

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife



R3 News

Volume 1 | Issue 6 | October 1, 2021

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's R3 Program provides monthly newsletters jam-packed with upcoming events, conservation news, Division staff and mentor highlights, and resources to promote your hunting, fishing, and/ or shooting sport participation.

October Events:

Field to Freezer: Deer Processing Workshop is offered to deer hunters 18 years old and older. On October 16, 2021 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. R3 Program Staff and R3 Mentors will instruct participants on processing harvested white-tailed deer. Registration is currently full. This event will be offered again in November in the Northern Region of the State. Registration will be posted November 1, 2021, so look for that one soon.

Take-A-Kid (TAK) Youth Instructional Trap Shoot is a free event offered to TAK Youth Hunt participants to try their hand at trap shooting before the 2021 upland bird season. There are two locations and dates (October 23 and 28, 2021) with multiple time slots still available. Registration and more information can be found [HERE](#). Spots are limited and only available to registered TAK Youth Hunt participants.

Take-A-Kid (TAK) Youth Pheasant Hunt is a free event offered in eight locations across the state on October 30, 2021 to youth hunters ages 11 to 16 to try pheasant hunting with R3 Mentor Dog Handlers. All ammunition is provided. Youths must register [HERE](#).

More events can be found below!
[NJOP & R3 Events](#)

Squirrel Hunting? Are you nuts?

The R3 Program and the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge recently offered an Intro to Small Game Workshop with an emphasis on squirrel hunting. This event was offered to ten participants (pictured above) who were new to hunting and had completed their hunter education course within the last two years.

Upon selection to participate the event, the group was provided a 30-minute presentation on squirrel hunting in the great State of New Jersey to help prepare them for the upcoming hunt. Keith Griglak, Senior Biologist with the Division's Hunter Education Program, spent many hours preparing, scouting, and delivering this informative presentation. This presentation is now available on YouTube!

Are you interested in small game hunting?

Watch the video [HERE](#) or click the picture below to see if squirrel hunting is right for you! Spoiler alert; it's right for everyone!

Squirrel Hunting? Are You Nuts?



September Photos:



Pictured Above: R3 Mentor and participants discuss their hunt plan before setting off to the woods the morning of the Intro to Small Game Workshop.

Pictured Below: R3 Mentor demonstrating how to properly field dress a squirrel for participants at the Intro to Small Game Workshop.



Pictured Above: Participants and mentor observing hard mast trees at the Intro to Small Game Workshop hunt held on September 25, 2021 at the Walkkill River NWR.

Program Announcements:



Dog Handlers and Mentors are needed to volunteer for the TAK Youth Pheasant Hunt on October 30, 2021. Responsibilities include: assisting with registration, dog handling, or bird placing. Email r3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov for more information.

Squirrel Hunting

It's for more than just shotguns!



Air Guns: Game Code changes in 2013 made air guns legal for taking of cottontail rabbit, hare, and gray squirrel. Modern air guns have sufficient power to take such small game and are quieter and lighter than some shotguns, making them an ideal tool for smaller-framed hunters. Ammunition no smaller than .177 caliber and no larger than .22 caliber that produces more than 600 feet per second is legal to hunt.



Muzzleloaders: More of a challenge, just as much fun. A .36 caliber muzzleloader or smaller in a single-barrel, single-shot muzzleloader firing a single projectile is legal to hunt gray squirrels in the **Northern** and **Southern** muzzleloader squirrel hunting areas. Those areas can be found on the Division website or by using the **Hunting and Trapping Explorer**.



Monthly Fun Fact:

The hind legs of squirrels are double-jointed, giving them the ability to run up and down trees very quickly. They have the very rare ability to descend a tree headfirst. They do this by rotating their ankles 180 degrees, which enables the hind paws to point backwards to grip the tree bark from the opposite direction.

What can you do to support R3?

We challenge every outdoor enthusiast to make R3 a priority and to commit yourself to the idea that the species we must strive to conserve are hunters and anglers. Introduce someone new to target shooting, hunting, or fishing. It is easier than ever before to get into the field. Apprentice hunting licenses can be purchased online [HERE](#) or start your Hunter Education Course [HERE](#).

Contact the R3 Program Staff!

Email: R3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov

Phone: (856) 629-1014