Wildlife Management Area

Regulations

The following are prohibited: alcoholic beverages, camping, geocaching, cutting or damaging vegetation, removing timber or firewood, dumping, fires, metal detecting, swimming, picnicking and the use of unmanned aerial vehicles known as drones.

Wildlife management area (WMA) regulations are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than $50 nor more than $1,500. A second violation of any WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of all sporting licenses and privileges.

For information on WMA regulations and permit applications, write to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, or NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaregs.htm.

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit (or other authorization) 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 (for the waterbodies listed below), or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Your Conservation ID number is clearly displayed; for privacy all other personal information may be blacked out. The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is $15, available from license agents or at Fish and Wildlife’s Internet sales site. For more information see NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaregs.htm.

Persons 70 years and older do not need a boat ramp maintenance permit or a license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

1. Round Valley 5. Mad Horse Creek
2. Assunpink 6. Union Lake
3. Dennis Creek 7. Menantic Ponds
4. Tuckahoe

Dog Training, Exercising and 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 8. Millville
2. Black River 9. Pequest
3. Clinton 10. Salem River
4. Colliers Mills 11. Stafford Forge
5. Glassboro 12. Tuckahoe
6. Hainesville 13. Whittingham
7. Manasquan 14. Winslow

All dogs must be properly licensed. Dogs may be exercised or trained on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30.

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

A permit to conduct a field trial on a wildlife management area may be obtained by contacting Fish and Wildlife at (609) 259-2132.

Higbee Beach

Higbee Beach WMA is closed to hunting from Sept. 1 until 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 11, 2017.

Horseback Riding

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

Hunting Regulations

Firearm hunting on wildlife management areas on the day prior to the opening of the regular small game season for pheasants and quail is allowed. Pheasants are stocked after dark, precluding interaction between Fish and Wildlife personnel and hunters or the chance of prematurely harvesting a pheasant before the season opens.

The quail season is closed statewide with the exception of the Peaslee and Greenwood WMAs. See Quail Season Closed, page 56.

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

For coyote and fox hunting; the use of .177 and .22 caliber rimfire or .177 and .22 caliber centerfire rifle ammo is allowed on WMAs. See Coyote/Fox ammo chart on page 54 for additional restrictions.

The use of air guns to hunt rabbit and squirrel is allowed on WMAs. See Air Guns page 27, and Squirrel, Regular Season on page 56.

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

Motor Vehicles and Other Forms of Conveyance

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. A boat license and New Jersey boat safety certificate are required to operate a power vessel on non-tidal waters of New Jersey. A boat license is not required for non-powered vessels.

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, .177 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, .177 or .22 caliber rimfire rifles and muzzleloaders; no other firearms allowed. See page 71 for a list of ranges and requirements.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or Drones

The use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone is prohibited on WMAs. A UAV is computer-controlled for nearly their entire flight either autonomously or by remote control by a pilot and has the capacity for autonomous flight and navigation.

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

Any blind used in these WMAs must be portable and shall be completely removed at the day’s end. Blinds remaining in WMAs are subject to confiscation and disposal 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 New Jersey hunting license in possession.

Northern Region

Hunterdon County
Clinton WMA
Route 173W, Clinton
- Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
- All target frames must measure a minimum 30 inches from base to bottom of the paper target held in the frame. Frames must be placed only on top of a target mound located at the 25, 50 and 100 yard lines. This minimum target height requirement eliminates the risk of ricochet to ensure all projectiles are collected in the berm behind the 100 yard target.
- Spinner type targets for .177 and .22 caliber firearms MUST be placed directly at the base of the 25 yard berm to direct all bullets into the berm. These targets are not to be used at other yardage or target mound placements.

Morris County
Black River WMA
Route 513 (Dover-Chester Rd.), Chester
- Archery, open year-round.
- Shotgun: Closed weekends from the third Saturday in May through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, as well as on Christmas and Easter. 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 at the range and are not affected by these new hours.

Sussex County
Flatbrook WMA
Route 615, Layton
- Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (75 yards)

Warren County
Pequest WMA
Pequest Rd., Oxford
• Archery

Central Region

Monmouth County
Assunpink WMA
Imlaystown-Hightstown Rd., Upper Freehold Twp.
• Archery
• Shotgun range is restricted to the use of non-toxic shot; no lead shot is allowed.

Turkey Swamp Park
Georgia Rd., Freehold Twp.
• Archery
• Special regulations apply; call 732-842-4000.

Ocean County
Colliers Mills WMA
Off Colliers Mills and Hawkins Rds., Jackson Twp.
• Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
• Shotgun range is closed.

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 Rd., Weymouth
• Shotgun, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
- All target frames must measure a minimum 30 inches from base to bottom of the paper target held in the frame. Frames must be placed only on top of a target mound located at the 25, 50 and 100 yard lines. This minimum target height requirement eliminates the risk of ricochet to ensure all projectiles are collected in the berm behind the 100 yard target.
- Spinner type targets for .177 and .22 caliber firearms MUST be placed directly at the base of the 25 yard berm to direct all bullets into the berm. These targets are not to be used at other yardage or target mound placements.

Gloucester County
Winslow WMA
Piney Hollow Rd., Monroe Twp.
- Archery
- Shotgun and muzzleloader ranges are closed.

Cape May County
Tuckahoe WMA
Off Tuckahoe Rd. (Rt. 631), Tuckahoe
- Archery
- Shotgun range is closed.

Cumberland County
Millville WMA
Ackley Rd. (Rt. 718), Millville
- Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)

Landowner-Hunter/Trapper Agreement Card

HUNT/TRAP SMART Courtesy Card

Visitor’s Copy — Not Transferable

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

Dates from _____/____/____ to _____/____/____
Limitations _______________________________________________________________

Hunter may hunt within 450 feet (150 feet for bow)
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 may hunt within 450 feet (150 feet for bow)
of buildings: □ Yes □ No
Landowner-Hunter/Trapper Agreement Card

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 _____/_____/_____

HUNT/TRAP 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 _____/_____/_____

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

Outdoor Recreation on Private Property is a Privilege — NOT A RIGHT

Wildlife Programs

Garden State Deer Classic

January 11–14, 2018

At the Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen’s Show, their 35th year!

Raritan Center
Edison, New Jersey

See New Jersey’s most outstanding white-tailed deer for 2016–17

Awards ceremony on Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Applications must be received by Nov. 1, 2017 to enter a deer harvested during last year’s 2016–17 hunting seasons. No exceptions!

To arrange for an official measurer to score your New Jersey white-tail, contact Cindy Kuenstner at (609) 633-7598.

Deer will not be measured at the Deer Classic.

See entry details on page 73.

Brought to you by:
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
NJ Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs
United Bowhunters of New Jersey
New Jersey Outdoor Alliance
Conservation Foundation
Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen’s Show

Visit gsoss.com

Promises to be the show of the year!
Youth Division

New Jersey’s Outstanding White-tailed Deer Program has a Youth Division! The Outstanding Deer Program is designed to showcase the fine quality deer produced in the Garden State and recognize the hunters who harvested them with a bow, crossbow, shotgun or muzzleloading rifle.

Joining the program's regular Open Division is a Youth Division for hunters ages 10–16 with eased entry requirements reduced by 10 points (inches) for all Antler categories and a reduction in the Weight categories by 10 or 20 pounds for doe and buck, respectively. (See table below for minimum entry requirements.)

For the Antler Category, Youth Division deer may be unoffically scored by our trained volunteers who need not be an official measurer. All Open Division deer must be scored by an official measurer. Visit our website at NJFishandWildlife.com/outdeer.htm for the list of official measurers (see page bottom for Entering the Outstanding Deer Program; then bottom of next page), program background, rules, score/entry forms and more.

Youth Division hunters must be prepared to submit a digital, high resolution, respectful photo of hunter and deer after their entry has been confirmed. (Day of harvest field photos must be Photoshopped or cropped to conceal any blood or the body cavity.) A family photo is encouraged! Only Youth Division hunters (not Open Division hunters who may email or call Cindy, below) may arrange for a measuring appointment by calling John Messeroll of the State Federation of Sportmen’s Club at (732) 735-1672. Don’t wait for the deadline to approach before having your deer scored.

Applications are due Nov. 1 — NO EXCEPTIONS.

First place Youth Division hunters in each category may display a mounted deer at the Garden State Deer Classic (see page 72), whether as a European skull mount or a taxidermy mount. All other Youth Division entrants’ photos will be digitally displayed at the event.

Open Division

Open Division hunters will be invited to display their deer mount, as always, at the Deer Classic.

The Outstanding Deer Program follows the measuring standards developed by the Boone and Crockett Club. This scoring system gives credit to antler length, spread, number of points, mass and symmetry. Legally harvested deer must have been taken under the Boone and Crockett-defined rules of fair chase. Deer taken from enclosed hunting lands are not eligible.

Note: It is best to have the rack measured before it is mounted. Don’t wait! In the Weight categories, the program recognizes exceptional body size as determined by the field-dressed weight, all vitals removed. Minimum eligible weights are listed in the chart. Bucks must be weighed on a certified scale* (no truck scales**) with the weighmaster’s signature on a letterhead receipt or on the entry form, available on our website; does must be weighed either on a Fish and Wildlife regional office scale or on a certified scale with proof as above.

Any properly licensed hunter, regardless of residency, is eligible to enter the Outstanding Deer Program with their deer from the previous year’s hunting seasons. Deer must be taken in accordance with New Jersey wildlife laws and regulations. Official entry form consists of the original score sheet, hunter information form plus a clear photo of the hunter and deer. These forms with instructions are available on Fish and Wildlife’s website NJFishandWildlife.com/outdeer.htm. There is no entry fee.

Applications are due Nov. 1 — NO EXCEPTIONS.

For questions about the Open Division, email Cindy Kuenstner at Cindy.Kuenstner@dep.nj.gov or call (609) 633-7598.

Qualifying entries for deer harvested during the 2016–17 hunting seasons will be recognized at the 2018 Garden State Deer Classic. Join Fish and Wildlife in celebrating New Jersey’s outstanding white-tailed deer where this event takes place in January at the Garden State Outdoor Sportmen’s Show, Edison. See the ad on page 72 for more information.

The table at right lists the top-scoring deer and the hunters who participated in the 2017 Garden State Deer Classic which showcased outstanding deer taken during the 2015–16 deer hunting seasons, not the most recent 2016–17 hunting seasons. These deer will be honored at the January 2018 Deer Classic and printed in next year’s Digest.

2017 Garden State Deer Classic Winners*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Score / Weight</th>
<th>County Harvested</th>
<th>DM Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Ken Whitehead</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Lou Cormine</td>
<td>167 4/8</td>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Kevin Pettif</td>
<td>165 6/8</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ken Whitehead</td>
<td>136 3/8</td>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Nicholas A. Bergamo</td>
<td>163 4/8</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Christopher Viereck</td>
<td>155 2/8</td>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Dale Cline</td>
<td>153 4/8</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>John Beecher</td>
<td>139 2/8</td>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Michael Fett</td>
<td>139 1/8</td>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Kris Mayer</td>
<td>136 4/8</td>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Barrett Miller</td>
<td>160 0/8</td>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Stephen D. Fox</td>
<td>157 5/8</td>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Mark Spoto</td>
<td>149 0/8</td>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Jeffrey N. Lee</td>
<td>147 0/8</td>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Chris Nelson</td>
<td>143 7/8</td>
<td>Mercer</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Jeffrey Kramarz</td>
<td>143 2/8</td>
<td>Mercer</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Chris Mesogianes</td>
<td>139 2/8</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Ferdinand Van Strander</td>
<td>131 7/8</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Michael J. Tenuto</td>
<td>149 0/8</td>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jerry Meyerhoff</td>
<td>136 0/8</td>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>R.J. Krajcsovics</td>
<td>131 1/8</td>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Matthew Mesogianes</td>
<td>122 3/8</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Jack Bycsek</td>
<td>119 4/8</td>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>John S. Simone, III</td>
<td>147 6/8</td>
<td>Sussex</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Andrew Castro</td>
<td>125 1/8</td>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Dominic Sayres</td>
<td>124 5/8</td>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For deer harvested during the 2015–16 hunting seasons.

Outstanding Deer Program Minimum Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antler Category</th>
<th>Open Division Minimum</th>
<th>Youth Division Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Typical Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader, Velvet</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-typical Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader, Velvet</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight Category</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck: Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader</td>
<td>200 lbs.</td>
<td>180 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doe: Shotgun, Bow, Crossbow, Muzzleloader</td>
<td>135 lbs.</td>
<td>125 lbs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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

Visit our website for a partial list of certified scales 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.
What Is CWD?

• Belongs to a family of neurological diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies which include scrapie in sheep, mad cow disease in cattle and Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease in humans. There is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans; however the CDC advises against consuming any animal that appears ill.

• All members of the Cervid family (white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, reindeer) are known to be susceptible.

• Caused by a misfolded protein called a prion which could be found in all deer bodily fluids.

• There is no cure. CWD is always fatal and there is no live test for deer.

Where Is CWD Found?

• First discovered in captive mule deer in Colorado, in 1967.

• Now in captive or wild deer in 26 states and Canadian provinces.


How New Jersey Is Responding

• Tested for CWD in symptomatic captive cervids and wild deer, and hunter-harvested wild deer since 1997. To date over 6,700 wild deer have been tested with no CWD-positive results.

• Banned the importation of cervids, recently expanded to include reindeer.

• Issued an advisory for New Jersey hunters bringing home venison from CWD-endemic states making it illegal to import into New Jersey a harvested deer carcass or deer parts from any state with CWD in wild deer unless strictly following that state’s CWD protocol.

• Improved captive cervid regulations, including a proposed Herd Certification Program.

• Created the CWD Response Plan with protocols for detection of CWD to be activated when CWD is within 20 miles of the New Jersey border and within the state wild deer and captive cervids.
Attention!

Urine-Based Deer Lures Advisory

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends the use of synthetic, non-urine-based scents or lures for deer hunting. The infectious prions which cause Chronic Wasting Disease can be spread through urine-based lures. Studies have shown the prions can survive for years in contaminated soils and the environment. Urine-based scents and lures are not treated to kill the prions as heat or chemical treatments would also reduce the desired scent characteristics. Hunters using urine-based scents should place them in areas out of contact with deer, the ground or vegetation.

Chronic Wasting Disease in North America


Working to protect the environment through renewable and natural resource conservation.

Contact John Erndl, President (732) 616-5137 or email: john.erndl@ubnj.org
Visit our website: www.ubnj.org

Please Print Clearly

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Street:  ____________________________________________________________
City:    ___________________________ State:_________  Zip: ______________
Phone Number:  (_______) _______________________________________________
E-mail:  ____________________________________ Date:  __________________

____ Individual Membership: $25/yr. Includes membership card, four issues of Tracks & Trails, decal and eligibility for contests, trophies and prizes.
* Required for UBNJ special hunts

____ Family Membership: $40/yr. Includes all benefits of Individual Membership for the member, spouse and each child under the age of 16.
List names of family members ____________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

____ Junior Membership: $15/yr.
Includes all benefits of Individual Membership for youth up to age 16.

____ Life Membership: $400 single payment. Includes all benefits of Individual Membership.

____ Sponsoring Membership: $100/yr.
For clubs and organizations, contact UBNJ for details.
Check One:
New Member:____ Renewal____
I wish to make a donation of $________ to the UBNJ Protect our Rights Fund.
Signature: __________________________________________________________

Mail to: UBNJ Membership, P.O. Box 11, Ringwood, NJ 07456-0011.
Please allow 6 – 8 weeks to receive membership ID.
New Jersey to Increase American Black Duck Bag Limit

By Ted Nichols, Wildlife Biologist

A New Jersey hunter shivers in his Barnegat Bay sneak box as a raw nor’easterly wind rips around the edge of his boat’s spray curtain and down the back of his neck. A lone duck in the distance, nothing but a silhouette against the slate gray December clouds, turns and cups its wings toward his decoys. His Labrador retriever—ice balls forming on her neck and chest fur, eyes fixed on the approaching duck—whines and trembles with anticipation. When the duck is 40 yards distant, the hunter sits up, mounts his gun, pushes the shotgun bead through the bird and is met with the metallic click of a firing pin falling on an empty chamber. Remembering that he had forgotten to reload his gun’s chamber when he set it down to retrieve hot coffee just minutes before, the hunter makes a great recovery by racking the action then making a spot-on shot. Hearing her name, the Lab leaps into the tidal water to retrieve their prize—an American black duck.

New Jersey has always been a key migration and wintering area for American black ducks in the Atlantic Flyway. In fact, over one-third of the black ducks in the U.S. portion of the Atlantic Flyway winter in New Jersey. Second only to mallards, black ducks comprise 17 percent of the annual duck harvest for Garden State hunters and are often referred to as the “bread and butter” duck of the salt marsh hunter.

For the first time since 1982, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will allow states to give their waterfowl hunters the opportunity to harvest two black ducks per day during the 2017-18 season as part of their daily bag limit of six total ducks. Three key elements have led to this change.

First, the number of duck hunters in both eastern Canada and the eastern U.S. has declined since the 1980s. So too has the harvest of black ducks, dropping by more than one-third since the late 1990s (Figure 1). However, during the same period, the black duck population has remained stable.

Second, waterfowl biologists have much better biological information on black ducks than they had during the first 20 years of restrictive black duck bag limits. During the early 1990s, breeding population surveys for black ducks were developed in eastern Canada and the U.S. and have been

Data from banded black ducks (pictured) are critical for waterfowl management. Hunters can do their part by reporting banded waterfowl that they harvest.
conducted annually since that time. This time series is long enough to provide reliable information on the trend and year-to-year fluctuations of the population (Figure 2). This survey indicates that the population is currently stable. In addition, an ongoing black duck banding program, coupled with band reporting from hunters, has provided annual estimates of harvest and survival rates. This information has enabled managers to evaluate how harvest affects black duck population dynamics. Finally, this improved biological data described above has enabled biologists to construct a black duck population model that forms the basis for an International Black Duck Harvest Strategy. The Harvest Strategy, adopted in 2012, prescribes annual black duck hunting regulations in the U.S. and Canada. The three objectives of the Harvest Strategy are:

1. Maintain a sustainable black duck population;
2. Maintain a robust black duck hunting tradition;
3. Maintain the historical and equal proportion of the black duck harvest between Canada and the United States.

These developments have allowed biologists to gain better insight into one of the most debated questions in waterfowl management over the past half century: “What effect does hunting have on the population?” If survival rates of banded ducks are lower during years when harvest rates are high—and conversely, increase when harvest rates decline—then this would suggest that harvest has a significant effect on duck survival and perhaps population size. On the other hand, if there is little relationship between harvest rates and survival rates, this suggests that harvest has a limited effect on population size. The most recent results from the black duck population model indicate that at the current levels of hunting, harvest is not affecting annual black duck survival at the population scale. Accordingly, the Harvest Strategy allows for a more liberal black duck hunting regulations in 2017.

If liberalization of hunting regulations causes black duck survival to decrease and the population to decline, those signals will be detected through the annual monitoring programs and the appropriate regulation changes can be made to ensure that black duck harvest is sustainable over the long term.

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Become the King of Flavor, the Maestro of any outdoor cookout. Amaze with steaks seared at 750 degrees, roast a perfectly succulent holiday bird, be the neighborhood pizza-meister and the CEO of low and slow! Just make sure you have the right tool for the job, and enjoy the results ... because everything tastes better cooked in a genuine Big Green Egg.

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The Ultimate Cooking Experience
Celebrating 80 Years of Support for Wildlife Conservation

By Bob Longcor, Federal Aid Coordinator

In 1937, the U.S. Congress passed what is arguably the most effective conservation law in history, the Pittman-Robertson (PR) Wildlife Restoration Act. The Act established an excise tax on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment that is apportioned back to states through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife Restoration Program to support the conservation mission of fish and wildlife agencies.

The Wildlife Restoration Program funds up to 75 percent of conservation project costs, with state fish and wildlife agencies typically matching the remaining 25 percent through hunting and fishing license revenues. Since the program’s inception, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has received over $100 million in Pittman-Robertson funds, matching it with approximately $33 million in license revenues and other sources. Combined, these funds have provided for conservation actions such as the preservation of over 35,000 acres of wildlife habitat, the restoration of white-tailed deer and wild turkey populations along with research and monitoring of an endangered shore bird, the red knot, among many other valuable wildlife projects.

The logo above serves not only to identify the federal program providing critical conservation dollars to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, it symbolizes the committed, 80-year partnership between the hunting and shooting-sports industries, millions of hunters plus state and federal wildlife agencies whose efforts have contributed to the restoration of many wildlife populations, generating a wide variety of hunting- and wildlife-associated recreation opportunities for the New Jersey public.
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Get on the List
The Hunting & Trapping e-mail list, that is.

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Sign up today.
Visit Fish and Wildlife’s website: NJFishandWildlife.com/lstsub.htm

Now a license agent for the NJ Fish Game and Wildlife. Get your licence here and see all we have to offer.
Now selling Live Bait - Shiners & Nightcrawlers. Check out our expanding accessories too!

Come see all of our other Big & J products

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IT'S A WAY OF LIFE

Now selling Live Bait - Shiners & Nightcrawlers. Check out our expanding accessories too!

Follow us on
Join us for the 26th annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament!

May 20, 2018
Island Beach State Park

NJFishandWildlife.com/gsft.htm

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, along with our co-sponsors: New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, would like to thank the following organizations for contributing to the success of the 25th Annual Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament in 2017:

- American Angler
- Chestnut Neck Boat Yard
- Friends of Island Beach State Park
- Grumpy’s Bait and Tackle
- NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Hooked on Fishing — Not on Drugs Program

All participants who mailed in their registrations were also able to enter into an early entry raffle for a Coastline Surf System.

High School Team Category Donators
- The Fisherman
- The Reel Seat

- Legal Limits Company
- Manns Bait Company
- O Mustad and Son
- Silver Horde
- Stanley Jigs
- World Jeep
- Fish Hawks Saltwater Anglers Club
- Shark River Surf Anglers

Continue the Tradition

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

Our Hunter Education Unit is looking for New Jersey’s best sportsmen and sportswomen to become instructors at locations where students take the test and field course after first having completed the home study portion. A minimum of six weekend days each year are required.

Call (856) 629-0552
Leave your name and address to receive an application.
Or complete the application form at: NJFishandWildlife.com/pdf/hunted/hntedinstr.pdf.

Operation Game Thief

Report Abuse of our Outdoor Heritage!

1-855-OGT-TIPS
24 Hours a Day, Seven Days a Week

The person who poaches, pollutes habitat and abuses public land tarnishes the image of sportsmen and robs us of our fish and wildlife as well as tax and license dollars. You can make a difference.

Call OGT to report:

- Negligent use of firearms
- Over the limits for game and fish
- Commercial exploitation of fish and wildlife
- Pollution of habitat, dumping on state land
- Destruction of signs and state property
- Illegal killing, taking or possession of any wildlife

It’s Free. It’s Confidential. You May Be Eligible for a Reward.

Funded by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs.
Designed to encourage sportsmen to report poaching and wildlife crimes.
Eastern Standard AND Eastern Daylight Savings Times • U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, DC 20392-5420
Times listed are ACTUAL times with Daylight Savings Time already shown.
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 for Special Areas Hunting Season Information on page 44 or contact the appropriate authority for details. See page 83 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 are advised not to purchase a deer permit for a zone where they have no place to hunt.

**Updates since last year are noted below in red.**

### Zone Public Land Open to Deer Hunting

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### Maps Available

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

- **Wildlife Management Area Maps**
  - Free download. Maps and information on lands administered by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Both topographic and road maps available. NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaland.htm
  - Photocopies also available of individual WMA maps on USGS base. Free. Specify which WMA.
- **NJ Div. Fish and Wildlife, WMA Map Request**
  - MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 (609) 984-0547
- **USGS Topographic Maps**
  - Free download. Topo quads available. Or write, below, stating exact location including county, township and road.
  - Printed topo quads—$10 ea.
- **NJ DEP Division of Water Supply and Geoscience Maps and Publications**
  - MC 29-01, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 (609) 292-1185
- **State Parks and Forests Maps**
  - Free download. Find a state park, forest, recreation area or marina by location. www.state.nj.us/dep/lands/maps/parks/parkindex.html. Maps and information on lands administered by the Division of Parks and Forestry. Specify which park or forest. Free.
  - NJ DEP, Division of Parks and Forestry MC 501-04, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 (800) 643-6420
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 both wildlife habitat and land suitable for hunting, such that SAFETY ZONE awareness is even more critical for hunters.

What is a SAFETY ZONE?
- The firearm SAFETY ZONE is the area within 450 feet of a building or school playground, even if not occupied. For bowhunters, the SAFETY ZONE around buildings is 150 feet but remains 450 feet from a school playground. See Safety Zone, page 28.
- 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 and cannot stop a misdirected projectile 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. Scout hunting property annually to be aware of new construction or other changes.
4. Hunt SMART and remind your hunting partners to Hunt SMART.
5. Know the law. Know the land.

Remember, failure to hunt safely and responsibly is inexcusable. Always be a responsible hunter. Always be aware of your surroundings, the target and what may lie beyond the target. The principles of good conduct learned at your hunter education course 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 flourishing. Here, hunter conduct will be watched closely; the image we portray can have a great impact on the tolerance for our sport. Hunting these Special Areas carries added responsibility for you, as a hunter, to exercise restraint and make superior judgment decisions.

SAFETY AND HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

Hunting Opportunities on New Jersey’s National Wildlife Refuges: 2017–18 Hunting Seasons

Hunting on national wildlife refuges is not permitted unless specifically opened as listed below. No Sunday hunting on national wildlife refuges.

Cape May NWR
24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
(609) 463-0994; www.fws.gov/supawnameadows/c/o Cape May NWR, 24 Kimbles Beach Rd., Cape May Court House, NJ 08210, (609) 463-0994; www.fws.gov/supawnameadows/
- Deer—Bowhunting only. Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 44.
- Waterfowl
Special hunting conditions apply. Contact refuge office for information.

Great Swamp NWR
241 Pleasant Plains Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-9615
(973) 425-0215 ext. 115; www.fws.gov/refuge/great_swamp/
- Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 48.

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

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR
800 Great Creek Rd., Oceanville, NJ 08231-0072;
(609) 652-1665; www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/
- Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 47.
- Waterfowl
Information can be obtained at the refuge, at dispensers, at the headquarters, on the refuge website, or through the mail.

Wallkill River NWR
1547 County Rt. 565, Sussex, NJ 07461-4013; (973) 701-7200; www.fws.gov/refuge/Wallkill_River
- Deer—Special Areas Hunting Season Information; see page 49.
- Migratory Birds except crow
- Spring and Fall Turkey (Zone 5)
- Black bear—Segment A and Segment B
- Small game—squirrel and rabbit only
Note: the refuge is closed to Sunday hunting.

In addition to required state licenses, hunters must purchase a Refuge hunt permit(s) at https://wallkillriver.recaccess.com (Discounts for Senior, Golden Age, Access, or Golden Access pass and youths with a valid New Jersey youth hunting license).
- Additional hunting opportunities
  - Hunters with Disabling Conditions: A Disabled Hunter Area exists at 119 Owens Station Rd., Sussex, NJ (see refuge hunt map). Hunters must possess a valid NJ Permit to Hunt or Shoot from a Stationary Vehicle in addition to the Disabled Refuge Hunt Permit.
  - Mentored Hunts: The refuge partners with the National Wild Turkey Federation to offer mentored hunts for youth, women and disabled hunters. Registration is required and space is limited. Contact the refuge for dates and details.

Hunter Access