

Rep. Chris

sainato



## Sportsmen Report

Capitol Office:

30 East Wing • P.O. Box 202009 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2009 • (717) 772-2436

District Office:

Z-Penn Building • 20 S. Mercer St. • New Castle, PA 16101 • (724) 656-1112 • Toll free: 1-800-866-2215

## ANGLERS, HUNTERS CAN REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPSITES

Illegal dumping has become a real problem in a lot of state parks and forests. These illegal dumpsites, besides being an eyesore, can contaminate the land and water around them. It's very important that they be cleaned up as soon as they are discovered.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry crews spend about 10,000 hours each year picking up trash illegally dumped on state land, from household trash to old appliances and tires.

**Call 1-877-772-3673 to report illegal dumpsites on state land and to volunteer to help clean up these sites.**

By calling the toll-free number, anglers and hunters not only can report where these dumpsites are, but also find out when and where cleanups are scheduled and volunteer for them.

People who fish, hunt and spend a lot of time in the outdoors know how important it is to keep our state forests and parks clean. This toll-free number gives them the opportunity to help the state identify areas where dumping is a problem and to help clean up those sites before the quality of the land, fish and game is adversely affected.



## IMPORTANT WEBSITES

**PA Fish and Boat Commission**

[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)

**PA Game Commission**

[www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov)

# BOAT ANGLER'S CHECKLIST

- Life Jackets
- Sound-Producing Device
- Fire Extinguishers
- Capacity Plate
- Visual Distress Signals
- Navigation and Anchor Lights
- Muffling Device
- Backfire Flame Arrester

**Additional recommended equipment includes:** oars or paddles, anchor and line, bailer, marine radio, depth or fish finder, boating maps or charts, flashlight, compass, extra line, extra gas can, and a first-aid kit.



## BORROW A ROD & REEL

Interested in fishing but you don't have the rods, reels and other gear? The Pennsylvania Fishing Tackle Loaner Program (FTLP) can help you!

Thanks to a partnership between the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the American Sportfishing Association, and numerous sponsors, the public can go to locations identified online at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com), and borrow fishing equipment much like books are borrowed from a library.

Designed to make it easier for people to access fishing tackle and give the sport a try, the FTLP program requires an individual to complete a form and the loan is made. At the end of the loan period, the equipment is returned to the site. Equipment can also be loaned to groups conducting angler education programs in the community.



## BE A CONSERVATION HERO

The Pennsylvania Game Commission operates a toll-free hotline, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year so that residents can report wildlife crimes against big game (turkey, deer, elk and bear), or species that are protected, endangered or threatened. Calls to the telephone number, 888-742-8001, are always answered by a secure recording device; forms for reporting crimes are also available online at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

According to the commission, the illegal shooting or taking of big game or protected, endangered or threatened species, or any crime against those species should be reported, as these crimes affect everyone in the Commonwealth.

**When phoning in, or filing a report online, you should include the following information:**

- Description of what you saw and the species involved;
- Date and time of occurrence;
- Location: county, township, address;
- Description of person(s): height, weight, hair color, eye color, approximate age, tattoo or other distinguishing feature, clothing, sporting arm;
- Vehicle description: color, make, model, dents, decals, bumper stickers; license number and state; road/route; direction of travel; and
- Your name and phone number (required to claim any monetary reward) and whether or not you choose to remain confidential.

If the suspected violation involves the killing of big game animals, or threatened or endangered species, an additional \$500 penalty may be added to those convicted of committing the crime. This additional penalty may be added to fines levied upon those found guilty of Game and Wildlife Code violations. The \$500 enhanced penalty goes into a special fund from which half the amount (\$250) may be paid to the individual who provided the information that led to the conviction. The remainder will be used to offset the costs of Operation Game Thief.

# EXPANDING PA'S MENTORED HUNTING PROGRAM FOR JUNIOR HUNTERS

I am a supporter of hunters' rights and a proponent of hunter safety. That is why I strongly believe the sooner our prospective youth hunters are educated about proper hunting practices, the safer all Pennsylvania hunters will be.

That's why I supported H.B. 485, a piece of legislation that would close the age gap within the PA Game Commission's Mentored Youth Hunting Programs. Currently, these programs are only available to hunters younger than 12. This bill would extend the mentoring programs to those youth between ages 12-17.

This successful program is popular around the Commonwealth, because it gives our young hunters the opportunity to be exposed to gaming while being mentored by an adult. The bill passed the House unanimously, so it is my hope that my Senate colleagues pass this pro-hunter legislation.

For more information regarding PA's current Mentored Hunting Program, please visit: [www.pgc.pa.gov/HuntTrap/Hunting/Pages/MentoredHuntingPrograms.aspx](http://www.pgc.pa.gov/HuntTrap/Hunting/Pages/MentoredHuntingPrograms.aspx).



## HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR HUNTING LICENSE ONLINE?

Some people attempting to purchase 2018-19 Pennsylvania hunting licenses online might not be able to do so because of older equipment and web browsers conflicting with internet security updates.

Those who are unsure if they're impacted and wish to purchase licenses are encouraged to visit <https://t1s1test.salesforce.com/s/> to test their system. If the computer passes the test, it should be good to go in making future online purchases, including buying a hunting license.

Licenses for the 2018-19 license year have been on sale since Monday, June 18. The licenses became valid July 1 and, after that date, all who hunt, trap or who want to apply for an antlerless deer license must have an up-to-date 2018-19 license to do so.

Buying licenses as soon as they go on sale increases a hunter's chances of securing a Deer Management Assistance Program permit for properties where few permits are available.

License buyers also should be aware of some important changes for the 2018-19 license year.

A pheasant permit will be required in 2018-19 for all junior hunters, as well as adult hunters and some senior hunters who pursue pheasants in Pennsylvania.

There is no fee for a junior pheasant permit, but the free permit will help the Game Commission track youth participation. A pheasant permit costs \$26.90 for adults and seniors. However, hunters who acquired their senior lifetime hunting or combination licenses prior to

May 13, 2017 no longer need a pheasant permit to hunt and harvest pheasants.

Additionally, the fisher trapping season in the 2018-19 license year will include Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 4B and 4C, in addition to those WMUs where the season had been open.

General hunting licenses and furtaker licenses each continue to cost \$20.90 for Pennsylvania residents and \$101.90 for nonresidents.

Resident senior hunters and furtakers, ages 65 or older, can purchase one-year licenses for \$13.90, or lifetime licenses for \$51.90. For \$101.90, resident seniors can purchase lifetime combination licenses that afford them hunting and furtaking privileges. Like other hunters and trappers, seniors still need to purchase bear licenses to pursue bruins and obtain permits to harvest pheasants, bobcats, fishers or river otters.

A complete list of licensing requirements can be found at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

A resident Pennsylvanian who buys his or her 2018-19 hunting license was eligible to apply for an antlerless deer license July 9. Nonresidents could apply July 16. And a second round in which a hunter can receive a second antlerless deer license began Aug. 6 for wildlife management units where licenses remain.

The deadline to apply for a 2018-19 elk license was July 31, and submitting an application costs \$10.90. A total of 125 elk licenses – 26 antlered, 99 antlerless – have been allocated this year and will be awarded by lottery.



**STATE REP. CHRIS SAINATO**  
 30 East Wing  
 P.O. Box 202009  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2009

**Sportsmen Report**

lpo.jc.0818



It was a pleasure to attend the Mahoning Sportman's Association Annual Sausage Fry. The food was terrific!



The 2018 Coachmen Club's gun raffle was a successful and very well-attended event!

**NEW ONLINE MAP AIMS TO HELP PA HUNTERS**

A new online Pennsylvania hunting map — [www.hunting.pa.gov](http://www.hunting.pa.gov) — is now available to hunters courtesy of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Game Commission.

The map, which covers all 3.7 million acres of public land, provides hunters and wildlife enthusiasts an opportunity to find information pertaining to state forests, state game lands and details regarding specific tree life.

This can be a helpful tool for both hunters and those who simply enjoy nature!

