



Featured Story: OWNJ/R3 Mentored Women's

Upcoming Events & Updates

Featured Recipe: Striper Cakes

Did You Know?: Fawns

OWNJ/R3 Mentored Women's Turkey Hunt

As promised: Here are the details on Our 2nd annual Mentored Women's Turkey Hunt.



Cassie and R3 Mentor Joe

The first morning of the hunt, we had 5-6 Gobblers sounding off on the roost. We were in the game only to have that end after first fly down as a blast from the adjacent property put our original plan to rest. Now that the area was shutdown of activity for a bit, the new plan of readjusting & the reality of playing the waiting game was upon us. Joe asked if Cassie wanted to go back to camp or the truck, Cassie said "No, let's do this, whatever you think we should do" We set up in a new location, waited and talked a bit. After about an hour, our talk was cut short by a GOBBLE. We positioned ourselves on the tree, left knee up and ready. A few yelps had him answer & approach. I can hear him spitting so I knew he was close but I couldn't see. Cassie saw him first at full strut up ahead. Some soft yelps made him work his way straight to us and BANG- Cassie delivered the Extreme knockout punch to which he never even moved a feather.

Meanwhile, elsewhere on the mentored hunt on the first day, birthday wishes were about to come true for Jess alongside her R3 Mentor Michele. After little action early on, the morning was moving along quietly, so as turkey hunters often do, it was time for a snack. And as most turkey hunters know, that's when it happens. As Michele was opening her trail mix snack, 2 gobblers showed up within range. -Uh Oh, here we go.... With some delicate persuasion, great timing and follow through, Jess was able to take and make a shot that produced her first turkey ever and one of the best birthday presents a hunter could receive. A small group of us were gathered at the rendezvous site as they took the long "walk of pride" back. As we put up binoculars to see better, we could see the birthday present was strapped over Jess's shoulder. As they approached closer, we could see ear to ear smiles. Great job and a very Happy Birthday to you Jess !!!



R3 Mentor Michele and Jess

Day number 2 of Our 2nd annual R3 Mentored Women’s Turkey Hunt.



Allyson and R3 Mentor Sam

Early the next day, the woods were quiet as Sam and Allyson went back to their spot from Monday with an adjusted gameplan and Boy did it work out. With decoys out and working in their favor, a big 'Ol Tom (Birdzilla) came looking to deal with the full strut Jake decoy that was in his territory. After a few nudges to the decoy, Allyson took care of business. Only a couple of us were back at the rendezvous site when they came pulling in, fist pumping and smiling. As they got out of the truck, Sam said "wait until you see the size of this one" and he wasn't kidding. Certainly one of the biggest birds harvested I've seen, weighing in at 24 pounds with 1 1/2" spurs, the beast is estimated to be 5-6 years old- A very long time to walk and dominate the area he was in. Well Done Allyson.

When Doug and Jennifer got back to display her first turkey, we heard Doug saying something along the lines of "It's not the most beautiful tail fan & might not be perfect for photos" and after further investigation we found out why. This guy had been through the ringer, missing multiple feathers from its fan & later seeing that most of his lower back & covert feathers were gone. Scars & missing feathers to this bird shows that he had been through something. As for the hunt details, after a slow morning of activity, there was finally action for this duo. As this Tom came into the enticing calls, Jennifer delivered the critical shot. Moments after the shot, they both thought they saw the bird standing up and still alive. Wait-how ??? However, the bird that they saw standing there was actually a Jake who had come out to claim his new territory to the area over the fallen Tom, lending to an absolutely great story for both Jennifer and Doug.



Jennifer and R3 Mentor Doug

UPCOMING EVENTS AND UPDATES

- Annual Wild Turkey Brood Sighting Surveys will be conducted from May 15 - September 15
- Beat The Fall Rush-Take Your Hunter Education Now
Openings still available in June. Avoid those Fall lines.
- June 4th- Free Fishing Day
- For More Information visit: NJFishandWildlife.com



Recipe-Striper Cakes

1 lb fresh New Jersey Striper
1 tsp Garlic Salt
1/4 tsp + more to taste Black Pepper
2 Tbsp + more to brush Olive Oil
1 medium onion (1 cup finely diced) 1/2
red bell pepper, diced
3 Tbsp unsalted butter, divided
1 cup bread crumbs
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
3 Tbsp mayonnaise
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1/4 Cup Minced Parsley



Instructions

1. Preheat Oven to 425°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment. Place Striper skin-side down, brush with olive oil and season with garlic salt and black pepper. Bake for 10-15 min or just until reaching an internal temperature of 120. Remove from oven, cover with foil and rest ten minutes. Discard skin, flake with forks, remove any bones, and cool
2. Heat a medium skillet over medium heat. Add 1 Tbsp olive oil, 1 Tbsp butter along with finely diced onion and bell pepper. Sauté until softened and golden (7-9 minutes). In a large mixing bowl, combine Striper, sautéed onion and pepper, bread crumbs, eggs, mayonnaise, Worcestershire sauce, garlic salt, black pepper, and fresh parsley. Stir to combine then form into 13-14 patties.
3. Heat 1 Tbsp oil & 1 Tbsp butter in a large pan over medium heat. Once butter is melted, add half of the Striper cakes and sauté 3 1/2 to 4 min per side or until golden brown. Remove to a paper-towel lined plate. Add remaining 1 Tbsp oil & 1 Tbsp butter and repeat.

Do you have a recipe you'd love to see featured? Send along to:

r3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov

Did You Know? Fawns



Around 200 days after mating season, fawns are now arriving over New Jersey's landscape. This time of year, many folks come across fawns bedded down as flat and as still as possible with no doe in sight. Did you know this is 100% normal? Early on, a fawn's scent glands are not fully developed, making it difficult for predators to find. With mom being too close too often, that could actually attract a predator closer to her fawn! So Mom tucks the fawn away in a safe secluded spot and heads out to take care of herself so that she is nourished enough to nurse the fawn.

Contact Us

Looking for information on something we didn't cover this month? Reach out to us!

Email: R3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov

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