



Inland Seas Angler

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Special Report

Regional hunting opportunities

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Regional hunting and classroom opportunities

Pennsylvania hearing on Sunday Hunting Sept 15

Contact members of the House Game and Fisheries Committee and urge them to support expanding Sunday hunting

On Thursday, September 15th, the Pennsylvania House Game and Fisheries Committee will hold its second public hearing to consider ending the prohibition on Sunday hunting.

The hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the East Allen Township Municipal Building, 5344 Nor-Bath Blvd., Northampton, PA 18067.

The prohibition on Sunday hunting is an old blue law left on the books in only six states. Hunters pump millions of dollars into habitat restoration and conservation and they are primarily responsible for healthy ecosystems throughout Pennsylvania.

Many hunters cannot introduce their children or friends to hunting because Saturday is their only opportunity, and they are competing with the numerous organized sports and other activities. Many hunters—be it young or old, novice or experienced—stop hunting because of the lack of opportunity, both in time and accessible land. The addition of an extra day in the field increases a person's available time to enjoy our hunting heritage. This will invigorate essential hunter recruitment and retention efforts.

Sunday hunting will also bring a much-needed economic boost to rural areas. Every day that hunters are in the field, they spend money on gasoline, food, lodging and the dozens of other incidentals that go along with a day's hunt. The ripple effect of this spending can have a major impact on a rural town or county. Comprehensive research from the National Shooting Sports Foundation shows that allowing hunting on Sundays in Pennsylvania would generate a total annual economic impact estimated at \$764 million and create more than 8,000 jobs. This legislation will clearly help advance and preserve the Keystone State's rich hunting traditions, while enhancing biodiversity and wildlife populations.

Please continue to contact members of the House Game and Fisheries Committee and urge them to support expanding Sunday hunting. Contact information for this committee can be found [here](#). ✧

Gun makers set sights on female buyers

For years, gun stores were predominantly patronized by men. But these days, shooting ranges and shops selling firearms are seeing more female customers than ever before, and that has them changing the way they do business.

In one brand-new shooting range at Eagle Gun in Concord, NC, shots from Sharon Skoff's handgun boom behind glass that separates the range from the rest of the shop. "I just refuse to be a victim if I possibly can in life," Skoff says. "I actually went and got my concealed permit a couple months ago so I can carry."

Skoff, a 47-year-old flight attendant, says she shoots because she's scared. "If you listen to the news at night, all you hear are women in parking lots—someone coming up, or threatening them for their purse or threatening their life, or raping [them]," she says.

A Huge Emerging Market

Store owner Mike Threadgill says there was a time when women like Skoff would have been out of place. Not anymore. "The ladies are bringing in a lot of the money for the business," Threadgill says. "And if they do that, then I want to cater to them."

Rachel Parsons, a spokeswoman for the National Rifle Association, says women are a huge emerging market. What's happening at Eagle Gun is happening at shops all over, she says. The latest data from the National Shooting Sports Foundation shows gun store owners reported a 73 percent increase in female customers in 2009 from the year before.

Parsons says the trend is even being reflected by the number of guns made just for women. "You see firearms being developed that have smaller grips to fit a woman's hand," Parson says. "Maybe they're pink, or maybe they have pearl grips. And they're a little bit less intimidating."

The NRA says it's also organizing more hunting excursions for women than ever before. And the spike in sales is not just a North Carolina phenomenon. In Texas last year, almost 30,000 women obtained a concealed carry permit. Georgia has also seen an increase.

Changing Business Priorities

Instructor Dan Starks teaches gun safety courses in North Carolina. In a class of about 20 students, one-third are women. One of them is 54-year-old retired nurse Nancy Clontz. She's already been to a shooting range—with her book club—and soon she'll buy her first gun.

"Right now, I'm looking at a Kel-Tec P-3AT semi-automatic," she says, "and also a Lady Wesson revolver, a .380." Clontz sometimes travels alone and wants to be able to defend herself. The National Shooting Sports Foundation says self-defense is the main reason women are getting into guns.

Threadgill says he added to his selection of female guns and accessories as part of his recent expansion. But how serious Threadgill is about female customers may be best illustrated by something his new store has that his old one didn't: a women's bathroom.

"Just the way that it's built, and the way it's laid out with the mirrors on the door, mirrors at the wall—I mean, they want to make sure their nose is powdered good when they come out and all that good stuff," Threadgill says. "So we want to cater to that. You won't find that in the men's restrooms."

To help finance his \$2 million expansion, Threadgill sold range memberships. Of the nearly 700 guns purchased so far, women have bought about one-third. Threadgill says that means the changes he and other shop owners are making these days are right on target. ✧

Preparation is key as squirrel season gets underway

Indiana Squirrel hunters should arm themselves with a strong understanding of safety guidelines and season regulations as they head to the woods.

A safe squirrel hunt can be the perfect opportunity to introduce new hunters to a wonderful outdoor activity and stewardship of our natural resources. When hunting, remember to be sure of your target and what's beyond it, respect property rights and get permission from private property owners before you hunt, and drink plenty of water to prevent dehydration.

Squirrel hunting season opened August 15 and continues through January 31. Indiana hunters may harvest both gray and fox squirrels, and can harvest up to five squirrels per day.

To hunt squirrels, Indiana residents must purchase the annual hunting license for \$17 (\$7 youth consolidated license), and nonresidents must purchase the \$80 annual hunting license or the \$31 five-day hunting license (\$17 annual youth hunting). To purchase a hunting license, go to indianaoutdoor.IN.gov. For additional information on regulations and licensing, go to the hunting.IN.gov. ✧

Leftover Michigan fall turkey licenses go on sale Aug. 29

The Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters fall turkey hunting license drawing results and leftover license quantities are available at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings. Hunters are encouraged to visit the website for updated license availability information.

Unsuccessful applicants may purchase one leftover license online or from any license agent on a first-come, first-served basis for a one week period beginning August 22 at 10 a.m. EST. The licenses will be sold until the quotas are met.

Beginning August 29 at 10 a.m. EST, remaining fall turkey hunting licenses may be purchased by any hunter, including those that did not apply for a fall turkey license. A hunter may buy one license per day until the quotas are met.

As of August 21, there are licenses available in fall turkey management units L, M, W, HA (private land) and YY (private land). The majority of the licenses are available in unit YY (45,000 licenses) for private land in southern Michigan and Beaver Island. Currently, there are over 800 leftover licenses available in Unit M.

Fall turkey season opens September 15 and runs through November 14. "Fall turkey season provides a great opportunity for hunters to get a bird for their Thanksgiving dinner," said DNR upland bird biologist Al Stewart. "And because the season runs through November 14, it gives archery deer hunters the chance to pursue another game animal during the archery deer season."

Hunters have an additional opportunity to get a fall turkey license by applying for the 2012 Pure Michigan Hunt drawing. Each application is \$4 and you may apply as many times as you like. Three lucky winners will receive a hunt package that includes a fall turkey, spring turkey, elk, bear, antlerless deer license and a reserved waterfowl hunt.

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt. Season dates and regulations have not yet been established for the 2012 hunting seasons. ✧

Mich. Deer Hunting Workshop for Women in West Bloomfield Sept. 17

The Michigan DNR is offering women an opportunity to learn the skills needed to take part in one of Michigan's favorite hunting traditions with a Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) Deer Hunting Workshop. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 17, at the Detroit Archers Club.

Both archery and firearms deer seasons will be covered, including:

- deer hunting regulations, rules and deer health;
- deer hunting equipment and scent control;

- scouting and habitat – where to find deer and places to hunt;
- safety and hunting etiquette in the field; and
- caring for and processing game after the harvest.

The workshop costs \$20 per person, including lunch and all materials. Registration must be received by September 9 in order to participate.

The Detroit Archers Club is located at 5795 Drake Rd. in West Bloomfield. For driving directions and more information about the club, visit www.detroitarchers.com. For registration forms and information on this and other BOW events, visit www.michigan.gov/bow, email dnr-outdoors-woman@michigan.gov or call 517-241-2225. ✧

Ohio permits to participate in hunt will be awarded by lottery Sept 17

COLUMBUS, OH – A lottery drawing will be held on September 17 for hunters wishing to participate in special deer gun hunts this fall at Lake Katherine State Nature Preserve in Jackson County, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Hunters must appear in person for the lottery drawing at Lake Katharine on Saturday, September 17, which is a change in procedure for the annual hunts. Starting at 10 a.m., hunters may purchase tickets for the drawing, which will be held at 12 noon. The tickets are \$5 each, and there is a limit of five tickets per person. In addition to the ticket(s), lottery participants must also provide a photo ID and proof of a valid Ohio hunting license.

Each lottery winner will receive a non-transferable hunting permit for themselves and a hunting partner of their choice. The hunting partners need not be present at the drawing. After the drawing, hunters will be given the opportunity to scout the area for which they were drawn, and advised of special regulations that apply during the hunts.

The special hunts for the lottery winners and their partners will be held on November 28 and December 3. A total of 21 permits will be issued for each of the two days. The hunts have been designated as “doe first,” requiring that each hunter harvest an antlerless deer before taking a buck. Ohio hunting regulations, including bag limits and tagging requirements, will be observed.

Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve offers more than 2,000 acres of rugged Appalachian forest featuring a spectacular clear water lake surrounded by towering cliffs. The preserve is home to several endangered species and significant wildflower populations. The high quality habitats found within the preserve have been negatively impacted by over-browsing deer. This impact has been the impetus for the hunts that have been occurring at this site for nearly 20 years. These hunts allow sportsmen to see this magnificent site and assist with management goals at the same time.

Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve is located off State Route 35, approximately four miles northwest of

Jackson, at 1703 Lake Katharine Road, Jackson, Ohio, 45640. The lottery drawings will take place at the nature preserve office/maintenance garage. ✧

National Firearms sales still brisk

According to data from the National Shooting Sports Foundation, people in this country – despite the economy – are buying increasing numbers of firearms. There was an 8.3% rise in the number of background checks with the National Instant Check System in July over the same month last year. This has been going on now for 14 straight months, according to the data. ✧

Illinois archery deer and fall turkey hunting opportunities

Resident Archery Deer and Fall Turkey Permits

Resident combination archery deer permits, resident antlerless-only archery deer permits, and resident archery fall turkey hunting permits are available over-the-counter from DNR Direct license and permit vendors. Find a vendor near you at this link: <http://dnr.illinois.gov/DNRDirectMonitor/VendorListing.aspx>

Non-Resident Archery Deer and Fall Turkey Permits

The remaining non-resident 2011 Illinois combination archery deer permits, non-resident antlerless-only archery deer permits, non-resident archery fall turkey permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors, by phone at 1-888-673-7648 (1-888-6PERMIT), or online at www.dnr.illinois.gov through August 31 (OTC only after August 31).

Upland Game Permits

Hunters may apply through August 31 for the Illinois 2011 Free Upland Game Hunt Permit program. Applications must be made online at www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/uplandgame.

Public Duck and Goose Hunting Area Permits

Resident hunters may apply online from August 16-30 for the first lottery for the Illinois 2011 Public Duck and Goose Hunting Area Permit program. The second lottery deadline is September 13 for those unsuccessful resident applicants from the first lottery, residents who didn't apply in the first lottery, and non-residents. All initial applications must be made online at www.dnr.illinois.gov/duck or www.dnr.illinois.gov/goose. ✧

Illinois Youth Deer Permits available

Resident and non-resident Illinois Youth Firearm Deer permits are available over-the-counter (OTC) from DNR Direct license and permit vendors, by phone at 888-673-7648 (1-888-6PERMIT), or at www.dnr.illinois.gov through August 31 (OTC only after August 31). ✧

Wisconsin Youth Waterfowl Hunt Sept 17-18

The [youth waterfowl hunt](#) will be September 17-18. Youth may harvest Canada geese in all zones during these 2 days. All bag limits and tag requirements apply for the zone hunted. These days overlap with open goose seasons in most areas so adults will also be able to harvest geese but not ducks during the youth hunt.

“The youth waterfowl hunt is important to the future of waterfowl hunting and I encourage all waterfowl hunters to take a son, daughter, niece, nephew or family friend out for this weekend,” said Van Horn. “It’s a great time to share your experience with a new or prospective waterfowler, outside of the regular duck seasons, when there are fewer hunters competing for spots and when warmer weather can be anticipated.” ✧

2011 Wisconsin waterfowl hunting seasons set

MADISON – The Natural Resources Board set 2011 waterfowl season dates and bag limits and approved creation of a third waterfowl hunting zone at its meeting in Spring Green.

“Waterfowl hunters can look forward to a full 60-day duck season with a six-duck daily bag, and an 85-day exterior goose zone season,” said Kent Van Horn, Department of Natural Resources waterfowl ecologist. “It was a good year for duck production in Wisconsin and across the continent. Overall conditions were very good for breeding ducks. The continental breeding duck estimates hit a record level at 45.6 million ducks making 2011 good year to be a duck hunter.

“As always, the most successful hunters will be the ones doing the early season scouting, locating the smaller isolated potholes that can attract waterfowl when hunting pressure is high in other areas and securing permissions from landowners well in advance,” added Van Horn. “I’d like to thank the thousands of hunters who participated in the development of our new duck hunting zones and wish all waterfowl hunters a successful and safe season.”

2011 waterfowl season structure

During the 60-day duck season, the daily bag limit is six ducks in total. The six-duck total may include no more than four mallards, of which only one can be a hen, three wood

ducks, two redheads, one black duck, two pintail, two scaup and one canvasback; in addition, five mergansers to include not more than two hooded mergansers. Coot daily bag of 15. (For duck species not listed such as teal and ring-necked ducks, the combined total with all other species may not exceed six ducks).

- Northern Zone–Sept. 24 at 9 a.m. – Nov. 22.
- Southern Zone–Oct. 1 at 9 a.m. – Oct. 9, and Oct. 15 – Dec. 4.
- Mississippi River Zone–Sept. 24 at 9 a.m. – Oct. 2, Oct. 15 – Dec. 4 (12 day split Oct. 3-14)

For more information: http://dnr.wi.gov/news/BreakingNews_Lookup.asp?id=2165 ✧

Early Wisconsin Canada goose and dove seasons open Sept. 1

MADISON – As September approaches so do the first fall hunting opportunities—the early Canada goose and mourning dove seasons. The early Canada goose season in Wisconsin runs September 1-15 statewide. The dove season runs September 1 – November 9 statewide.

The early Canada goose season is made possible by the historic growth of local giant Canada goose populations. Wisconsin’s breeding population was up 12 percent this spring with 176,095 geese counted during the spring waterfowl survey. Harvest of Canada geese in the early season now amounts to one-third of the total annual Canada goose harvest in Wisconsin.

“The early season provides additional and ample opportunities for our goose hunters and directs harvest pressure toward these locally nesting geese,” said Kent Van Horn, migratory game bird ecologist for the Department of Natural Resources.

The early season daily bag limit is five birds. In addition to the standard small game hunting license and state and federal waterfowl stamps, participation requires a \$3 early Canada goose permit and HIP certification. Registering for HIP (the federal Harvest Information Program) is free and can be done at any [DNR service center](#) or [licensing sales agent](#). The national HIP registry allows biologists to more accurately survey hunters about important harvest information and participation.

There are no “zones” or “subzones” during the early season. The hunt is statewide regardless of what area hunters may hold a permit for during the regular goose season. Wisconsin’s resident geese often change feeding and movement patterns this time of year, biologists say. “Hunters who scout prior to the hunt and stay mobile during the season give themselves the best chance for success,” said Van Horn.

Dove season details and safety tips

Mourning doves are one of the most abundant and widely distributed birds in Wisconsin and throughout North America and populations are stable and slowly growing, Van Horn said. On average, about 14,000 Wisconsin

hunters harvest 140,000 mourning doves each year. As with Canada geese, mourning dove hunters should benefit from scouting to see where birds are flying as they move between roosts, water and feeding areas.

With a holiday weekend quickly following the opening of these hunts, there likely will be large numbers of people spending time outdoors. "We encourage everyone to respect each other's interests," said Van Horn. Dove hunters also must be [HIP certified](#) to be in compliance with state and federal law. This free and easy certification can be requested when purchasing a small game hunting license. The national HIP registry allows biologists to more accurately survey hunters about important harvest information and participation.

Dove hunting regulation and safety reminders:

- Doves are migratory birds so hunters must use a plugged shotgun with a capacity not to exceed 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
- Nontoxic shot is required to hunt doves on all DNR managed lands.
- Avoid shooting at doves near power lines or shooting horizontally at low-flying birds where other hunters may be present. Following the basic rules of firearm safety should avoid these situations.

For more information see the [Waterfowl in Wisconsin](#) or [mourning dove](#) pages of the DNR website. ✧

New York's 2011-2012 Sporting Licenses available now

Deer Management Permits, Hunting, Fishing, Trapping Licenses

New York DEC announced that 2011-2012 hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses and Deer Management Permits (DMPs) can now be purchased.

Licenses and permits can be purchased at one of DEC's 1,500 license sales outlets statewide. Sporting licenses can also be ordered by mail or by telephone and via the Internet at www.dec.ny.gov. The 2011-2012 sporting licenses are valid beginning October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012.

Those purchasing a license and not receiving a guide can download a copy at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/37136.html> for the hunting/trapping guide and <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html> for the fishing guide or return to any license vendor at a later date and request the 2011-2012 guide(s) desired. ✧

DEC Automated Licensing System

DEC's Automated Licensing System (DECALS) is New York State's program for issuing sporting licenses and tracking license sales and revenues. DECALS may also be used for donations to the Habitat Access Stamp Program, Venison Donation Coalition, Conservation Fund, and the Trail Maintenance Program. DEC continues to improve and enhance DECALS to better meet the needs of sportsmen and women. For questions regarding license purchases,

please call DECALS Call Center at 1-866-933-2257. Hours of operation for the Call Center are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday from August 15 to October 15, 2011. Regular weekday hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. will resume on October 17, 2011.

License buyers should have the following items ready when applying: complete name and address information, customer ID number if you have it, proof of residency information (driver's license number or non-driver's ID number to qualify for a resident license), and, if purchasing by phone or Internet, credit card and card expiration date. Hunting license purchases require individuals to provide proof of hunting education certification or a copy of a previous license, or this information must already be contained in their DECALS file.

Sales of all sporting licenses are deposited into the Conservation Fund which is used for the management of New York's fish and wildlife populations and for protection and management of wildlife habitat. ✧

New York's new regulations for 2011-2012

Hunters and trappers should be aware of several new regulations in effect for 2011-2012:

Crossbows may now be used for hunting big game (deer and bear) during the early bear season, regular firearms seasons, the special January firearms season in Suffolk County, and all late muzzleloading seasons. See www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/68802.html for more information.

Recent legislation lowered the minimum age for youth hunters to purchase a Junior Bowhunting license for big game hunting from 14 to 12 years of age. See the Junior Hunter Mentoring Program for detailed information on youth hunting requirements.

Bear hunting is now open in new areas in eastern New York and bear hunting season dates in central and western New York have been modified to create a uniform season across the Southern Zone. See Deer and Bear Hunting Seasons for season dates and locations.

Woodcock season has been expanded to 45 days. See Woodcock Hunting Seasons for dates.

New legislation now allows use of rifles for big game hunting in Wyoming and Cortland counties and in the portion of Chautauqua County south of Route 20. For more detail for each of these regulation changes: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/37136.html.

Anglers should be aware that although the majority of fishing regulations have not changed from 2010-2011, significant changes have been made to the regulations for use and transportation of baitfish. Transportation corridors through which uncertified baitfish can be transported in motor vehicles have been established for Lake Ontario, Lake Erie and adjoining waters, as well as the Hudson River see: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/47282.html>.

Deer Management Permits

DEC issues Deer Management Permits (DMPs), often called doe tags, to move the population closer toward objective levels in each Wildlife Management Unit (a map of WMU boundaries across the state can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8302.html>). The target DMP allocation for 2011 varies by unit depending on the management objective, but overall DEC intends to issue approximately 10% more DMPs than in 2010. In addition to the Adirondack and Tug Hill units where DMPs are not authorized, WMUs 3A, 4L, 4S, 4U, and 4Z will be closed for DMPs in 2011. Applicants are reminded that DMPs are only valid for antlerless deer in the WMU specified on the permit. ✧

Indiana DNR aims to clear up possession limit rules

The Department of Natural Resources has proposed rule changes to clear up ambiguity regarding possession limits for legally taken fish and wildlife that have a bag limit, without adversely affecting wildlife species or unnecessarily encumbering legal anglers and hunters.

“There are varied opinions and interpretations of the existing possession limit rule that cause confusion within the fishing and hunting public,” said Col. Scotty Wilson, director of DNR Law Enforcement. “Therefore, we’re seeking a rule change to clearly define possession restrictions where a bag limit is established and at what point legally taken wild animals no longer count toward a possession limit.”

The Natural Resources Commission, an autonomous board that must approve rule changes requested by the DNR, granted preliminary adoption of the proposed change at its July 19 meeting. The measure is open for public comment on the NRC website (www.in.gov/nrc/2377.htm), which also includes full text of the proposed rule language. Public comments will be included in a report to the NRC prior to consideration of final adoption at a future date.

A nine-month review of current regulations by two DNR divisions – Law Enforcement and Fish & Wildlife – prompted the agency to seek the change, which would exempt from the possession limit restriction legally taken wild animals that have been processed and stored at an individual’s primary residence.

Several other state wildlife agencies that were contacted as part of the review already have adopted similar rules. Currently, daily bag limit is defined (Indiana Code 14-8-2-18) as the quantity of individual wild animals that may be taken in one day of a specified season or during the entire season. For example, the daily bag limit for Northern pike is three. The daily bag limit for rabbits is five.

Confusion begins with possession limit, which is intended to be twice the daily bag limit. However, common questions asked of the DNR point to the challenge of a universally accepted definition:

- Does possession limit apply only in the field, while at camp, cabin, or hotel?
- Does it include fish and wildlife stored at my home in my freezer?
- Do last season’s rabbits still in my freezer count against this year?
- If I currently have two times the daily bag limit in my freezer, can I hunt/fish for that species again before using some of it?
- If not, what are the requirements for becoming legal? Do I have to eat it, give it away, or simply dispose of it to become “legal”?
- Does part of a wild animal, such as two hind legs of a rabbit, count as a full rabbit?

Current fishing regulations complicate the issue, depending on where fish are caught. Daily bag limits only apply to public waters. Fish taken from private ponds or impoundments may be taken in any quantity.

“This proposal will clarify language that seems to make criminals out of someone simply because he or she is an avid and successful hunter or angler,” Wilson said.

These changes would not apply to migratory birds and waterfowl. U.S. Fish and Wildlife authorities interpret possession limit to include processed and stored specimens. Wilson said, “at this time we feel it would be too problematic to have state and/or federal laws that contradict each other on these particular species.”

For more info: Lt. William Browne, DNR Law Enforcement, (765) 509-0207, wbrowne@dnr.in.gov. ✧

Indiana DNR proposes waterfowl season dates

The Indiana DNR is proposing the same number of days as last year for waterfowl hunting season in all three zones – 60 days for ducks and 74 for Canada geese – but is recommending a change in how those days are distributed in the state’s North Zone.

The North Zone will be split into two segments for hunting of ducks, coots and mergansers, and into three segments for Canada geese. In recent years, North Zone duck hunting dates ran consecutively and the Canada goose season was in two segments. “If you go straight through for 60 days in the North Zone duck season, it would open on a Saturday and close on a Tuesday,” said Adam Phelps, waterfowl biologist for DNR Fish & Wildlife. “So, we moved the two extra days to later, basically to try to give a weekend to those folks who want to hunt late.”

The dates are not final until approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in mid to late September. Historically, dates have been accepted as proposed. The DNR’s recommended dates for ducks, coots and mergansers are:

- North Zone, Oct. 15 to Dec. 11, and Dec. 24-25
- South Zone, Oct. 22-30, and Nov. 23 to Jan. 12
- Ohio River Zone, Oct. 29-30, and Nov. 26 to Jan. 22

For Canada geese, the proposed dates are:

- North Zone, Oct. 15 to Nov. 6, Nov. 23 to Jan. 8, and Jan. 14-17
- South Zone, Oct. 22-30 and Nov 23 to Jan. 26
- Ohio River Zone, Oct. 29-30 and Nov. 21 to Jan. 31

The North Zone is that part of Indiana north of a line extending east from the Illinois border along Indiana 18 to U.S. 31; north along U.S. 31 to U.S. 24; east on U.S. 24 to Huntington; and southeast on U.S. 224 to the Ohio border.

The South Zone is the area south of that line but north of the Ohio River Zone.

The Ohio River Zone is that portion of Indiana south of a line extending east from the Illinois border along Interstate 64 to New Albany; east on Indiana 62 to Indiana 56; east on Indiana 56 to Vevay; along Indiana 156 to North Landing; north on Indiana 56 to U.S. 50; and northeast on U.S. 50 to the Ohio border.

The daily bag limit for ducks in all zones is six, including no more than four mallards (of which no more than two can be hens), three wood ducks, two pintails, two redheads, two scaup, one canvasback, one black duck, and one mottled duck. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

The daily bag limit for Canada geese in all zones is two with a possession limit of four. DNR also has proposed a 15-day late season for Canada geese from February 1-15 in selected areas. Indiana conducted what was scheduled as a three-year experiment authorized by the USFWS to target resident giant Canada geese without negatively impacting migratory geese. Last season was the third year of the experiment, and although most areas achieved the USFWS requirement that at least 80% of the late season harvest consist of resident giant Canada geese, areas around Terre Haute reported only 78%.

“So now we’re in a holding pattern, but they are letting us continue to evaluate,” Phelps said. Consequently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will authorize the late season only in the same counties as previous years. Those counties are: Adams, Allen, Boone, Clay, DeKalb, Elkhart, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Huntington, Johnson, Kosciusko, LaGrange, LaPorte, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Noble, Parke, St. Joseph, Shelby, Steuben, Starke, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo, Wells and Whitley.

Special restrictions apply; a free permit is required. The daily bag limit is five, and the possession limit is 10. Statewide season dates for light geese and brant are October 15 to January 27. The bag limit is 20 light geese (snow and/or Ross' geese) and one brant. The possession limit is two brant. There is no possession limit on light geese.

Statewide season dates for white-fronted geese are October 15 to November 6 and November 23 to January 26. The daily bag limit is one, and the possession limit is two. For more information: Phil Bloom, DNR Communications, (317) 232-4003, pbloom@dnr.in.gov. ✧

Michigan managed waterfowl area hunt applications on sale to Aug. 28

The Michigan DNR is reminding hunters that applications for reserved hunts on managed waterfowl areas will be accepted thru August 28.

Reserved hunts are held both mornings and afternoons of the opening weekend of the waterfowl hunting season at Fish Point, Harsens Island, Nayanquing Point and Shiawassee River State Game Areas. These reserved hunts offer a great opportunity for waterfowl hunters to have a guaranteed hunting spot on one of the first two days of the duck hunting season, at some of the best duck hunting areas in the state.

The maximum party size is four hunters. For morning hunts and the second-day afternoon hunts, successful applicants must have appropriate licenses and stamps and be accompanied by one to three other appropriately licensed hunters. Youth have a special opportunity because the opening-day afternoon hunts are for those 16 and under. Successful applicants for the opening-day afternoon hunts can have up to two adults who are 18 years of age or older with appropriate licenses and they must have at least one youth 10 to 16 years of age with the appropriate license.

Reserved goose hunts for the mornings of waterfowl hunting opening weekend are also available at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. Waterfowl reserved hunt applications, which cost \$4, are available at all license agents or online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings. Hunters may only apply once. Drawings results will be posted at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings on Sept. 19.

Hunters have an additional opportunity to get a reserved waterfowl license by applying for the 2012 Pure Michigan Hunt drawing. Each application is \$4 and you may apply as many times as you like. Three lucky winners will receive a hunt package that includes a reserved waterfowl, elk, bear, turkey, and antlerless deer license. For more info: www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt. Season dates and regulations have not yet been established for the 2012 hunting seasons. ✧

New York DEC seeks participants for summer game bird surveys

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens encouraged New Yorkers to participate in surveys for two popular game birds: wild turkeys and ring-necked pheasants.

“Science efforts that the public can assist in provide our wildlife managers with invaluable data and give people the opportunity to partner with DEC to help monitor New York’s wildlife resources,” Commissioner Martens said. “I encourage residents to take the time to record your observations of turkeys or pheasants while exploring the forests and fields around your home or driving through the state’s beautiful landscapes this summer.”

Summer Wild Turkey Sighting Survey

Since 1996, DEC has conducted the Summer Wild Turkey Sighting Survey to estimate the number of wild turkey poults (young of the year) per hen statewide. Weather, predation, and habitat conditions during the breeding and brood-rearing seasons can all significantly impact nest success, hen survival, and poult survival. This index allows DEC to gauge reproductive success and predict fall harvest potential.

During the month of August, survey participants record the sex and age composition of all flocks of wild turkeys observed during normal travel. Those interested in participating can download a Summer Wild Turkey Sighting Survey form along with instructions and the data sheet directly at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48732.html>. Survey cards can also be obtained by contacting a regional DEC office, calling (518) 402-8886, or by e-mailing fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us (type “Turkey Survey” in the subject line).

Monitoring Pheasants in the Genesee Valley

Focus Area

Farmers in the 13 counties that comprise the Lake Plains of New York have partnered with DEC since 1945 to help survey wild pheasant populations. The Department is pleased to continue this effort in the newly established “Pheasant Habitat Focus Area” in the Genesee Valley (portions of Livingston, Genesee, Wyoming and Monroe counties). The focus area was created as a part of DEC’s recently completed ten-year management plan for ring-necked pheasants. The goal of the focus area is to concentrate the efforts of public and private habitat conservation programs to benefit pheasants and other grassland birds. Surveys like these will help in monitoring pheasant populations and in evaluating the success of habitat management efforts in the focus area.

Those that farm land in Livingston, Genesee, Wyoming or Monroe counties, consider participating in the **Farmer-Pheasant Inventory**. No special observations are required; just those made during your normal spring and summer farming activities. If interested, contact DEC’s Bureau of Wildlife at (518) 402-8886 or by e-mail (fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us, write “Farmer-Pheasant Inventory” in the subject line).

Those that do not farm, but would like to contribute pheasant observations from Livingston, Genesee, Wyoming and Monroe counties can join the **Summer Pheasant Sighting Survey**. During the month of August, survey participants record the sex and age of all pheasants observed during normal travel. For a survey form, go to: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72543.html> or call (518) 402-8886.

Additional information available on the DEC website:

Summer Wild Turkey Sighting Survey:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48732.html>

Pheasant Habitat Focus Area & Pheasants Surveys:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72543.html>

Citizen Science Initiatives:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/1155.html>

DEC Regional Office Contact Information:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/50230.html> ✧

Champion announces third-annual Range Contest

Online entry now open

http://glarp.atk.com/press/press_release/hi_res/Champion_Range_PrizePackage.jpg

The third-annual Champion® Range Contest is underway. This promotion gives shooters a chance to win the ultimate personal shooting range—a fully-outfitted shooting range system valued at more than \$1,700. Two additional prize packages are also up for grabs. Prizes include Champion’s top trap throwers, ballistic shooting glasses, ear protection, VisiColor™ targets, EasyHit shotgun sights and much more. Shooters can enter online by submitting a 200-word essay by the end of the year. Tom Knapp, one of today’s greatest exhibition shooters and a holder of three world records, will crown the winner.

Contest Details

Shooters can enter the Champion Range Contest at www.ChampionBackyard.com. A compelling 200-word essay describing why they are the perfect contestant to receive a fully-outfitted shooting range system is all it takes to win. To submit essays and see the official rules, go to www.ChampionBackyard.com. ✧

Free Indiana beginner waterfowl hunting workshops to be offered Sept 17, Oct 8

Two free waterfowl hunting workshops will be offered by the Indiana DNR this fall. The first will be at Grouse Ridge Public Fishing Area on Saturday, September 17, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The second will be on Saturday, October 8, at Monroe Lake’s North Fork Service Area, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The same material will be covered at both events – there is no need to attend both.

The workshops are for novice waterfowl hunters and those who want to try waterfowl hunting for the first time. All ages are welcome. “We had folks at last year’s event aged from 8 to 73,” said DNR waterfowl biologist Adam Phelps. “All beginners are welcome.”

Parents who already hunt waterfowl are welcome to bring children, but the material is tailored for beginners; experienced waterfowl hunters are not likely to get much out of the workshops. Organizers hope to build on the success of last year’s novice waterfowl workshop at Monroe Lake.

“We had over 50 people at last year’s event,” Phelps said. “Feedback from participants was excellent and helped fine-tune the presentations for this year.” Presentation topics will include waterfowl hunting regulations; duck and goose identification; and equipment and techniques, including a show-and-tell segment. Waterfowl hunting equipment, including blinds, waders, clothing, decoys, gadgets and boats will be displayed and discussed at length.

“Despite all the equipment you can use, we stress that you can hunt ducks and geese with a minimum outlay, so we focus on what you must have,” Phelps said. DNR Law Enforcement and Fish & Wildlife personnel will be available to answer questions. Lunch will be provided.

Both workshops are free but registration for the Monroe Lake workshop is required; no registration is required for the Grouse Ridge workshop. Participants may register for Monroe Lake by calling South Region Law Enforcement at (812) 837-9536. Questions on the Monroe Lake workshop may be addressed to Phelps at (812) 334-1137. Questions on the Grouse Ridge workshop may be addressed to Steve Mund at (812) 346-5596.

For more info: Adam Phelps, DNR waterfowl biologist, (812) 334-1137, aphelps@dnr.in.gov. ✧

Michigan DNR outdoors workshops for women in August

The Michigan DNR is offering a variety of opportunities for women to learn more about shooting, archery and hunting this August, through its Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program. These hands-on workshops, designed primarily for those 18 and older, teach women the skills needed to take part in outdoor recreational activities.

"This August, women can learn how to shoot a shotgun, a rifle, a bow or how to hunt for deer," said BOW program coordinator Sue Tabor. "Even if you've never held a gun or a bow before, here's a great chance to get your feet wet in a fun and friendly atmosphere." August BOW programs are taking place in the metro Detroit, Grand Rapids and Saginaw areas.

For registration forms and more information on the following BOW programs, visit www.michigan.gov/bow, call 517-241-2225 or email dnr-outdoors-woman@michigan.gov.

Introduction to Archery

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 5 to 9 p.m.

Hosted by Caledonia Sportsman’s Club

10721 Coldwater Road SE, Alto

No skill level is required for this workshop, which will cover safety, dominant eye, proper shooting form/technique, various archery equipment, maintenance and selection. The course will also provide hands-on practice at an indoor range, shooting a bow with assistance by instructors. All equipment will be provided. Cost is \$15 per person. This class is first-come, first-served and is limited to 10 participants.

Women’s Hunter Education Safety Course

Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 27-28

Hosted by Tuscola County Conservation Club

1060 Gun Club Rd., Caro

This is the perfect class for anyone who has been interested in learning how to hunt, or to use a firearm, but

has been nervous to get started. Women and girls age 12 and up are welcome to take part. Participants must attend both days to take the hunter education safety standard test and take home their certificate. Beverages and morning snacks will be provided; attendees are asked to bring their own sack lunch both days. Early registration is encouraged, as the class is limited to 25 participants and is first-come, first-served. Cost is \$10 per person.

BOW is a noncompetitive program for women, in which each individual is encouraged to learn at her own pace. The emphasis is on the enjoyment, fun and camaraderie of outdoor activities, and sharing in the success of one another. ✧

Michigan Hunter Heritage Bills signed into law

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder on July 20 signed into law the Hunter Heritage Act, allowing youth hunters to get in the field at an earlier age, under the direct supervision of an adult mentor hunter. Senate Bill 207, sponsored by state Senator Joseph Hune (R-22), and House Bill 4371, sponsored by state Representative Peter Pettalia (R-106), establish a mentored youth hunting program allowing parents to determine at which age their kids are ready to hunt.

Children under 10 would be allowed to hunt some types of game in Michigan as long as they're with an adult mentor through this legislation. ✧

SAF files for preliminary injunction against Illinois carry ban

BELLEVUE, WA – Capitalizing on its federal appeals court victory Wednesday in *Ezell v. City of Chicago*, the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) moved for a preliminary injunction against the State of Illinois to prevent further enforcement of that state's prohibitions on firearms carry in public by law-abiding citizens.

The motion was filed in U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois in Springfield. Joining SAF in this motion are Illinois Carry and four private citizens, Michael Moore, Charles Hooks, Peggy Fechter and Jon Maier. The underlying case is known as *Moore v. Madigan*.

Illinois is the only state in the nation with such prohibitions. The state neither allows open carry or concealed carry, which runs afoul of recent U.S. Supreme Court Second Amendment rulings, including last year's landmark ruling in *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, another SAF case. SAF was represented in *McDonald* and *Ezell* by attorney Alan Gura, who noted after yesterday's appeals court win – forcing a temporary injunction against the city's ban on gun ranges that the city immediately changed after the decision was announced – that “Even Chicago politicians must respect the people's fundamental civil

rights...Gun rights are coming to Chicago. The only question is how much the city's intransigence will cost taxpayers along the way.”

“Now that the Seventh Circuit has recognized that the deprivation of the right of armed self-defense is an inherently irreparable injury, it is clear that Illinois' law-abiding gun owners are entitled to a protective injunction,” said attorney David Jensen of New York, who, along with Glen Ellyn, IL attorney David Sigale, is representing SAF and the other plaintiffs.

“Yesterday's win was a wake-up call to Chicago,” said SAF Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb. “Today's motion is a signal to the Illinois Legislature that the state's total ban on carrying of firearms for personal protection is counter to both Supreme Court rulings on the Second Amendment, and yesterday's ruling by the Seventh Circuit appeals panel that shredded Chicago's gun ordinance. Our victory Wednesday and today's motion are key components of SAF's overall mission to win back firearms freedoms one lawsuit at a time.” ✧

SAF wins injunction v. Chicago gun range ban

BELLEVUE, WA – In a 3-0 ruling, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit has reversed a lower court ruling and ordered that court to issue a preliminary injunction against the City of Chicago on behalf of the Second Amendment Foundation that prevents the city from banning gun ranges inside city limits.

Joining SAF in the original lawsuit were Action Target, Inc., the Illinois State Rifle Association and three Chicago residents, Rhonda Ezell, William Hespen and Joseph Brown. Their attempts to obtain a temporary restraining order against the gun range ban were twice rejected by the district court. The Appeals Court ruling is severely critical of the lower court's ruling.

“This is a significant victory that could have strong implications well beyond the Chicago city limits,” said SAF Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “The court is making it clear that cities cannot adopt firearms ordinances that are so deliberately restrictive that they make it impossible for citizens to exercise their rights under the Second Amendment.”

Immediately after last year's landmark SAF victory in *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, the city adopted a handgun ordinance that required special permits and mandated range training, but banned gun ranges inside city limits. The city argued that citizens could fulfill their training requirement by visiting a suburban range. In today's ruling, written by Judge Diane S. Sykes, the Appeals Court observed, “It's hard to imagine anyone suggesting that Chicago may prohibit the exercise of a free-speech or religious-liberty right within its borders on the rationale that those rights may be freely enjoyed in the suburbs. That sort of argument should be no less unimaginable in the Second Amendment

context.” In a concurring opinion, Judge Ilana Diamond Rovner noted, “...the city may not condition gun ownership for self-defense in the home on a prerequisite that the City renders impossible to fulfill within the city limits.”

“What the city tried to do, as the court ruling noted, was ‘thumb its municipal nose at the Supreme Court,’” Gottlieb stated. “City governments, no matter how much they abhor the fundamental right of citizens to keep and bear arms, cannot use clever legal devices to prevent the exercise of that right. As Judge Rovner noted, ‘the city must come to terms with that reality.’” ✧

Illinois on its own after Wisconsin allows Concealed Carry

Now that Wisconsin has allowed for residents to carry a concealed weapon in public, Illinois stands alone as the final State to object to legalizing concealed handguns, The Associated Press reports. Wisconsin’s law will take effect November 1.

The State will now be the center of attention for gun-rights advocacy groups, such as the NRA and its allies, the news source stated. The news source reports that those on both sides of the argument agree Chicago will be the deciding factor in the dispute. “It’s about as anti-gun a city as one could find,” Harry Wilson, a gun control expert at Virginia’s Roanoke College, told the news provider. ✧

NRA leads in national polls, not so NEA & Sierra Club

42% give NEA positive marks, 54% like the NRA

A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that 42% of all likely U.S. voters hold at least a somewhat favorable opinion of the NEA, with 17% Very Favorable. Thirty-seven percent (37%) regard the teacher’s union at least somewhat unfavorably, including 22% with a Very Unfavorable view. Twenty percent (20%) are not sure what they think of the group.

Among Democrats, however, 60% view the NEA favorably, while 57% of GOP voters regard the union unfavorably. Voters not affiliated with either of the major parties are narrowly divided. Similarly, while 55% of the [Political Class](#) holds a favorable opinion of the NEA, the plurality (45%) of Mainstream voters does not.

The National Rifle Association, on the other hand, is likely to endorse whomever Republicans choose as their presidential nominee in 2012. Fifty-four percent (54%) of voters view the gun rights group favorably, including 29% with a Very Favorable opinion. The NRA is regarded unfavorably by 41%, with 25% who have a Very Unfavorable view.

Yet while 80% of Republicans and 53% of unaffiliated voters share a favorable opinion of the NRA, 63% of Democrats view the group unfavorably. Seventy-five

percent (75%) of the Political Class don’t care for the NRA, but 61% of Mainstream voters regard the group favorably.

The Sierra Club is one of the nation’s most prominent environmental organizations, but 33% of voters have no opinion of the group. Thirty-five percent (35%) view the Sierra Club favorably, including 12% with a Very Favorable opinion. Thirty-two percent (32%) share an unfavorable view of the organization, with 16% Very Unfavorable.

Democrats are inclined to have a positive view of the Sierra Club, while Republicans tend to see it in a negative light. Unaffiliated voters have more mixed feelings.

Thirty-six percent (36%) of Americans say the United States needs stricter gun control laws, but [56% don’t share that belief and oppose stronger anti-gun laws.](#)

Group challenges NYC handgun fee

A brief was recently filed by the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) asking for a summary judgment to strike down a fee for owning a handgun in New York City. The organization says that the \$340 fee the city requires for a handgun license is “inherently prohibitive.”

“The recurring \$340 fee is plainly exclusionary and prohibitive because it far exceeds the comparable license fees charged by all other New York localities, and for that matter, by all other U.S. jurisdictions,” the legal brief reads. “A New York City resident who seeks to exercise his or her right to keep and bear arms by keeping a handgun at home must pay a total of \$434.25 to obtain a license, which is equivalent to over 60 hours of work at the \$7.25 minimum wage.” ✧

And Beyond the Great Lakes...

Florida Governments scramble to follow new State Gun Law

Lake Mary has repealed several local gun ordinances as many other municipalities across Florida scramble to fall in line with new gun laws. Last week, Lake Mary leaders voted unanimously to repeal the city's ordinances in order to avoid a \$5,000 fine from the state as part of a new bill that goes into effect October 1.

The state bill requires all guns laws be the same across the state, and that state gun laws supersede local rules. The new law was passed so that legal gun owners and concealed carry permit holders can cross city limits and county lines without becoming criminals.

New state law makes it a crime for local officials to keep more stringent gun laws on the books. Those local gun laws have been null, void and unenforceable since 1987.

The new law simply imposes penalties on those local governments (and, laudably, on their elected officials) who have been ignoring state law for more than twenty years by passing local ordinances.

Soon, with a concealed weapons permit, gun owners will be able to take guns into a park, but it remains illegal to carry guns into schools and government buildings.

Lake Mary is not alone in changing its ordinances. Lake County recently repealed its ordinance and Seminole and Orange counties are looking into which ordinances they will need to repeal.

John Dailey, Leon County Commissioner says, "We can be removed from office, we can be fined, or technically, we could be put in jail. Pundits statewide are saying, "...well, obey the law, like you expect everyone else to do."
 ✧

Other Breaking News Items:

(Click on title or URL to read full article)

[Sport Fishing abides on stocked salmon](#)

Lake Michigan recreational fishing for salmon continues to hang on even in the face of a long-term drop in populations of forage fish – the little fish that the big salmon feast upon, but the big nonnative fish are getting smaller...

[WI DNR to allow fish passage in Grafton](#)

The state DNR will permit construction of a fish passage with a fish trapping and sorting facility at the Bridge St. dam on the Milwaukee River, Water Division Administrator Ken Johnson said. A state permit likely will be issued this month with some restrictions...

[It's official: St. Lawrence Seaway expansion study is dead](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has officially scratched the idea of expanding the St. Lawrence Seaway to allow larger, ocean-bound ships to enter the system.

[In Lake Michigan, resilient whitefish, fishermen fight for a comeback](#)

While Lake Michigan's commercial fishery has survived overfishing, industrial pollution and lakeshore development, the last commercially fished species are jeopardized by an onslaught of destructive invaders, many of which have arrived as stowaways aboard ocean freighters since the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

[Iconic Minnesota walleye fishery besieged by invasive zebra mussels](#)

Huge Lake Mille Lacs – Minnesota's most popular fishing hot-spot – rocked gently on Friday, but beneath the surface was bedlam. There, on the lake bottom, a population explosion of tiny zebra mussels is occurring that could change the great lake forever.

[PCB cleanup on the Milwaukee River to start soon](#)

Site work is under way for the \$20 million cleanup of contaminated sediments in Lincoln Creek and the Milwaukee River. The cleanup is expected to begin by the end of the month, with work being completed by the end of November

[Could wind energy develop along Lake Michigan?](#)

Gov. Pat Quinn signed two new bills last week that hand both Illinois and Cook County more control over renewable energy projects, especially wind turbine research.

[Officials must move faster to solve Asian carp threat](#)

Felicia Kirksey, program manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said last week that a complete study on the spread of Asian carp to and from the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River will be completed in 2015.

[COMMENTARY: How big a risk is too big?](#)

Somehow, advancement of invasive species from Lake Michigan by way of Green Bay and the Lower Fox River must be stopped. If the efforts fail, so does the future of the Lake Winnebago System as we know it.

['The lake left me. It's gone.'](#)

As mussel numbers explode and fish vanish from Lake Michigan, the last in a long line of Milwaukee commercial fishermen sets course for Alaska.

End