



State Representative to the 50th Legislative District

Pam SNYDER



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2020

SPORTSMEN UPDATE

Fishing and hunting during COVID-19 pandemic

Suffice it to say, our lives have certainly been impacted with the COVID-19 pandemic, and that includes the fishing, boating and hunting activities many of us enjoy.

Beginning with the start of trout season this year, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission announced anglers and boaters must follow these social distancing guidelines as outlined by state and federal health officials:

- Fish and boat close to home.
- Only fish or boat with family members residing in the same household.
- Allow at least 6 feet between yourself and others.
- If another angler is in the area you intended to fish, move on to another location.

As of early June, shooting ranges on state game lands have reopened after closing to the public or limiting services in March.

To help hunters and target shooters make up for lost opportunities, the Pennsylvania Game Commission extended 2019-20 shooting range permits, which expired on June 30, 2020, to remain valid until August 31, 2020. Hunting and furtaker licenses will also be honored through August 31. However, the commission is reminding hunters and trappers that they will need 2020-21 licenses before engaging in any hunting or trapping activities through June 30, 2021.



License scam warning

Both the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission are warning anglers and hunters about online scams after several reports surfaced of consumers who paid for licenses through third-party websites not connected with either agency.

Some of these look-alike websites mimic the agencies' branding, add in extra license fees, and may even ask for your personal information, like your Social Security number. Those are certainly red flags that you risk wasting your money and putting your personal information at risk.

The best way to ensure you receive a legitimate fishing or hunting license is by visiting The Outdoor Shop online portal at www.pa.wildlifelicense.com. Once a fishing license is purchased, a printable electronic version is issued immediately by the PFBC. For a hunting license that is purchased online, consumers receive an official email from the PGC and licenses are mailed to the buyer within two weeks of their purchase.

Those who encounter a website offering the sale of a state fishing or hunting license that doesn't appear legitimate or does not link to The Outdoor Shop portal should contact the PFBC Fishing License Help Line at 877-707-4085 or the PGC license division at 717-787-2084.

Consumers who were victims of a fishing or hunting license scam should notify the state Office of the Attorney General by completing a scams complaint form, available at this website: <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/submit-a-complaint/scams-complaint/>.

Chronic Wasting Disease updates

Chronic Wasting Disease is a deadly and contagious disease that affects deer in Pennsylvania and in 23 other states. CWD is transmitted either by animal-to-animal contact or from soil or plants contaminated by deer bodily secretions. A carcass can be contagious and contaminate the environment where it decayed for decades.

CWD has been detected in both wild deer and captive deer within deer farms. The Pennsylvania Game Commission created Disease Management Areas (DMAs) and put strict regulations in place, including controlling the movement of deer parts out of the region, the use of urine-based attractants, and the feeding of wild deer. Those areas and restrictions are spelled out on the PGC website at pgc.pa.gov.

Deer harvested from a DMA can be tested for free by following the steps outlined on the PGC website. The website includes detailed information about the movement of high-risk deer parts, where bans on public feeding of deer are in effect, and many more aspects of the state's response to CWD.

Hunters will notice a change in their opportunities to harvest deer within DMAs this fall. In previous years, the PGC offered Deer Management Assistance Program permits within DMAs, but this year, due to a change in seasons, that has changed.



During the PGC's April 2020 meeting, commissioners approved increased antlerless licenses in Wildlife Management Units where CWD had been detected. In addition, the commission approved a 14-day concurrent firearms season for antlered and antlerless deer in these WMUs to provide more hunting opportunities. More information is anticipated in early August and will be available on the PGC website at pgc.pa.gov.

Additional precautions for outdoor enthusiasts



Hunters, anglers, and those who spend time outdoors should also take precautions against Eastern Equine Encephalitis, which has also been found in wildlife and livestock and transmitted through mosquitos, and Lyme Disease, which is spread by deer ticks.

The PGC recommends taking necessary precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitos or ticks by using bug repellent on skin and clothes, wearing clothes that cover arms and legs, and tucking pants into socks. They also encourage you to report any dead or strange-acting wild animals you believe to be infected.

While no human cases have been reported in our state, Eastern Equine Encephalitis can infect humans and is like the West Nile virus. While mosquitos will be less of a concern as the weather gets colder, outdoor enthusiasts should still be mindful of ticks, as Lyme Disease can cause symptoms that can be mistaken for the flu.



Download your 2020 Hunting and Trapping Digest

Are you interested in a 2020 Hunting and Trapping Digest?

You can download the digital version for FREE!

For more information, visit pgc.pa.gov and look under "Quick Clicks" on the front page.

2020 deer and elk hunting seasons

This year, hunters will have additional hunting opportunities on three selected Sundays:

- Sunday, November 15 for archery deer hunting.
- Sunday, November 22 for bear hunting during the firearms bear season.
- Sunday, November 29 for deer hunting during the firearms deer season (buck hunting).

Deer season

For 2020, deer season opens on Saturday, November 28, and includes a day of Sunday buck hunting on Sunday, November 29. It then runs from November 30 to December 4. Antlerless deer hunting is scheduled for December 5 and continues through December 12, concurrent with the antlered deer season.

Elk season

Archery season for elk begins on September 12 and runs through September 26. The general elk hunting season will run from November 2 to November 7, with the late season scheduled from January 2 to January 9, 2021.



State Rep. Pam Snyder and her husband Jack on their farm.

For more information on hunting seasons for other game, including bag limits, please visit the state Game Commission website at pgc.pa.gov.

How much fluorescent orange should you wear?

While most hunters know this requirement, it's often difficult to remember.

Here is a quick and easy guide that lists how much fluorescent orange hunters should wear, based on the season, game and whether they're stationary or moving through the woodlands.



All small game seasons, and deer, bear and elk firearms seasons: A minimum 250 square inches must be worn on the head, chest and back combined. It must always be visible at 360 degrees and worn at all times.

The requirement to post orange while deer, bear or elk hunting from an enclosed blind also remains.

While archers and turkey hunters are no longer required to wear fluorescent orange while hunting (as of 2019), the state Game Commission highly recommends wearing orange to ensure you are visible to others.

Become a deputy game warden!

Are you an avid hunter or someone who enjoys the outdoors? If so, becoming a deputy game warden might be for you!

Deputy game wardens are local representatives of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and are recruited locally on an as-needed basis. Though they do not receive a regular salary or wage, they may receive compensation at a commission-approved per diem rate, in lieu of wages and expenses, on certain approved days.

Applicants must be in good physical condition, have a working knowledge of hunting, trapping and other outdoor activities, and be able to maintain a good working relationship with fellow officers and the public. They should be prepared and willing to function in all phases of commission activities, including law enforcement, hunter education and other educational programs, wildlife management and land management.

For more information, please visit pgc.pa.gov and click on "Information & Resources" and then "Careers and Volunteer Opportunities."



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MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- Free notary service
- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Assistance in obtaining and completing state forms
- Voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Birth and death certificates
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE prescription-drug cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups