

Next Year: Proposed

to Hunting in New Jersey



By Carole Kandoth, Principal Biologist

Rabbit and Hare

Opening day of rabbit season will move forward from the second week in November to the last Saturday in September.

The opening day of small game traditionally starts on the Saturday closest to November 10 to allow farmers time to harvest crops. This proposal maintains that tradition by keeping the November opening day timing for pheasants, chukar and quail. An earlier rabbit/hare season should not interfere with farming activities since rabbit hunting involves hedgerows, old fields and most often uses a dog to flush and chase game back to the stationary hunter. An earlier open also provides ample opportunity for rabbit/hare hunters to enjoy their sport when rabbit populations are most abundant plus will allow hunting on WMAs without encountering bird hunters and trappers. Private landowners can choose not to allow the earlier open on their property.

Fisher

Add fisher to the Game Code in the section covering raccoon, fox, opossum, weasel and coyote trapping, with a closed season.

New Jersey is at the southern portion of the fisher's natural range; restoration projects are ongoing in New York and Pennsylvania. It is believed that fisher may be migrating southwest into New Jersey from New York's Catskill Mountains. There have been two confirmed sightings (Frelinghuysen Twp., Warren County 2004; Stokes State Forest, Sussex County 2006), and seven unconfirmed sightings from June through December 2007. Game species designation will clarify the fisher's status as a protected furbearer with a closed season.

Coyote

Increase the coyote season length for the special permit night season.

The current season runs from the second week of January to the third week in February. The proposal opens the season from January 1 through March 15 plus removes the bag limit. Coyotes are well established through all 21 counties. Damage complaints have increased and attacks on humans have occurred. An increased number of permit applications prove an increased hunter interest.

Grouse - Create two hunting zones divided by Rt. 70 with seasonally-adjusted opening days.

This confers some protection to the southern population where suitable habitat is in short supply.

Wild Turkey

There are three proposed changes for turkey.

1.) Open spring turkey season one week later, decreasing the season length by one week.

Spring seasons should coincide with the onset of egg incubation by hens. A cooperative research project among eastern states shows that the optimal time for a season opener is around April 25 for northern New Jersey and April 20 for the south. Under this proposal, opening days would fall between April 19 and 26. A later opener will disturb clutching hens less, plus should reduce illegal hen harvest. A later date will also better coincide with the second peak in gobbling activity, as more hens will be on the nest and fewer will be with toms. This proposal will help offset the turkey population decline of the past several years in the central portion of the state.

2.) Redefine the boundaries of Turkey Hunting Areas (THAs) 15, 20 and 21.

Turkey harvest densities have increased in the southern portion of THA 15 over the past 10 years. The southern part of THA 15 will be moved into THAs 20 and 21. This adjustment will open up the shifted areas to fall turkey hunting. The transfer of the appropriate number of permits from THA 15 to THAs 20 and 21 has been calculated based upon land area and hunter densities.

3.) Remove THAs 6, 7 and 10 from the fall hunting season.

The criteria to open a THA for fall hunting is an annual harvest of greater than or equal to one gobbler per square mile of turkey habitat for three consecutive years. If the gobbler harvest in a THA open to fall hunting drops to below 0.75 gobblers/mile sq. for three years in a row, that THA will be removed from the fall hunting season. THAs 6, 7 and 10 meet the criteria for removal.

Changes

Changes to hunting regulations are established by the Fish and Game Council through revisions to the Game Code. The Council voted to accept the following Game Code amendments which are scheduled to be effective in 2009. Visit our Web site at www.NJFishandWildlife.com for the upcoming public meeting and comment period. **NOTE: These changes WILL NOT be in effect for the 2008-09 seasons.**

- 4.)** Beginning with the 2009 spring turkey lottery, successful applicants will have a deadline for claiming permits.

After the claiming deadline, unclaimed permits are forfeited and become available for over-the counter sale.

White-tailed Deer

There are seven proposed changes for deer.

- 1.)** Expand the use of crossbows to all hunters during the three existing archery seasons.

(For more on this proposal, see Crossbows Coming to a Treestand Near You, page 6.)

- 2.)** Grant authority to the Fish and Game Council to shift the assignment of a deer management zone (DMZ) into a different deer regulation set, provided certain criteria are met. (For current Deer Season Regulation Sets, see page 44.)

Amendments to the Game Code formerly followed an annual cycle; currently, a three year cycle is in effect to accommodate the regulatory process. With the authority to make changes within this three year cycle, the Council can affect a timely response to unforeseen or undesirable deer population changes to better achieve deer management goals, and to avert potentially damaging situations.

- 3.)** Add a new "Regulation Set 9" to the existing deer regulation sets. (For current Deer Season Regulation Sets, see page 44.)

The regulations in the proposed Regulation Set 9 will be more liberal than the most liberal, existing Regulation Set 8

Harvest results from the 2007-08 deer seasons show an antlerless deer harvest reduction during this first year of regulation changes in the Set 8 DMZs. These changes included the removal of the Earn-A-Buck regulation from all seasons except the first three weeks of the Fall Bow Season, and moving the antlerless-only days of Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader seasons from the week of Thanksgiving to the week after Thanksgiving. The proposed Regulation Set 9 will allow the Council to respond to an undesired population growth, should current harvest trends result in undesirable effects.

Regulation Set 9 will have four additional days of antlerless-only hunting for both the Permit Shotgun and Permit Muzzleloader seasons during Thanksgiving week. Data from previous years shows a significant portion of the overall antlerless harvest occurred during these early November days.

- 4.)** Add a new "Regulation Set 0" to existing deer regulation sets. (For current Deer Season Regulation Sets, see page 44.)

The regulations in the proposed Regulation Set 0 will be more restrictive than the most restrictive existing Regulation Set 1.

Certain DMZs in Regulation Sets 2 and 3, namely Zones 21, 23, 24, 34, 43, 45 and 46, have experienced harvest declines; all are below their population goal. Harvest data from the past six years shows the majority of the antlerless harvest being taken during the Permit Muzzleloader Season. Adoption of a more restrictive regulation set will allow the Council to increase deer populations in DMZs having less productive habitat.

Regulation Set 0 will reduce the Permit Muzzleloader Season by four days and reduce the antlerless bag limit to one per season.

- 5.)** Implement a Deer Management Assistance Program.

Fish and Wildlife has proposed a plan for landowners to better cope with undesirable deer densities on their properties while utilizing the current hunting season regulations and hunters to remove additional antlerless deer. The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) will be available for the 2009-10 deer seasons. see our Web site at www.NJFishandWildlife.com for details.

- 6.)** Change regulation sets for DMZs 18, 22 and 26. (For current Deer Season Regulation Sets, see page 44.)

These zones have been experiencing declines in harvest and/or are below the population goal. Zones 22 and 26 will be moved from Set 4 to Set 3; Zone 18 will be moved from Set 3 to Set 2. Moving these zones down one regulation set into a set with more restrictive seasons will allow moderate population increases.

- 7.)** Change a portion of the boundaries between Zones 23 and 25.

A portion of the boundary between Ancora and Hammonton running along Blue Anchor Brook and Albertson Brook will be changed to routes 30 and 206. The brooks comprising part of this border are run seasonally. Changing the boundary to roadways will provide a more definitive border between zones. ♪

Wildlife Management Area

REGULATIONS

THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED:
alcoholic beverages, camping, cutting or damaging vegetation, dumping, fires, swimming and picnicking.

Regulations for use of wildlife management areas (WMAs) are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400, or www.NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaregs.htm.

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side rear window a boat ramp maintenance permit, receipt from a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license, or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Be sure your Conservation ID number is clearly displayed; all other personal information may be blacked out for reasons of privacy. The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is \$15, available from a license agent or at Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site, www.NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaregs.htm.

Persons 70 years and older are not required to obtain a boat ramp maintenance permit and need no license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Round Valley Angler Access | 4. Tuckahoe | 8. Prospertown Lake |
| 2. Assunpink | 5. Mad Horse Creek | |
| 3. Dennis Creek | 6. Union Lake | |
| | 7. Menantico Ponds | |

Dog Training, Exercising & Hunting

A person may exercise or train dogs only in designated dog training areas from May 1 to Aug. 31, inclusive and only on the following select WMAs:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Assunpink | 5. Colliers Mills | 9. Manasquan |
| 2. Millville | 6. Glassboro | 10. Stafford Forge |
| 3. Black River | 7. Hainesville | 11. Whittingham |
| 4. Clinton | 8. Tuckahoe | 12. Pequest |

All dogs must be properly licensed. A person may exercise or train dogs on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30. There shall be no exercising or training of dogs on any WMA on Nov. 7, 2008, the Friday before the opening day of the regular small game season.

Additional regulations involve the release of game birds for training, the use of pigeons, the use of firearms, frozen game birds, the use of call back pens and the release of fox, raccoon, rabbit and hare. For more information call (609) 984-0547.

Field Trials

Permits for use of wildlife management areas for running of field trials may be granted by the Fish and Wildlife. Permits may be obtained by calling (609) 259-2132.

Higbee Beach

Higbee Beach WMA is closed to hunting from Sept. 1 to Dec. 14, 2008.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed on designated WMAs only by permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Apply online at www.WildlifeLicense.com/NJ/. Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding. For more information on horseback riding permits, call (609) 259-2132.

Hunting Regulations

Hunting with firearms is prohibited on Nov. 7, 2008 on those WMAs designated as Pheasant and Quail Stamp areas except in tidal marsh open to an ongoing waterfowl season. See *Pheasants*, page 62.

It is legal to possess and use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber rimfire short cartridge on WMAs only for hunting raccoon and opossum and dispatching trapped animals other than muskrat.

Rifles, including muzzleloading rifles, may not be used to hunt woodchucks on WMAs.

Motor Vehicles & Other Forms of Conveyances

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on any state WMA. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

All motor boats must be properly registered and have all the required safety equipment. (See *Outboard Motors*, below.)

The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off road vehicles, ATVs, trail bikes, or snowmobiles is prohibited on all WMAs unless authorized by Fish and Wildlife.

Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds owned by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife areas with the exception of Union Lake where an outboard motor, not exceeding 9.9 hp, may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

All titled boats must also be registered. Any boat mechanically propelled, regardless of length, must be registered. All boats greater than 12 feet, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered.

Restricted Hours

Wildlife management areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities. Special permission may be granted for Fish and Wildlife-approved activities.

Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle and .22 caliber rimfire rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to regulations posted at the training area.

The following types of ranges are available on designated WMAs statewide: Shotgun Range—for use with clay birds and the patterning of fine shot; Archery Range—approved backstops at select ranges, no broadheads allowed; Muzzleloading Rifle and Shotgun Slug Range—for sighting in with shotgun slugs or buckshot, .22 caliber rimfire rifles and muzzleloaders; no other firearms allowed. See page 83 for a list of ranges.

Waterfowl Blinds

No permanent waterfowl blinds, including pit blinds, shall be constructed, hunted from or used in any manner on any of the following WMAs:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Assunpink | 5. Tuckahoe | 9. Beaver Swamp |
| 2. Black River | 6. Manahawkin | 10. Sedge Island |
| 3. Colliers Mills | 7. Stafford Forge | 11. Salem River |
| 4. Hainesville | 8. Whittingham | 12. Prospertown |
| | | 13. Paulinskill |

Any blind used in these designated areas must be portable and shall be completely removed at the end of the day. Blinds remaining in WMAs will be subject to confiscation and properly disposed of by Fish and Wildlife.

Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Ranges

The following information pertains to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife facilities. Information on privately operated facilities is available at "Where To Shoot," a site maintained by the National Shooting Sports Foundation at www.wheretoshoot.org

- All WMA regulations apply.
- Ranges are open 8 a.m. to sunset.
- At least one member of the shooting party must have a current, valid hunting license in possession.
- Shotgun range: fine shot only.
- Archery range: target or practice tips only (NO broadheads.)
- Muzzleloading rifle and shotgun range: muzzleloading firearms, shotguns with rifled slugs or buckshot and modern rimfire (.22 caliber) rifles only.
- No handguns or centerfire rifles permitted.

NORTHERN REGION

Hunterdon County

Clinton WMA

Route 173W, Clinton
Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)

Morris County

Black River WMA

Route 513 (Dover-Chester Road), Chester
Shotgun, Archery

Note: Closed weekends from the third Saturday in May through the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, as well as on the Christmas and Easter holidays. Operating hours are 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. during this summer period, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the rest of the year. Hunter education classes will continue to be held at the range and will not be affected by the new hours.

Sussex County

Flatbrook-Roy WMA

Route 615, Layton
Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (75 yards)

Warren County

Pequest WMA

Pequest Road, Oxford
Archery

CENTRAL REGION

Monmouth County

Assumpink WMA

Imlaystown-Hightstown Rd.,
Upper Freehold Twp.
Archery
Shotgun range is **closed**.

Turkey Swamp Park

Georgia Rd., Freehold Twp.
Archery (Special regulations apply. Call (732) 842-4000.)

Ocean County

Colliers Mills WMA

Off Colliers Mills & Hawkins Rds.,
Jackson Twp.
Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
Shotgun range is **closed**. Reopening in 2009.

Stafford Forge WMA

Off Route 539, south of Warren Grove,
Little Egg Harbor Twp.
Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)

SOUTHERN REGION

Atlantic County

Makepeace Lake WMA

Elmwood-Weymouth Road, Weymouth
Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (50 yards)

Gloucester County

Winslow WMA

Piney Hollow Road, Monroe Twp.
Archery, Muzzleloader (50 yards)
Shotgun range is **closed**.

Cape May County

Tuckahoe WMA

Off Tuckahoe Road (Route 631), Tuckahoe
Archery
Shotgun range is **closed**.

Cumberland County

Millville WMA

Ackley Road (Route 718), Millville
Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)



HUNT SMART Courtesy Card

Visitor's Copy - Not Transferable

I request permission to enter your property for the following purpose:

Dates from: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

Limitations: _____

Hunter can hunt within 450 feet of buildings: Yes No

Landowner's Name: _____

Address: _____

LANDOWNER COPY

Permission given to: _____

Address: _____

Vehicle Make _____ Yr. ____ Color _____

Vehicle Lic. No. _____ No. in Party _____

Dates from: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

Limitations: _____

Other licenses, tag no.: _____

Permission dates from: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

Limitations: _____

Hunter can hunt within 450 feet of buildings: Yes No

REGULATIONS

QUALITY
New Jersey
 FIREARMS
 EXPERTISE SELECTION
GUILD

NOT JUST ANOTHER GUN SHOP!

*Finest Selection of Classic, New,
 Used and Collectible Firearms
 Full Service Gunsmithing*

COME SEE THE DIFFERENCE!

EASY TO FIND

JUST 2.6 MILES FROM GARDEN STATE PARKWAY EXIT 131
 344 ST. GEORGES AVE. (RT. 27) RAHWAY, NJ

732.382.4066



20th Anniversary!
**Garden State
 Deer Classic**

January 8-11, 2009

**At the Garden State Outdoor Sports-
 men's Show Raritan Center, Edison,
 New Jersey**

Bigger and better than ever!

See New Jersey's most outstanding white-tailed deer for 2007-08
 Awards ceremony on Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

**To enter a deer harvested during
 last year's 2007-08
 hunting seasons, applications must be submitted
 by October 1, 2008**

See entry details on page 85.

Brought to you by:
 NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
 NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
 United Bowhunters of New Jersey
 Garden State Outdoor Sportmen's Show

HUNT SMART Courtesy Card

I hereby give permission to: (visitor's name)

to enter my property for the purpose listed on the reverse side of this card. He/she has agreed to act safely, responsibly, and lawfully and to accept responsibility for his/her actions.

Signed _____
 (landowner, lessee, or operator)

Date ____/____/____

**Outdoor Recreation on Private Property
 is a Privilege-NOT A RIGHT**

I agree to conduct myself safely, responsibly and lawfully, respecting the landowner, property, and others using it. I accept the responsibilities which are part of the activities which I pursue. I agree to comply with the instructions of the landowner while on this property.

I understand that the laws of New Jersey absolve the landowner from liability for non-paying recreationists engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, hiking, and certain other activities, except in the case of willful or malicious failure to guard or warn of hazards.

Signed _____
 (visitor)

Date ____/____/____



This card provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish & Wildlife



New Jersey's Outstanding White-tailed Deer Program, initiated in 1964, includes categories for typical and non-typical antlered deer taken with bow, shotgun and muzzleloading rifle, in addition to the weight categories listed below. A velvet category is added for early bow season deer.

In the Antlered Division, New Jersey's Outstanding Deer Program uses the most common system in North America used for rating antlers as developed by the Boone and Crockett Club. This scoring system

Category	Minimum score
Typical Firearm	125
Non-typical Firearm	135
Typical Archery	125
Non-typical Archery	135
Typical Muzzleloader	125
Non-typical Muzzleloader	135

gives credit to antler length, spread, number of points, massiveness and symmetry. This measurement system also is used by the Pope & Young Club's Bowhunting Big Game Records Program. Deer must have been taken under the rules of fair chase. It is best to have the rack measured *before* it is mounted. Don't wait!

In the Weight Division, the program recognizes exceptional body size as determined by the field dressed weight, including heart and liver removed. Two categories, one for bucks reaching or exceeding 200 pounds (proof of weight must be confirmed on a certified scale* for buck entries - no truck scales** - with the weighmaster's signature on a letterhead receipt or on the entry form, available on our Web site) and one for field dressed does reaching or exceeding 135 pounds (witnessed, non-certified scale at a deer check station or Fish and Wildlife regional office).

Any properly licensed hunter, regardless of residency, is eligible to enter the Outstanding Deer Program. Deer must be taken in accordance with New Jersey wildlife laws and regulations. Applications are due Oct. 1. Additional rules are included on the official application forms. These forms with instructions are available on Fish and Wildlife's Web site www.NJFishandWildlife.com/outdeer.htm or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Outstanding Deer Program, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400. State the type of form (Antlered Division, typical or non-typical; Weight Division, 200 Pound Buck or 135 Pound Doe). There is no entry fee.

All qualified entries will be added to New Jersey's All Time List. For questions, call (609) 633-7598.

Qualifying entries for deer taken during the previous hunting seasons are displayed and recognized at the annual Garden State Deer Classic. Join Fish and Wildlife in celebrating New Jersey's outstanding white-tailed deer at the Deer Classic in January at the Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show. See the ad on page 84 for details.

The table below is a list of the top-scoring deer and the hunters who participated in the 2008 Garden State Deer Classic. The Classic showcased the outstanding deer taken during the 2006-2007 deer hunting seasons, not the past 2007-08 hunting seasons. These will be honored at the January 2009 Deer Classic.

* See entry form. A certified scale might be available at the following businesses:

- Warehouse with shipping department
- Concrete, sand and gravel company
- Junk yard or scrap metal recycler
- Marina with party and charter boat fishing

Or contact your county weights and measures office. Be sure to locate a scale before the hunting season begins!

** A truck scale is not acceptable as the increments are too large.



2008 Garden State Deer Classic Winners*

Rank	Name	Score / Weight	County Harvested	DM Zone
Typical Archery				
1st	Steven Kotz	161 3/8	Somerset	12
2nd	Joseph Leotta	149 7/8	Gloucester	35
3rd	Larry Hunt	144 4/8	Cumberland	28
Non-typical Archery				
1st	Robert Staudt, Jr.	178 7/8	Somerset	14
2nd	Dante Spina Jr.	178 6/8	Salem	27
3rd	Humberto Herrera	172 1/8	Monmouth	16
3rd	Michael Castro	172 1/8	Monmouth	50
Typical Shotgun				
1st	Paul E. Jones	167 7/8	Hunterdon	11
2nd	Samantha Pankow	160 1/8	Hunterdon	10
3rd	John Casciano	155 0/8	Gloucester	49
Non-typical Shotgun				
1st	David A. Thomas	159 2/8	Middlesex	50
2nd	Mark Spoto	155 7/8	Monmouth	51
3rd	Jeff Mellilo	148 6/8	Monmouth	50
Typical Muzzleloader				
1st	John Wood	155 2/8	Hunterdon	12
2nd	J. Shaun Dalrymple	147 6/8	Sussex	67
3rd	Jeff Hagerty	143 7/8	Warren	7
135 Pound Doe - Archery				
1st	Jerry Yaros	141 lbs.	Middlesex	14
200 Pound Buck - Archery				
1st	Dean Duca	220 lbs.	Gloucester	35
2nd	Scott Breen	210 lbs.	Sussex	2
3rd	Kenneth Baker	203 lbs.	Morris	13
Physically Challenged - Typical Crossbow				
1st	Walter Burbela	141 2/8	Mercer	12
2nd	Joseph Gulli	138 0/8	Gloucester	49

* For deer harvested during the 2006-07 hunting seasons.

Omission: Last year's chart omitted the first place entry of the Physically Challenged - Typical Crossbow category won by Guido Basile with his 133 1/8 deer. Congratulations!

Fall and Winter Trout Stocking Program

Fantastic trout fishing opportunities await anglers at dozens of fall and winter trout-stocked streams and lakes in New Jersey. These waters will be stocked with brook, brown and rainbow trout averaging 14 to 16 inches, and weighing 3 - 5 pounds. These two-year old trout are noticeably larger than the 10-inch trout typically stocked in the spring. Shifting to older, larger two-year old trout has been a huge success with Garden State anglers who not only enjoy these fish through the end of the year, but well into next year's stocking season. Experience for yourself what New Jersey anglers have been raving about!

Fish and Wildlife stocks approximately 20,000 large trout during the two-week fall stocking period, and about 1,000 of these are exceptionally large rainbow trout broodstock measuring 18 - 20 inches. About 5,000 trout are stocked for winter trout fishing just days before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Since waters are stocked throughout the state, there's bound to be a trout-stocked pond, lake or stream near you. Don't miss out on the fun this fall and winter for your chance to catch a lunker trout!

Anglers are reminded that **all streams and lakes are open to fishing on the day of stocking in the fall and winter.**

All stocking dates are announced on the Trout Hotline (609) 633-6765 and on Fish and Wildlife's Web site at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/trtinfo.htm.

Directions to public access locations for trout-stocked waters are also available on our web site.

Fall Trout-Stocked Rivers and Lakes

Fall stocking will occur in the weeks beginning Oct. 6 and Oct. 13, 2008. When available, the stocking schedule will be posted on Fish and Wildlife's Web site and the Trout Stocking Hotline.

Atlantic County: Hammonton Lake

Bergen County: Ramapo River

Burlington County: Crystal Lake, Sylvan Lake

Camden County: Oak Pond, Grenloch Lake

Cumberland County: Giampetro Park Pond, Mary Elmer Lake, Maurice River

Gloucester County: Grenloch Lake, Greenwich Lake, Iona Lake, Swedesboro Lake

Hunterdon County: Musconetcong River, S/Br. Raritan River

Mercer County: Colonial Lake, Rosedale Lake

Middlesex County: Farrington Lake, Roosevelt Park Pond

Monmouth County: Manasquan River

Morris County: Black River, Musconetcong River, S/Br. Raritan River, Rockaway River

Ocean County: N/Br. & S/Br. Metedeconk River, Toms River

Passaic County: Wanaque River

Salem County: Schadler's Sand Wash Pond

Somerset County: N/Br. & S/Br. Raritan River

Sussex County: Big Flat Brook, Musconetcong River, Paulinskill River, Pequest River, Walkkill River

Warren County: Musconetcong River, Paulinskill River, Pequest River, Pohatcong Creek



P. Jeremy Garnish

Winter Trout-Stocked Lakes

Stocking dates are Nov. 24 - 26, 2008. When available, the stocking schedule will be posted on Fish & Wildlife's Web site and the Trout Stocking Hotline.

Atlantic County: Birch Grove Park Pond

Bergen County: Mill Pond

Camden County: Haddon Lake, Rowlands Pond

Cumberland County: Shaws Mill Pond

Essex County: Verona Park Pond

Gloucester County: Mullica Hill Pond

Hudson County: Woodcliff Lake

Hunterdon County: Amwell Lake

Middlesex County: Hook's Creek Lake,

Monmouth County: Spring Lake, Topenemus Lake

Morris County: Mt. Hope Pond, Speedwell Lake

Ocean County: Lake Shenandoah

Passaic County: Barbour's Pond, Green Turtle Pond

Salem County: Riverview Beach Pond

Sussex County: Lake Aeroflex, Little Swartswood Lake, Silver Lake, Lake Ocquitunk

Union County: Lower Echo Lake

Warren County: Furnace Lake

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has a new Web-based tool called i-MapNJ.

If you have access to the Web, here is a way to create maps of your favorite Wildlife Management Areas. i-MapNJ also provides a wealth of other environmental information.

This interactive program is updated regularly so most of the latest information is available.

To access i-MapNJ, go to the DEP's Web site at www.state.nj.us/dep

Continue the Tradition

Become an instructor with Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program.

Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey's best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors and teach utilizing this exciting home study format. A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

Call (856) 629-0552 Leave your name and address to receive an application. Or visit our Web site:

www.NJFishandWildlife.com



Rockport Pheasant Farm: Home of the Rockport Rockets

By Patrick C. Carr, Supervising Biologist
and Robert Carr, Game Farm Superintendent



The birds are an engineered blend of the English Ring-necked Pheasant, the Korean Green Pheasant, the Mongolian Pheasant and the Black Necked Pheasant.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Rockport Pheasant Farm personnel raise about 60,000 pheasants annually on 34 acres of outdoor pens under the protection of a thick cover of sorghum.



Because these birds have been selected for the best traits of each breed, they hold well for bird dogs, have a heart-stopping, explosive flight and sport a remarkably handsome appearance.

Pheasants raised at Rockport are a special strain of pheasant developed by game farm personnel, who select breeding individuals to get the best combination of strong flying and overall attractive appearance

Their rapid flight has earned them the well-deserved name Rockport Rockets among those who hunt them.



Information on the WMAs and pheasant stocking dates are found in page 62. Additional information is available on our Web site at www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2008/pheas_sched08.pdf.

Pheasants are stocked on 25 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) statewide for hunters with a pheasant stamp and a current firearm hunting license.



Hunter Access

PUBLIC DEER HUNTING LAND IN NEW JERSEY

New Jersey has more than 750,000 acres of public land available to the deer hunter. This list is arranged by deer management zone for public land open to deer hunting. Generally, only areas with 100 acres or more of upland habitat are listed. State parks and forests that allow hunting may have some sections which are closed to hunting. Some areas allow deer hunting only during certain seasons, require an access fee or have other special regulations. Refer to the *Digest* section *Special Areas Hunting Season* Information page 47 or contact the appropriate authority for details. See page 89 for hunting opportunities on national wildlife refuges in New Jersey.

Remember: Hunters must have permission to hunt agricultural land even if the land is not posted. Hunters should obtain permission before hunting any private property. Hunters are advised not to purchase a deer permit for a zone in which they have no place to hunt.

Updates since last year are noted below in red.

Zone Public Land Open to Deer Hunting

- 1 • Bear Swamp WMA
• Flatbrook-Roy WMA
• Hainesville WMA
• Stokes State Forest
- 2 • Kittatinny Valley State Park
• Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
• Wawayanda State Park
- 3 • Abram Hewitt State Forest
• Hamburg Mountain WMA
• Long Pond Ironworks State Park
• Newark Watershed (see *Special Areas*)
• Norvin Green State Forest
• Ramapo Mountain State Forest
• Ringwood State Park
• Wawayanda State Park
- 4 • Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
• Flatbrook-Roy WMA
• Stokes State Forest
• Walpack WMA
• Worthington State Forest
- 5 • Beaver Brook WMA
• Columbia WMA
• Honey Run WMA
• Jenny Jump State Forest
• Paulinskil WMA
• Swartswood State Park
• Trout Brook WMA
• White Lake WMA
• Whittingham WMA
- 6 • Allamuchy Mountain State Park
• Berkshire Valley WMA
• Fanny State Park
• Morris County Park System - Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, Silas Condict Park (see *Special Areas*)
• Newark Watershed (see *Special Areas*)
• Rockaway River WMA
• Sparta Mountain WMA
• Weldon Brook WMA
• Wildcat Ridge WMA
- 7 • Clinton WMA
• Hunterdon County Parks Dept. - Union Forge Preserve, Tower Hill Reserve (see *Special Areas*)
• Musconetcong River WMA
• Spruce Run Recreation Area
- 8 • Allamuchy Mountain State Park
• Black River WMA
• Hacklebarney State Park
• Hunterdon County Parks Dept. - Cold Brook Preserve, Teetertown Ravine Nature Preserve, Point Mountain Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
• Ken Lockwood Gorge WMA
• Morris County Park System - Black River Park, Schooley's Mountain Park (see *Special Areas*)
• Musconetcong River WMA
- 9 • Pequest WMA
• **Rockport WMA**
• South Branch WMA
• Voorhees State Park
- 10 • Hunterdon County Parks Dept. - Musconetcong Gorge, the Drag Strip Property, Hoffman Park, Schick Reserve, South Branch Reservation, Uplands Reserve (see *Special Areas*)
• Musconetcong River WMA
- 11 • Hunterdon County Parks Dept. - Lockatong Nature Preserve, the Case Farm, Wescott Nature Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
- 12 • Hunterdon County Parks Dept. - Cushetunk Mountain Park, Sourland Mountain Nature Preserve, Deer Path Park, South Branch Reservation (see *Special Areas*)
• Round Valley Recreation Area
• South Branch WMA
- 13 • No public deer hunting land
- 14 • Assunpink WMA (Washington Twp section only)
• Pigeon Swamp State Park
• Six Mile Run Reservoir State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 15 • Assunpink WMA
• Monmouth County Park System - Charleston Springs Golf Course, Perrineville Lake Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 16 • Turkey Swamp WMA
• Monmouth County Park System - Bear Swamp Tract of Manasquan Reservoir, Howell Park Golf Course, Turkey Swamp Park, Yellowbrook Tract of Manasquan River Linear Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 17 • Colliers Mills WMA
• Monmouth County Park System - Clayton Park, Crosswicks Creek Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 18 • Colliers Mills WMA
• Manchester WMA
• Whiting WMA
- 19 • Medford WMA
• Wharton State Forest
- 21 • Double Trouble State Park
• Forked River Mountain WMA
• Greenwood Forest WMA
• Lebanon State Forest
- 22 • Bass River State Forest
- 23 • Wharton State Forest
- 24 • Bass River State Forest
• Penn State Forest
• Stafford Forge WMA
• Swan Bay WMA
• Warren Grove Recreation Area
• Wharton State Forest
- 25 • Cedar Lake WMA
• Great Egg Harbor River WMA
• White Oak Branch WMA
• Wharton State Forest
- 26 • Great Egg Harbor River WMA
• Hammonton Creek WMA
• Makepeace Lake WMA
• Port Republic WMA
- 27 • Salem River WMA
• Thundergut Pond WMA
• Buckshutem WMA
• Elmer Lake WMA
• Union Lake WMA
- 29 • Bayside PSE&G Tract (see *Special Areas*)
• Cohansy WMA
• Gum Tree Corner WMA
• Mad Horse Creek WMA
• Maskells Mill Pond WMA
• **Stowe Creek State Park**
- 30 • Bear Swamp Natural Area (closed Jan. 15 - Aug. 1)
• Dix WMA
• Egg Island WMA
• Fortescue WMA
• Nantuxent WMA
• New Sweden WMA
- 31 • Millville WMA
• Buckshutem WMA
- 34 • Beaver Swamp WMA
• Belleplain State Forest
• Cape May Wetlands WMA
• Cape May National Wildlife Refuge
• Dennis Creek WMA

- 35 • D.O.D. Ponds
• **Harrisonville Lake WMA**
- 36 • No public deer hunting land
- 37 • Fort Dix Military Reservation (see *Special Areas*)
- 38 • Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 39 • No public deer hunting land
- 40 • No public deer hunting land
- 41 • Alexauken Creek WMA
• Mercer County Parks - Baldpate (Kuser) Mountain
• Mercer County Parks - Howell Living History Farm
- 42 • Port Republic WMA
- 43 • Millville (Bevan) WMA
- 45 • Menantico Ponds WMA
• Peaslee WMA
- 46 • Gibson Creek WMA
• Great Egg Harbor River WMA
• Tuckahoe WMA
• Maple Lake WMA
• Peaslee WMA
- 47 • Peaslee WMA
- 48 • Rancocas State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 49 • No public deer hunting land
- 50 • Monmouth County Park System - Hartshorne Woods Park, Tatum Park, Thompson Park, Big Brook Park, Huber Woods, the Ramanessin Section of Holmdel Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 51 • Allaire State Park
• Manasquan River WMA
• Manahawkin WMA
• Monmouth County Park System - Shark River Park, Rt. 33 Tract and Shark River Park - East of Remsen Mill Rd. (see *Special Areas*)
- 53 • Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station (see *Special Areas*)
- 54 • No public deer hunting land
- 55 • Glassboro WMA
- 56 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 57 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 58 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge - north of Rt. 72 (see *Special Areas*)
- 61 • Atlantic County Park System (see *Special Areas*)
- 63 • Abbotts Meadow WMA
• Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (see *Special Areas*)
- 64 • Monmouth Battlefield State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 65 • Winslow WMA
- 66 • Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center (see *Special Areas*)
- 67 • High Point State Park (see *Special Areas*)
- 68 • Franklin Parker Preserve (see *Special Areas*)
- 70 • Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, north of the Mullica River and south of Rt. 72 (see *Special Areas*)

Maps and information on hunting land is also available from the following sources:

USGS Topographic Maps

Topo quads - \$10 ea. State exact location including county, township, road or select a WMA
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection

Maps and Publications

PO Box 438, Trenton, NJ 08625-0438 • (609) 777-1038
www.state.nj.us/dep/njgs

State Parks and Forests Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Please specify park or forest. Free.

NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection

Division of Parks and Forestry

PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625-0404 • (800) 843-6420

Wildlife Management Area Maps

Maps and information on lands administered by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Photocopies of individual WMA maps on USGS base available free. Specify which WMA.

NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, WMA Map Request

P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625 • (609) 984-0547

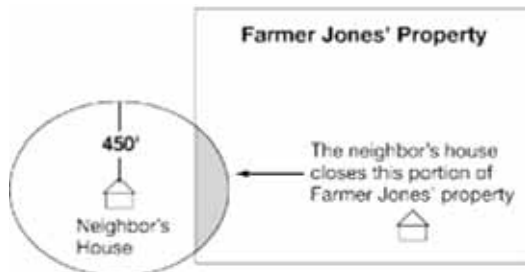
Download maps from our Web site at www.NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaland.htm or create your own map, at i-MapNJ, see page 81.

SAFETY ZONE Awareness: Protecting Your Hunting Privilege

New Jersey hunters enjoy many types of hunting, numerous days afield and generous bag limits. But development and other human encroachment on the forests and fields of the Garden State has changed wildlife habitat and land suitable for hunting, such that SAFETY ZONE awareness is even more critical for modern hunters.

What is a SAFETY ZONE?

- The SAFETY ZONE is the area within 450 feet of a building or school playground, even if not occupied.
- The SAFETY ZONE is the place where you, the hunter, cannot carry a loaded firearm or nocked arrow unless you have written permission in hand.
- The SAFETY ZONE was established by legislation in 1946 as an area to place some physical distance, a buffer, between hunters and homeowners.
- The SAFETY ZONE could be land where there is suitable wildlife habitat for adaptable species, like the white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit and Canada goose.



- The SAFETY ZONE is not a magic shield which can stop a misdirected bullet from entering the area around a home

What can you do to heighten your SAFETY ZONE awareness?

1. Post SAFETY ZONE signs.
2. Talk with landowners.
3. Hunt SMART and remind your hunting partners to Hunt SMART.
4. Know the law.

Remember, failure to hunt safely and responsibly is inexcusable. You must always be a responsible hunter, aware of your surroundings, the target and what may lie beyond the target. The principles of hunter education do not disappear at the completion of a course, but are called into practice every time you hunt.

Take special care hunting on “high visibility” property, habitat where our adaptable wildlife species—especially white-tailed deer—are now flourishing. Here, hunter conduct will be watched closely; the image we portray can have a great impact on the tolerance for our sport. So hunting these special areas carries added responsibility for you, as a hunter, to exercise restraint and make superior judgment decisions.

Hunting Opportunities On New Jersey's National Wildlife Refuges 2008–2009 Hunting Seasons

Hunting on national wildlife refuges is not permitted unless specifically opened as listed below.

Cape May NWR

24 Kimbles Beach Road, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 (609) 463-0994; www.fws.gov/northeast/capemay

- Deer—*Special Areas Hunting Season Information*; see page 52.
- Migratory game birds except crow—on refuge lands north of Rt. 550 or west of Rt. 47

No refuge permit is required. Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information.

Great Swamp NWR

241 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-9615 (973) 425-1222; www.fws.gov/northeast/greatswamp

- Deer—*Special Areas Hunting Season Information*; see page 53.

In addition to required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a Refuge permit for \$26 (\$13 for holders of a Senior Golden Age or Golden Access Passport and youths with a valid 2008 New Jersey youth hunting license).

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR

800 Great Creek Road, Oceanville, NJ 08231-0072; (609) 652-1665; www.fws.gov/northeast/forsythe

- Deer—*Special Areas Hunting Season Information*; see page 52.
- Waterfowl • Special Waterfowl Hunts

Hunters wanting to participate in the special waterfowl hunts must have a reservation. Special hunting conditions apply. Information can be obtained at the refuge, at dispensers, at the headquarters, on the refuge Web site, or through the mail.

Supawna Meadows NWR

c/o Cape May NWR, 24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210, (609) 463-0994; www.fws.gov/northeast/nj/spm.htm

- Deer—*Special Areas Hunting Season Information*; see page 53.
- Waterfowl

Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge manager for information.

Wallkill River NWR

1547 County Route 565, Sussex, NJ 07461-4013 (973) 702-7266; wallkillriver.fws.gov

- Deer—*Special Areas Hunting Season Information*; see page 54.
- Migratory Birds except crow • Spring and Fall Turkey (Zone 5)
- September Canada Goose

In addition to required state licenses and permits, hunters must obtain a refuge permit. There is a \$20 fee for a refuge permit except youths are free, seniors with a Golden Age passport are \$10. Special hunting conditions apply.

Perpetual Sunrise & Sunset, Trenton, New Jersey

Day	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May		June		July		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	7:22	4:43	7:09	5:17	6:32	5:51	5:42	6:24	4:58	6:55	4:31	7:23	4:33	7:32	4:57	7:13	5:27	6:30	5:56	5:41	6:29	4:56	7:03	4:34
02	7:22	4:44	7:08	5:18	6:31	5:52	5:41	6:25	4:57	6:56	4:31	7:23	4:34	7:32	4:58	7:12	5:28	6:29	5:57	5:39	6:30	4:55	7:04	4:33
03	7:22	4:45	7:07	5:19	6:29	5:53	5:39	6:26	4:56	6:57	4:31	7:24	4:34	7:32	4:59	7:11	5:29	6:27	5:58	5:37	6:31	4:54	7:05	4:33
04	7:22	4:46	7:06	5:21	6:27	5:54	5:38	6:27	4:55	6:58	4:30	7:25	4:35	7:32	5:00	7:09	5:30	6:25	5:59	5:36	6:32	4:52	7:06	4:33
05	7:22	4:47	7:05	5:22	6:26	5:56	5:36	6:28	4:53	6:59	4:30	7:25	4:36	7:32	5:01	7:08	5:31	6:24	6:00	5:34	6:34	4:51	7:07	4:33
06	7:22	4:48	7:04	5:23	6:24	5:57	5:34	6:29	4:52	7:00	4:30	7:26	4:36	7:31	5:02	7:07	5:32	6:22	6:01	5:33	6:35	4:50	7:07	4:33
07	7:22	4:49	7:02	5:24	6:23	5:58	5:33	6:30	4:51	7:01	4:30	7:27	4:37	7:31	5:03	7:06	5:33	6:20	6:02	5:31	6:36	4:49	7:08	4:33
08	7:22	4:50	7:01	5:26	6:21	5:59	5:31	6:31	4:50	7:02	4:29	7:27	4:37	7:31	5:04	7:05	5:34	6:19	6:03	5:29	6:37	4:48	7:09	4:33
09	7:21	4:51	7:00	5:27	6:20	6:00	5:30	6:32	4:49	7:03	4:29	7:28	4:38	7:30	5:05	7:03	5:35	6:17	6:04	5:28	6:38	4:47	7:10	4:33
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12	7:21	4:54	6:57	5:30	6:15	6:03	5:25	6:35	4:46	7:06	4:29	7:29	4:40	7:29	5:08	7:00	5:37	6:12	6:07	5:23	6:42	4:44	7:12	4:33
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14	7:20	4:56	6:54	5:33	6:12	6:05	5:22	6:37	4:44	7:07	4:29	7:30	4:42	7:28	5:10	6:57	5:39	6:09	6:09	5:20	6:44	4:43	7:14	4:34
15	7:20	4:57	6:53	5:34	6:10	6:06	5:20	6:38	4:43	7:08	4:29	7:30	4:42	7:27	5:11	6:56	5:40	6:07	6:10	5:19	6:45	4:42	7:15	4:34
16	7:19	4:58	6:52	5:35	6:08	6:07	5:19	6:39	4:42	7:09	4:29	7:31	4:43	7:27	5:12	6:54	5:41	6:06	6:11	5:17	6:46	4:41	7:15	4:34
17	7:19	4:59	6:50	5:36	6:07	6:08	5:17	6:40	4:41	7:10	4:29	7:31	4:44	7:26	5:12	6:53	5:42	6:04	6:12	5:16	6:47	4:40	7:16	4:35
18	7:19	5:00	6:49	5:37	6:05	6:09	5:16	6:41	4:40	7:11	4:29	7:31	4:45	7:25	5:13	6:51	5:43	6:02	6:13	5:14	6:49	4:40	7:17	4:35
19	7:18	5:02	6:48	5:39	6:04	6:10	5:14	6:42	4:39	7:12	4:29	7:32	4:46	7:25	5:14	6:50	5:44	6:01	6:14	5:13	6:50	4:39	7:17	4:36
20	7:18	5:03	6:46	5:40	6:02	6:11	5:13	6:43	4:39	7:13	4:30	7:32	4:47	7:24	5:15	6:48	5:45	5:59	6:15	5:11	6:51	4:38	7:18	4:36
21	7:17	5:04	6:45	5:41	6:00	6:13	5:12	6:44	4:38	7:14	4:30	7:32	4:47	7:23	5:16	6:47	5:46	5:57	6:17	5:10	6:52	4:38	7:18	4:37
22	7:16	5:05	6:44	5:42	5:59	6:14	5:10	6:45	4:37	7:15	4:30	7:32	4:48	7:22	5:17	6:46	5:47	5:56	6:18	5:09	6:53	4:37	7:19	4:37
23	7:16	5:06	6:42	5:43	5:57	6:15	5:09	6:46	4:36	7:16	4:30	7:32	4:49	7:21	5:18	6:44	5:48	5:54	6:19	5:07	6:54	4:37	7:19	4:38
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31	7:09	5:16			5:44	6:23		6:52	4:32	7:22		7:32	4:56	7:14	5:26	6:32		6:28	4:57			7:22	4:43	

Eastern Standard Time • U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, DC 20392-5420

Add one hour for daylight savings time when in effect (second Sunday in March and reverts back the first Sunday in November).

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