

New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Digest

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Commissioner's Message

By Bradley M. Campbell

New Jersey's anglers and hunters are in the spotlight as never before.

Governor McGreevey's Highlands initiative will permanently protect critical habitat for game species and the headwaters of some of New Jersey's most important coldwater fisheries. Tough new stormwater rules will put a 300-foot buffer between the state's high-quality waters, including dozens of prized trout streams, and any new development. Targeted acquisitions through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Green Acres program are expanding the lands available to the sporting public for hunting and fishing. Mandated cuts in mercury emissions from power plants and incinerators promise a day when future generations of anglers will have fewer fish advisories. And the Governor's efforts to strengthen long-neglected functions of DEP's Fish and Wildlife Division, particularly through rebuilding the fisheries stock assessment program, are restoring New Jersey's leadership in fish and wildlife management.

Despite this remarkable mid-term record of accomplishment, the sporting community seems more peeved than pleased these days—mostly because of controversy surrounding the bear hunt.



Director's Message

By Marty McHugh

This year marks the implementation of the Delaware Bay Initiative (Initiative), a habitat

restoration and management cooperative program that could prove to be one of the largest boosts to wildlife biodiversity ever provided by any branch of New Jersey state government. In May of 2004, the first project completed under the Delaware Bay Initiative was dedicated at the Heislerville Wildlife Management Area (WMA). During the dedication it became apparent how valuable this habitat management effort will be to biodiversity on the bay when a pair of foraging bald eagles, numerous herons and egrets, colonial waterbirds, sandpipers, willets, ospreys, yellow legged plovers, black ducks, Canada geese, mute swans, mallards and even a pair of pintails were observed using the newly created habitat.

Through the installation of three new water control structures within the Heislerville WMA, the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish & Wildlife began this Delaware Bay Initiative project with new, adaptive management abilities for the existing water impoundments. Here, the control structures will permit Fish & Wildlife to adjust water levels in the impoundments to optimize their use by a wide diversity of wildlife species at critical periods of need throughout the year.

The recent completion of the Heislerville WMA project demonstrated the importance of

A year ago, I supported and oversaw the first bear hunt in the state in 30 years. The Fish and Game Council had approved a hunt in 2000, but quickly gave in to public opposition and political arm-twisting at that time and canceled the hunt. In supporting last year's hunt, and weathering a storm of public controversy and criticism at least as great as in 2000, I based my decision on the strength of the data suggesting that the black bear population exceeded 3000 or more, and on the potential risk to public safety suggested by the increasing numbers of risky bear-human interactions. I also made clear that our management strategy would not rely exclusively on the hunt, which our bear biologists have said will not reduce the overall population. I made clear that I would look at the issue on a year-by-year basis.

Notably, the hard data gathered by the hunt suggest a statewide black bear population half as large as that projected in 2003, as documented by the relatively high number of tagged bears in the harvest. Risky incidents involving black bears in our communities are down. Given the significant attention and resources consumed by the hunt and its attendant controversy, other elements of our management strategy had to wait. Based on these facts and the need to honor the public commitment made to management measures other than hunting, I asked the Fish and Game Council not to authorize the hunt this year. My request did not take the form of back-room political arm-twisting, but a public presentation and supporting letter before the Council in which I outlined the data and reasoning supporting my position, based primarily on the superb work of our Division's wildlife biologists. Without any response to my position on the merits, the Council reflexively voted to reauthorize the bear hunt in 2004. So much for the Council's commitment to sound data and science.

I regret being at odds with the Council, but I have no intention of relenting on the issue. By disregarding the principles I articulated in supporting the 2003 hunt, the Council is putting the broader interests of New Jersey's hunters and anglers at risk. The Council's defiance is due in part to the composition of the Council, which by law has only one seat designated for a person with scientific training, and in part to the absence of any check on the Council's seemingly absolute authority over the game code.

Unfortunately, the Council's stance has spawned legislative proposals to right this balance that go much too far in the opposite direction and that threaten to eliminate the use of hunting to control wildlife populations that may have few, if any natural predators. As one who believes that hunting has an important role in wildlife management and in the sporting traditions of this state, I cannot support these proposals. But the Council's failure to join me in a balanced approach to the issue of bear management is giving these

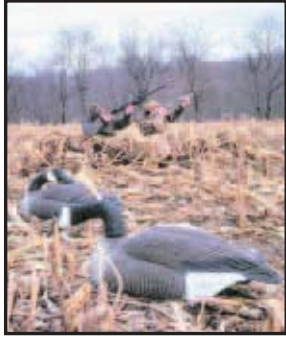
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WHERE TO WRITE US

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 400 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0400
Internet: www.njfishandwildlife.com

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New Jersey Fish & Wildlife Telephone Directory

Internet Address www.njfishandwildlife.com

Commercial Preserves & Semi-Wild Preserves	(609) 292-2966
Hunting Permit Hotline	(609) 292-9192
DEP ACTION LINE - 24 HOURS	(877) WARNDEP
Exotic & Nongame Captivity Permits	(609) 292-9591
Falconry Permit Information	(908) 735-8793
Field Trial Permits	(609) 259-2132
General Information	(609) 292-2965
Horseback Riding Permits	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education	(877) 2HUNT NJ
Hunting, Fishing, & Duplicate Licenses	(609) 292-2965
Operation Game Thief	800-222-0456
Outstanding Deer Program	(609) 292-9450
Pheasant & Quail Stocking Information	(609) 984-0547
Rifle Permit Information	(609) 984-1400
Trout Stocking Hotline	(609) 633-6765
Wildlife Conservation Corps Information	(856) 629-1014
Wildlife Management Area Information	(609) 984-0547

Trenton Office

501 E. State St., Station Plaza 5, 3rd Floor, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400	
Endangered and Nongame Species	(609) 292-9400
Freshwater Fisheries	(609) 292-9450
Land Management	(609) 984-0547
Law Enforcement	(609) 292-9430
Marine Fisheries	(609) 292-2083
Shellfisheries	(609) 984-5546
Wildlife Education	(609) 292-9450
Wildlife Management	(609) 292-6685

Lebanon Field Office

PO Box 394, Lebanon, NJ 08833. (908) 236-2118

Northern Region Office

26 Route 173 W., Hampton, NJ 08827	
Wildlife Management	(908) 735-7040
Endangered and Nongame Species	(908) 735-8975
Hunter Education	(877) 2HUNT NJ
Wildlife Control	(908) 735-8793
Land Management	(973) 383-0918
Law Enforcement (Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties)	(908) 735-8240

Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center

605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863. (908) 637-4125

Central Region Office

1 Eldridge Rd., Robbinsville, NJ 08691	
Land Management	(609) 259-2132
Hunter Education	(877) 2HUNT NJ
Wildlife Control	(609) 259-7955
Law Enforcement (Burlington, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean counties)	(609) 259-2120

Southern Region Office

220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081	
Information	(856) 629-0090
Hunter Education	(877) 2HUNT NJ
Land Management	(856) 629-5006
Freshwater Fisheries	(856) 629-4950
Wildlife Control	(856) 629-7224
Law Enforcement (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties)	(856) 629-0555

Nacote Creek Research Station

P.O. Box 418, 360 Rt. 9 N. (Milepost 51) Port Republic, NJ 08241	
Marine Fisheries	(609) 748-2020
Shellfisheries	(609) 748-2040
Marine Education	(609) 748-2031
Wildlife Management	(609) 748-2063
Marine Law Enforcement	(609) 748-2050

Bivalve Shellfish Office

P.O. Box 432, Port Norris, NJ 08349. (856) 785-0730

License Information & Fees 2004–2005

(Licenses are valid from date of purchase to Dec. 31 of each year.)

Firearm Licenses

Resident Firearm Hunting (16–64 yrs.)	\$ 27.50
Senior Resident Firearm Hunting (65 yrs & older)	15.50
Non-Resident Firearm Hunting	135.50
Non-Resident Two-Day Small Game Firearm Hunting	36.50
Special One-Day Hunting (On Commercial Preserves Only)	12.50
Youth (10–15, see page 4)	FREE

Bow and Arrow Licenses

Resident Bow & Arrow Hunting	31.50
Senior Resident Bow & Arrow Hunting (65 yrs & older)	16.50
Non-Resident Bow & Arrow Hunting	135.50
Youth (10–15, see page 4)	FREE

Trapping Licenses

Resident Trapping	32.50
Non-Resident Trapping	200.50

Permits

Deer Permits for Bow, Shotgun or Muzzleloader	28.00
Youth Deer and Turkey Permit	12.00
Turkey Season Permit	21.00
Rifle Permit (2-year Permit)	19.00
Youth Rifle Permit	10.00

Stamps

Pheasant & Quail Stamp	40.00
Resident Waterfowl Stamp	5.00
Non-Resident Waterfowl Stamp	10.00

Miscellaneous Licenses

All-Around Sportsman	72.25
(Includes Resident Firearm Hunting, Bow & Arrow Hunting & Fishing Licenses)	
Duplicate License	2.00

See page 4 for additional license information

Hunting & Trapping Licenses

*Deer Permits are valid for the 2004–2005 hunting season.
New Jersey sporting licenses are valid for the calendar year.*

All persons hunting or trapping must be properly licensed. It is unlawful for any person age 10 or older to hunt without a hunting license. It is unlawful for any person age 12 or older to trap without a trapping license. See below for youth license information. All hunters and trappers must openly display their license or permit on their outer clothing and must show their license to any police officer or any person requesting to see it.

Licenses and stamps may be purchased from participating county or municipal clerks, license agents and selected Division of Fish and Wildlife offices.

Farmer License Exemption A farmer and the immediate members of the family who also reside on the farm may hunt, trap and fish on the farm without being licensed or possessing a valid rifle permit (a farm is defined as an area of at least five acres and having gross income of at least \$500, and tax assessed as farmland).

This exemption does not apply to a tenant or employee who is not an immediate family member. *Also: See Farmer Deer Permits section.*

Hunter & Trapper Education Requirements New Jersey requires that anyone applying to hunt with a shotgun, rifle or bow show a previous resident license of the appropriate type from this or any state, or a course completion card from the appropriate hunter education course.

The New Jersey Hunter Education course is now offered as a home study video-based program. Students can obtain course materials at most license agents and Division field offices. After completing an extensive homework assignment, the student may choose from a list of testing facilities and dates to complete their Hunter Education course. More details on the program, including course material availability, facility locations and dates, go to Fish and Wildlife's Web site www.njfishandwildlife.com or call (877) 2HUNTJN.

Lost Licenses Lost licenses can be replaced at all Division regional offices, the Trenton office and the Pequest Natural Resource Education Center. To replace a lost license, either mail or hand deliver the carbon copy issued with the license along with a \$2 check to any Division law enforcement office, the Trenton office, or Pequest. Duplicate stamps will not be issued, but may be purchased separately.

National Guard Licenses Eligible National Guard personnel are entitled to free licenses, permits, and stamps. Further information can be obtained by writing to: NJ Department of Military/Veteran Affairs, 101 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, Attn: 1st Sgt. Turrien, or call (609) 530-6866.

Non-Resident Licenses Non-residents must show either a resident license from their state or proof of successfully completing an appropriate hunter education course, in order to obtain a license to hunt or trap in New Jersey. Non-immigrant aliens who temporarily import firearms to the United States must first obtain a Form 6

Import Permit from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). The approval may take up to 12 weeks. Contact ATF's Explosives Imports Branch at (202) 927-8320 or download a form from their Web site at www.atf.treas.gov.

Non-Resident Servicemen Licenses Any person on active duty in the armed services may buy a resident hunting license upon presenting a previous resident license (from this or any other state) of the appropriate type or proof of successfully completing the appropriate hunter education course to the agent.

One-day License A one-day license may be issued for hunting on a licensed commercial shooting preserve. This license may be obtained at the shooting preserve and is valid only on the day issued for the species covered by the preserve's license. Hunter Education requirements still apply.

Resident Licenses Resident licenses may be purchased if one has resided in the state for six months immediately prior to application.

Revocation of Licenses Anyone convicted of a second fish and game violation within a period of five years will have their New Jersey hunting and fishing privileges revoked for two years. Certain violations carry greater periods of revocation, ranging from three years to lifetime revocation. Two convictions of any Wildlife Management Area regulation results in a five year revocation. Two convictions of the following will result in lifetime revocation: safety zone violation, causing damage to real or personal property and negligent use of a firearm or bow. The Division may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

Social Security Numbers on Licenses Public Law 1998c1 "The Child Support Program Improvement Act" requires that the Division of Fish and Wildlife collect and maintain a record of Social Security numbers whenever a license or permit is sold. The visible display of the Social Security number on the license is not required and therefore it is the official policy of the Division that the holder of the license may black out their Social Security number once the license has been purchased. No other changes may be made to the license.

Youth Licenses, Resident & Non-Resident *See youth hunting opportunities, pages 70–71.* Properly licensed youth hunters ages 10–13 may hunt only when accompanied by a properly licensed adult age 21 or older. Youths, 15 years of age and under, are able to hunt, fish, and trap for free, provided they have passed a Hunter Education course. Youth hunters who have passed a hunter education course should have received their new Youth Firearm or Youth Bow and Arrow license. The Youth Firearm or Bow and Arrow License is valid from time of issuance until end of the year that he or she turns 16. Resident and nonresident youths who have not received their license can obtain licenses by calling Fish & Wildlife's Pequest, Trenton, Northern, Central or Southern region offices.

Disabled Veteran's Licenses, Stamps and Permits

Free hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and permits are available for resident disabled veterans.

For the purposes of this program, the legislation defines Disabled Veterans as: "...any resident of New Jersey who has been honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service from any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has been declared by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability of any degree..."

Disabled Veteran hunting licenses are available at the Division's Trenton office, as well as selected Division field offices. For questions, call (609) 292-2965.

Disabled Veterans are entitled to **one free permit for the Permit Bow Season, and one free firearm permit (your choice), for either the Permit Shotgun or the Permit Muzzleloader Seasons.** Disabled Veterans **cannot** receive free permits at license agents. These free permits can **only** be obtained through the Division. To ensure inclusion on our database, Disabled Veterans are encouraged to apply for free deer permits by mail using the special Disabled Veteran application (see below). In the event that the deadline is missed, Disabled Veterans may obtain their free permits at selected Division offices.

Disabled Veteran Applicants:

1. Documentation of current benefits for a service-connected disability and proof of honorable discharge (such as a copy of your DD-214, VA card or monthly check stub) must be presented to obtain a free disabled veteran license.
2. Applicant must provide a hunter education course (archery, shotgun or rifle) certificate applicable to the license for which he or she is applying or previously issued resident archery or firearm license or rifle permit. Resident licenses from other states issued to hunters prior to establishing residency in New Jersey will be accepted if the license indicates the sporting arm for which it was valid. Non-resident licenses from other states are not acceptable.
3. To obtain the free Disabled Veteran deer permits one must first have a Disabled Veteran hunting license.
4. Those applying for free deer permits must fill out **one** 2004 Disabled Veteran Deer Permit Application. Applications will be sent to all Disabled Veterans who are currently listed in our database. If he or she does not receive an application, one can be obtained at selected Division offices, on the Division Web site (www.njfishandwildlife.com) or by calling

(continued on page 5)

2004–2005 Hunting Permits and Stamps

Permits

Beaver & Otter Permits

- Trapping allowed by special permit only.
- Applications and additional information will be available beginning Sept. 30 on the Division's Web site (www.njfishandwildlife.com) and at Division offices.
- Application period is **Oct. 15–Nov. 15**.
- Leftover permits will be made available over-the-counter. During the week of Dec. 6, 2004 check the Web site or call the permit hotline at (609) 292-9192, to learn if and when those sales will take place.
- See trapping regulations, page 54.

Black Bear Hunting Permits

A total of 10,000 special black bear hunting permits will be available to properly licensed firearm hunters who successfully complete a mandatory black bear hunting seminar. Black bear permit applications will be available at Division offices, license agents and on our Web site at www.fishandwildlife.com. Review your completed application carefully before submitting. Permits are free, however **applications must be postmarked no later than Sept. 30, 2004**. Apply early.

If more than 10,000 applications are received, a random lottery will be conducted. Applicants who must attend a 2004 black bear hunting seminar will receive notification of their seminar date beginning the week of Oct. 18, 2004; permits will be issued at the seminar's conclusion. Applicants who are not required to attend a seminar will receive their permit by mail before Nov. 19, 2004. Should a lottery be conducted, notifications of non-selection will also be mailed by Nov. 19.

Hunters are encouraged to call the Permit Hotline at (609) 292-9192 for recorded updates about the permit process or the bear hunt. The hotline message will be updated only if information changes.

Black bear hunting permits are not transferable and must be in the possession of the hunter while hunting black bear. Hunters are limited to one black bear hunting permit.

Captive Wildlife Permits

The possession, ownership and release of

Disabled Veteran's Licenses, Stamps & Permits

(continued from page 4)

(609) 292-2965. **Do not** complete the regular application found in this Digest.

5. Disabled Veteran applications will be accepted for **all zones** that are open for deer hunting; this includes zones sold only at license agents and zones that still have a lottery system. Disabled Veterans may purchase additional permits at the regular price of \$28.

Using a Disabled Veteran Permit Application does not give the applicant preference in the lottery.

wildlife is regulated and only for limited purposes. Information and applications may be obtained by calling:

Nongame and Exotics—(609) 292-9591
 Game birds and Mammals—(609) 984-6211 or from our Web site, www.njfishandwildlife.com

Coyote, Red and Gray Fox Hunting Permits

- Permits are required to hunt coyote, red or gray fox from Feb. 1–21, 2005.
- Application period: **Oct. 15–Nov. 15**.
- To apply, send a \$2 application fee and a 3 x 5-inch index card with your name, mailing address, date of birth and **evening** telephone number.
- Write "Special February Coyote/Fox Season" on bottom of index card.
- Application fee must be in the form of a check or money order payable to "NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife"
- Mail the fee and index card to: NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, Coyote Permits, P.O. Box 003, Trenton, NJ 08625-0003.
- Permits will also be made available at Division offices beginning Jan. 17, 2005.
- See coyote and fox hunting regulations, pages 50 and 52.

Deer Road-Kill Permits

Deer accidentally killed by motor vehicles may be possessed for private consumption only by obtaining a free permit from the local police department or from a Division regional law enforcement office. The permit only authorizes the possession of the meat for consumption and is good only for 90 days. The possession of all other parts, such as antlers, under terms of this permit, are expressly prohibited. Wrapped packages of the venison must be labeled with the permit number.

Deer Season Permits

- Permits are required during the Permit Bow, Permit Muzzleloader and Permit Shotgun Seasons.
- Permits may be purchased either at participating license agents or through a mail-in lottery, depending on the zone. See page 9 for details.
- Permits are valid only for the season and zone indicated, are non-transferable and non-refundable.
- **For the mail-in lottery, permit applications must be postmarked by Aug. 31.**

Falconry Permits

Hunting with raptors (birds of prey) is allowed only with a Falconry Permit and a hunting license. See the section on falconry for hunting rules, page 15.

Rifle Permits

A valid rifle permit is required for coyote, deer, squirrel and woodchuck hunting with a muzzle-loading rifle; raccoon and opossum hunting with a .22 caliber rifle; and for dispatching trapped animals other than muskrat with a .22 caliber rifle. Initial rifle permit applicants must be at least 10 years old and have successfully completed a rifle hunter education course. Applications for rifle permits may be obtained at the Division's Trenton Office or our Web site. Rifle permits for 10 to 17 years olds will be valid only for muzzleloaders. No

persons under 18 years old may hunt with centerfire or rimfire rifles.

Turkey Hunting Permits, General

- Hunting by permit only. See also page 55.
- Spring and fall season applications are made simultaneously on one application.
- Applications are located in the 2005 Wild Turkey Hunting Season permit supplement, available in late January/early February at Division offices, on our Web site and at participating license agents.
- Applications must be postmarked between Jan. 22 and Feb. 22.

Turkey Permits, Fall Season

- At press time, the 2004 Fall Turkey Permit Lottery has not been completed.
- **Tentative** date: Monday, Sept. 27, 2004, has been scheduled for over-the-counter sale of leftover permits, if available.
- Check the Web site or call the 24-hour automated Permit Hotline at (609) 292-9192 for more detailed information.

Permits for Farmers

Deer Season

- Approved farmers are eligible for one **free** bow, shotgun and muzzleloader permit for the applicable deer management zone.
- Farmers may submit only one application.
- **Preferred farmer application period: June 1–Aug. 31.**
- For all applications received after Oct. 1, the Division cannot guarantee that permits will be received in time for opening day.
- Farmers on our database were sent applications in early June.
- To ensure inclusion in our database, farmers are strongly urged to submit completed applications early.
- There are two types of farmer permits, **occupant** and **non-occupant**. Applicants may decide for which permit it is easiest to qualify.
- For Farmer Deer Permits **only a qualified farmer or the spouse or children of that farmer who reside in the farmer's household**, are eligible to apply for occupant and non-occupant farmer deer permits.
- Farmer Permits are contingent upon approval by the Division's Bureau of Law Enforcement.
- Farmers may also apply for (or purchase at license agents) regular deer permits in addition to the free farmer permits.
- Farmer Permits are available **ONLY** through the Division's **Trenton Office**.
- **Occupant Farmer Deer Permits**
- Applicant must be the owner, leasee or immediate family (spouse and children only) who actually **reside on** the farm property.
- Must have at least five acres of land tax-assessed as farmland.
- Occupant permits are valid only on the farm property where the applicant resides.

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2004–2005 Hunting Permits and Stamps

(continued from page 5)

Non-Occupant Farmer Deer Permits

- Applicants are not required to live on the farm property.
- Farmer(s) and their immediate family members (spouse and children only) may qualify, up to a total of five people.
- Must actively till at least 30 acres of land which is tax-assessed as farmland.
- Woodlots do not qualify.
- If applying to hunt leased farmland, a copy of all leases authorizing the agricultural and hunting uses of the land must be attached to the application.
- Non-occupant permits are valid in the entire zone for which the permit was applied.
- An applicant who lives on a farm and actively tills at least 30 acres may apply *either* as an occupant *or* a non-occupant.

Farmer Turkey Permits

- Qualified farmers may apply only if their land is in a turkey hunting area open to hunting.
- Approved farmers will receive a permit valid for both the entire spring and fall seasons if they apply for both permits on their Farmer Turkey Permit Application.
- Applications will be made available at Division offices, the Division Web site, county agricultural agents and from conservation officers throughout the state.
- Farmer Turkey permits are available only to the farmer and immediate family who **reside on** the farm.
- For the purpose of Farmer Turkey Permits “immediate family” includes the spouse, child, stepchild, stepparent, legal guardian, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, great grandparent, brother, sister, stepsister, stepbrother, brother-in-law and sister-in-law of the farm owner or lessee who resides thereon.
- Application period is Jan. 22–Feb. 22. Farmers whose applications are received after Feb. 22 cannot be guaranteed that their permits will arrive by opening day.

Permits for Hunters with Disabling Conditions

Permits for Physically Challenged Hunters

A permit for certain physically challenged persons may be issued to use alternative methods/equipment for taking game during the prescribed seasons. The application period is Jan. 1 to Aug. 31 of each year.

Permits to Shoot from a Standing Vehicle

A permit to shoot or hunt from a standing vehicle that is parked off the road may be issued to licensed hunters who have a permanent or irreversible physical disability that limits their ambulatory ability, suffer from cardiovascular disease and are classified as Class 3 or 4 heart patients according to American Heart Association standards, or suffer from chronic lung disease. This permit will be issued if the need is certified by a licensed physician or chiropractor.

Individuals hunting with a permit to hunt or

shoot from a motor vehicle must mark the vehicle being used for the purpose of hunting either with handicapped license plates issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles or by displaying the sign, provided by Fish and Wildlife, in the rear window of the vehicle being used.

Bow Use Permit

A special bow use permit may be issued to disabled hunters who cannot use a conventional bow as described in the Game Code. This permit will allow the alteration of a long bow, recurved bow or compound bow with a mechanical device that will enable the archer to draw and cock the bow at full or partial draw length or in cases of demonstrated need, a permit to use a crossbow may be issued. Special bow use permit applicants must have a disability that meets any one of the following criteria: amputation or other loss of one or both arms above the wrist; an amputation or other loss of index or middle finger on the hand used to draw and release the bow; permanent, substantial loss of function or range of motion in one or both arms, one or both hands, or one or both shoulders; or suffer from cardiovascular disease and are designated as a Class 3 or 4 heart patient according to the American Heart Association standards. These permits will only be issued if the need is certified by a licensed physician.

Information about permits for hunters with disabling conditions can be requested in writing from the Division’s Trenton Office, Handicapped Permits, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625 or downloaded directly from our Web site: www.njfishandwildlife.com

Stamps

Stamps are not transferable to another person and are not valid unless signed across the face in ink.

Pheasant & Quail Stamp

Anyone aged 16 and over (except 16 year olds whose youth license remains valid through the end of the year in which they turn 16) hunting or possessing pheasant or quail on the following designated Wildlife Management Areas shall have in possession a current Pheasant and Quail Stamp (free youth hunting licenses include pheasant & quail stamp): Assunpink, Berkshire Valley, Millville, Black River, Clinton, Colliers Mills, Dix, Flatbrook, Glassboro, Greenwood Forest, Howardsville, Heislerville, Tuckahoe, Mad Horse, Manahawkin, Manasquan River, Medford, Nantuxent, Peaslee, Pequest, Port Republic, Stafford Forge, Walpack, Whittingham and Winslow. Other designated areas include the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Fort Dix. Pheasant and quail stamps are valid for the calendar year, January–December.

New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp

Anyone 16 or older who hunts waterfowl must possess a New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp in addition to the Federal Duck Stamp. Both of these stamps are valid for the fiscal year, July 1–June 30. An HIP number is also required. See page 11 for details.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

(Application postmark deadline—AUG. 31, 2004)

- Note:** A rifle permit is required while muzzleloader hunting. Hunters are limited to purchasing one permit per zone for each of the permit seasons (permit bow, permit muzzleloader, permit shotgun). Blank applications may be photocopied. Print clearly. Follow instructions carefully.
- HUNTER INFORMATION:** Complete the hunter’s name, birth date, mailing address, Social Security number and daytime telephone number.
 - HUNTING LICENSE NUMBER:** Please be aware that we no longer have permit ID Stubs on hunting licenses. Bow applicants must include their 2004 Archery or 2004 All-Around license number. Shotgun or muzzleloader applicants must include the number from their 2004 Firearm or 2004 All-Around license. Those who applied for a hunter education course by Aug. 31, should enter “8888888888” in the license box.
 - PERMIT BOW SECTION:** To apply for a bow permit, write your zone choices next to the “B” under the first lottery section. For a second bow permit, write your zone choices next to the “B” under the second lottery section. For an additional firearm (shotgun or muzzleloader) permit, place an “S” (shotgun) or “M” (muzzleloader) in the box and write your zone choices under the first lottery section.
 - PERMIT FIREARM SECTION:** To apply for a shotgun or muzzleloader permit, place an “S” (shotgun) or “M” (muzzleloader) in the box and write your zone choices under the second lottery section. For an additional youth permit must accompany your application. You must enclose with your application a check or money order payable to “NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.” Include your name and address on checks and money orders. Applications not chosen to receive permits will receive a refund for permit fee only (\$26 or \$10 per permit in late January).
 - PERMIT FEE:** A \$28 fee (\$26 permit fee plus a \$2 nonrefundable application fee) per adult permit or a \$12 fee (\$10 permit fee plus a \$2 nonrefundable application fee) per youth permit must accompany your application. You must enclose with your application a check or money order payable to “NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.” Include your name and address on checks and money orders. Applications not chosen to receive permits will receive a refund for permit fee only (\$26 or \$10 per permit in late January).
 - Cut out application along dotted line and mail with all fees to the address below. Envelopes must be postmarked by Aug. 31.
- NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife**
 P.O. Box 003
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0003
 Use Business-sized Envelope
 Do NOT Send Cash

Director's Message

(continued from page 2)

habitat to all species of wildlife. "Build it and they will come" not only applies to baseball's field of dreams but also to wildlife on suitable habitat.

Skillful habitat manipulation and creation has an amazingly positive impact on a wide diversity of fish, game and non-game species while at the same time providing vast recreational opportunities for birders, anglers, hunters and photographers. Heislerville's middle impoundment is the first area of mud flats and "skinny" water (one to two inches deep) on the Jersey side of the Delaware Bay to be managed as such during the energy-demanding spring shorebird migration.

Providing areas for shorebirds to feed and gain weight during high tide is a proven strategy to help these birds maintain energy levels sufficient to continue their migration. Water levels again will be lowered in the fall by Fish & Wildlife staff to provide additional feeding areas for both migratory waterfowl and shorebirds on their southerly migration.

Heislerville's water control structures will also provide further wildlife protection should an oil spill occur on Delaware Bay. By drawing down water levels at the time of a spill, the pollution can be excluded and safe feeding and resting habitat created for shorebirds.

The Delaware Bay Initiative was originally signed in 2001 by New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife along with Ducks Unlimited and Delaware Fish & Wildlife. Since then the U.S.

Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service have joined us as Initiative partners. Numerous branches of federal, state, county and local governments also have joined as partners and are participating in various ongoing projects. These diverse partnerships bring a wide range of expertise and multiple funding sources, both extremely valuable in the design and implementation of Initiative projects.

The Heislerville WMA project is just one success story from the Delaware Bay Initiative and was made possible by Fish and Wildlife partnering with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, the New Jersey Wetlands Mitigation Council and Fish and Wildlife's Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee. Ducks Unlimited played a major role in the design and delivery of the cutting-edge water control structures.

We will be utilizing adaptive management strategies, adjusting to the seasonal or critical needs of wildlife using this habitat while maintaining recreational access. If you're in the area, I encourage you to visit Heislerville Wildlife Management Area and see for yourself the diversity of wildlife sharing the land.

Marty McHugh is director of the Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Commissioner's Message

(continued from page 2)

proposals new life among legislators who may not appreciate the vital role of hunting and fishing in the traditions and economy of our state.

Happily, a broad range of hunters and anglers across the state have joined me in an open dialogue about how to get past this immediate controversy, to ensure that our wildlife management decisions remain grounded in sound science and continue to strengthen the Division's broader mission of preserving and enhancing biodiversity in New Jersey.

We can bring needed balance and safeguards to the Fish and Game Council's authority while defending and advancing the recreational interests of New Jersey's hunters and anglers. As we pursue this goal, I will continue to reach out to New Jersey's many sporting enthusiasts—from bow hunters to bass fishermen—to make sure we get it right.

Bradley M. Campbell is Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

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