessee. Soon after from many hours of practicing and numerous days afield it was well known he had a talent to call duck. All this time made him more popular with school mates where everyone wanted to hunt with him knowing their success rate would be much higher.



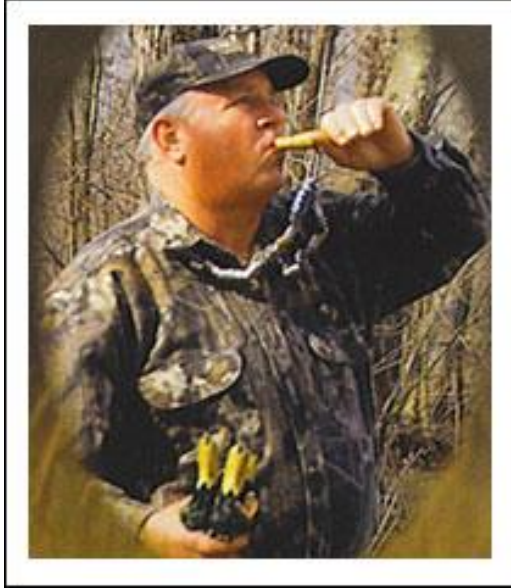
His love of duck hunting and calling only grew. Mike was told he was good enough to win in the state duck calling competition, therefore competed and won the Tennessee State Duck Calling competition twice, from there he captured the "World Championship" in Stuttgart AR. In 1973, 1974, and again in 1977 using his own duck call. In 1980 he captured his last greatest duck calling honor by defeating seven other world champion duck callers to win the highlight of his career, The coveted "Champion of Champion" Duck Calling Championship Title again using his own duck call. Once you receive this award you cannot compete anymore.

He had a knack for duck calling, and with his unique style of calling it commanded any duck hunter's attention once he tuned up and blew a serenade that turned the call into a musical instrument. No one could seemingly mimic that lonesome hen sound like him.

Mike believes a hunter must have a good call to be proficient, whether on the contest stage, or in a duck blind. Also, to get more kids involved in calling, by being a contestant. "There's something about contests that intrigues kids and turns them on," McLemore says. "The thing about young people is that they will often practice more than adults will. Before they get their driver's license, they don't have much going on. Believing anyone can learn to call ducks well enough to bring them into the decoys. "It takes practice, tough," he always said.

Through his reputation it had him emceeding various calling events after retiring from competition calling himself. He carried him across the country and throughout life performing master of ceremonies duties at several duck calling contests, speaking engagements including the prestigious Easton Waterfowl Festival on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He continued to host calling contests such as his Grand American Duck and Goose Calling contest that later became part of the Reelfoot Lake Waterfowl Festival. Yet through all this traveling he often made visits to local Ducks Unlimited banquets lending his support.





One of his many attributes was his willingness to help others. For he had a legion of friends and fans everywhere he went, and always had time to visit with sportsmen and other duck callers. Time and again when he worked sports shows one could see him patiently help a wannabe duck caller with tips, each hoping some of his talent might rub off on them. From any age all young and older waterfowl callers alike. He always left a good impression on anyone attempting to learn the art of calling and made the stranger feel like they too could someday be a World Champ.

Mike McLemore will always be remembered for his influences with the chosen life of waterfowling, the love of the sport, his captivating personality, and his strong faith in God.

