

STATE PARKS & STATE FORESTS

Firearms and archery equipment may be uncased only in designated hunting areas during the seasons state recreation areas are open to hunting. In park areas not open to hunting, or during closed hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment must be kept in the owner's car, trailer or camp. Hunting, trapping, pursuing or intentionally disturbing wildlife in state parks is prohibited, except that hunting and trapping by licensed hunters and furtakers is permitted in designated areas in compliance with Game Commission regulations. Trapping may be permitted in areas not designated for hunting, but only upon written approval, which is granted only when effective wildlife administration of the area requires trapping. Dog training is permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. Groundhog hunting is prohibited in state parks.

The Bureau of Forestry welcomes hunters and trappers to more than two million acres of state forests. Only small areas around occupied buildings are posted. Overnight camping is permitted only in areas designated by the district forester. Required permits are available from local forestry offices.

For more information about hunting on state parks, contact the Bureau of State Parks, 1-888-PA-PARKS, visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us, or write State Parks, 8th Floor, P.O. Box 8551, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551, or call your nearest state park. For more information or maps concerning hunting and recreational activities on state forests, contact the Bureau of Forestry, 6th Floor, P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552. Phone: 717-783-7941, or your nearest forestry office.

PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION PROPERTY

Legal hunting and trapping are permitted on properties owned or controlled by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission unless otherwise posted. All hunting and trapping must take place in conformance with the Game and Wildlife Code. Hunters using Fish & Boat Commission access areas to launch or retrieve boats may possess legal firearms while on the property. Persons who possess a valid Sportsman's Firearms Permit issued by a county treasurer or a license to carry a firearm issued by a county sheriff may carry a firearm in conformance with permit requirements in place on Fish & Boat Commission properties at any time.

DON'T DUMP CARCASS!

Throughout Pennsylvania there is a growing problem with people dumping deer carcasses and other animal remains on public and private lands. Deer and other wild game or furbearer remains are considered municipal solid waste and should be disposed of along with other household waste through your curbside pick up, or at an approved waste facility.

The dumping of animal remains is illegal. This does not apply to the viscera discarded from legally-harvested animals. Burning and/or burying of animal remains may also present serious health concerns and are not advisable practices. Contact your county recycling coordinator for more information.

This statement has been developed with the cooperation of the state Department of Environmental Protection, Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania, Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and PA CleanWays-State.

TRAVELING HUNTERS NEED TO BE AWARE OF PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS

All persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by air between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America in 2007 will be required to present a valid passport from their country of origin. As early as January 1, 2008, U.S. citizens traveling between the U.S. and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America by land or sea could be required to present a valid U.S. passport. For additional information about passports, contact the U.S. Department of State; www.state.gov



WEED ALERT: NORTHCENTRAL COUNTIES — MILE A MINUTE OR DEVIL'S TEAR-THUMB

A large population of mile a minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*) has been discovered in Cameron and Potter counties. Mile a Minute is a noxious weed found in 26 southeastern and southcentral counties. This newest infestation is of significant concern because the vine forms dense mats on the ground, crowding out other more beneficial plant species, climbs up and over vegetation and impedes access to streams. Plants have recurved barbed hooks on the stem and a cup-shaped ochrea at each internode. Preventing seed formation or seed dispersal is essential to controlling Mile a Minute. Landowners who want to get rid of small infestations should pull all plants in the spring before flowering occurs in June. Remove and burn all of the blue berries that the plant produces in the fall. For larger infestations, brush-hog or mow repeatedly before seed set (late August to late October), which will kill the plants and exhaust the seed bank. Mile a Minute is a broadleaf and can be controlled with a broadleaf herbicide or a nonselective herbicide. Understand the injury potential to other broadleaf plants, grasses and trees in the treatment area before applying any herbicides, though. **Remember that it is unlawful to dig, remove or otherwise injure any plants on state game lands.** For more information or a brochure about this weed, contact the Botanist/Weed Scientist, PA Department of Agriculture, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408. 717-787-7204.

OPERATION LIFESAVER

Operation Lifesaver urges hunters to remember the following track facts and tips:

- There are 200,000 miles of railroad tracks in the U.S. Railroad tracks, trestles, yards and equipment are private property. Walking on them is illegal — trespassers are subject to arrest and fines. Too often the penalty is death.
- Since 1990, more than 5,000 people have been killed while trespassing on railroad rights-of-way and property.
- Trains cannot stop quickly. A freight train moving at 55 mph, or an 8-car passenger train moving at 79 mph, can take a mile or more to stop.
- Do not walk, run, cycle or operate ATVs on railroad tracks or rights-of-way or through tunnels.
- Do not hunt or fish from railroad trestles. They are not designed to be pedestrian bridges. There is only enough clearance for a train to pass.
- Do not attempt to hop aboard railroad equipment at any time.
- Always expect a train. Freight trains do not follow set schedules.
- Remember: Rails and recreation do not mix!

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/NONDISCRIMINATION POLICES

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All agency programs are administered consistent with the goals and objectives of Affirmative Action. It is the policy of the Commission to offer its services, facilities and accommodations to all orderly persons without regard to age, race, religion, color, sex, handicap, national origin or ancestry. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information, please write to the Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, D.C. 20240.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS AREAS

Special Regulations Areas include: In western Pennsylvania, all of Allegheny County. In southeastern Pennsylvania, all of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

Deer: All Special Regulations Area counties are now contained within the Wildlife Management Unit system. Seasons and antler restriction requirements are based on these units and general deer seasons. However, certain laws and regulations in regards to arms and ammunition still apply to specific counties in Special Regulations Areas. It is now lawful to hunt or take deer **on private lands in the southeast** special regulations areas through the use of or taking advantage of bait. (See baiting section on General Hunting Regulations page elsewhere in this Digest for more information.)

Arms & Ammunition: Muzzleloading long guns .44 caliber or larger, bows and arrows, manual or autoloading shotguns, .410 or larger using slugs and 20-gauge or larger using buckshot. Buckshot is not permitted in Allegheny County. Only bows and arrows, including crossbows, are permitted in Philadelphia County. Crossbows may be used during any firearm deer season statewide, and during any established deer season in Wildlife Management Units 2B, 5C and 5D. In WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D, hunters using a crossbow during the archery seasons must purchase an archery stamp in addition to their general hunting license and appropriate WMU antlerless deer license. Hunters using crossbows during the muzzleloader seasons must have a muzzleloader stamp in addition to their general hunting license and appropriate WMU antlerless deer license. Crossbows must have a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds and a maximum draw weight not to exceed 200 pounds.

Small Game, Hailable Furbearers & Crows: Manually operated or autoloading shotguns plugged to a 3-shell capacity; manually operated .22 caliber or less **rimfire** rifles and handguns; and bows and arrows.

Lawful While Trapping: Manually operated .22 caliber or less **rimfire** rifles and handguns, except as noted under specific "Furtaking" regulations elsewhere in the Digest.

Wild boar, Russian boar or feral hog all refer to a breed of pigs that have been brought into the state by hunting preserves. Many of these pigs have escaped and are reproducing in the wild. It is illegal to release any domestic or feral hogs into the wild. Domestic or feral hogs shall include any animals from the porcine family. Breeding populations are believed to currently exist in Bedford and Cambria counties. These pigs pose a threat to our native wildlife and must be eliminated before their numbers increase to a point where elimination is very difficult.

Because they are pigs they are considered domestic animals by law and the Game Commission has no authority to regulate hunting of these animals. If you encounter these animals while lawfully hunting for game or wildlife we would encourage you to kill them. We recommend to not use any device or method that is not lawful for taking game. The Game and Wildlife Code provides that the possession or operation of equipment or other devices unlawfully used or prohibited shall be taken on the first appearance as evidence of a violation. While the Game and Wildlife Code does not address pigs, it does address lawful methods of hunting and if you use any unlawful device or method you are subject to prosecution.

To avoid any potential confusion you should only kill these animals while you are lawfully hunting for game in the appropriate firearm season and while wearing the appropriate fluorescent orange safety clothing.

Getting the Most From Your Harvest

The Pennsylvania Game Commission, in cooperation with Wild Harvest Videos, is offering six outstanding videos designed to help you get the most from your deer and other wild game harvests. Produced by Jerry Chiappetta and featuring Certified master Chef Milos Cihelka, these videos show step-by-step how to clean, butcher and care for your game animal and transform it into a delicious, healthy meal.

Big Game: Field to Table, 90 minutes. Covers everything from field-dressing to proper freezer wrapping. If you want to learn how to butcher a deer, this is the video for you. Also included are some hunting camp recipes.

Venison: Healthy and Tasty, 80 minutes. Learn how to make mouth watering venison stew, pot roasts with sour cream, classic venison roasts, sauteed steak with mushrooms, suitable side dishes, marinades and much more.

Venison: Aging, Smoking & Sausage Making, 55 minutes. This is designed for the average sportsman or sportswoman who enjoys smoked venison, jerky, salami, sausage and hot sticks.

Care & Cooking Gamebirds & Small Game Animals, 70 minutes. Learn how to age gamebirds and when to pluck or when to skin them for the best flavor and tenderness, then how to prepare great game dishes.

Care & Cooking Upland Gamebirds, 75 minutes. Learn how to age gamebirds and when to pluck or when to skin them for the best flavor and tenderness. Aging gamebirds is as important as aging big game. Learn how to do it and then how to prepare great game dishes. Learn how to create many delicious meals.

Care & Cooking Waterfowl, 75 minutes. A great meal from ducks and geese begins in the marsh or out on the water. Proper field care, how to transport game and how to age gamebirds before plucking or skinning are all covered, along with the importance of aging waterfowl. Many recipes are included, too.

Tapes are \$9.95 each, plus s&h. PA residents must add 6% sales tax. Order from "The Outdoor Shop," at www.pgc.state.pa.us, by writing: The Pennsylvania Game Commission, Dept. MS, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797, or by calling 1-888-888-3459.

Leave Wildlife Alone

YOUNG ANIMALS PICKED UP SELDOM SURVIVE AND COULD POSE HEALTH RISKS

Rabies is a viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. Wild animals account for more than 90 percent of reported cases of rabies. The most common sources of rabies are raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes and coyotes, but domestic mammals can also get rabies.

The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, causing inflammation of the brain, and ultimately death. In wild animals, what we usually see in that brief period just before death is some abnormal behavior. Examples are raccoons out in daytime in places that are not typical, or foxes that are closer than they would normally be to human habitation.

The number of rabies related human deaths in the U.S. has declined from more than 100 annually at the turn of the century to one or two per year. Modern day post exposure treatment has proven nearly 100 percent successful. In the U.S., human fatalities from rabies occur in people who fail to seek medical assistance, usually because they were unaware of their exposure.

The Game Commission recommends that people enjoy wild animals from afar. Never handle, feed or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans, pet food or litter. Never “adopt” wild animals or bring them into your home. Do not try to nurse sick animals; call animal control or an animal rescue agency for assistance.

If you are exposed to a potentially rabid animal, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately. A health care provider will care for the wound and assess the risk for rabies exposure.

Hal Korber



This little guy might appear to be abandoned, but its mother is undoubtedly nearby. Young animals, especially in the spring, are often taken from the wild by well-meaning individuals who believe they have been abandoned. Fact is, these animals are rarely abandoned, and they'll have a much better chance of survival by being left alone. Taking a young animal from the wild almost always dooms it, as it will have virtually no chance of being reunited with its mother. Please leave animals in the wild.

Got Hunting Ethics?

Ethics goes beyond just obeying the rules. Ethics is defined as “the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation.” In Pennsylvania, approximately seven percent of the population hunts and approximately seven percent of the population has anti-hunting views. That leaves about 86 percent of the population whose views about hunting can be influenced in either a positive or negative way, which can have an impact on our rich hunting heritage. Remember, unethical behavior gives all hunters a bad name.

Being an ethical hunter means:

- Handle firearms and archery equipment safely and respectfully at all times. Never refer to your gun or bow as a “weapon.” Learn to be proficient with your gun or bow.
- Respecting wildlife — Be aware of how your harvested game is displayed while in transport and at camp.
- Being courteous to other hunters in the field. If you see another person doing something that appears wrong, it is your responsibility to inform the authorities.
- Sharing harvested game with landowner and/or a food bank. Be sure to respect the landowner’s property.
- Passing up questionable shots at game and doing everything possible to retrieve a wounded animal. Ethical hunters often count game (after every effort was made to retrieve it) not recovered as part of their bag limit.
- Turning oneself in after a mistake kill.

In conclusion, an ethical hunter is one who knows and follows the law, and behaves in a way that will satisfy what society expects of him or her as a hunter.

Bob D'Angelo

