



## Sportsmen Report

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## WHAT'S NEW IN 2020

Despite some adjustments to address the COVID-19 risk, there are still plenty of opportunities for Lawrence County residents to enjoy the great outdoors. Here is a brief look at what's new for hunters and anglers this year.

- Sunday hunting. Based on a law signed last year, hunters will enjoy three days of Sunday hunting. (For more details, see the calendar story within.)
- Deer-tagging. Hunters with multiple tags now can try to fill them without first tagging a harvested deer.
- Dual carry of bows, muzzleloaders. Properly licensed hunters can now carry both a bow and a muzzleloader when an archery deer season overlaps with a muzzleloader bear season.
- No minimum-caliber requirement for hunting deer and bear with centerfire rifles. The game board

rejected a proposal to establish 24-caliber as the minimum for hunting deer and bear with centerfire rifles.

- Extended permits and licenses. Shooting range permits normally expiring on June 30 are extended until Aug. 31, and hunting and fur-taking licenses are good through Aug. 31. (Hunters and trappers will still need 2020-21 licenses before hunting or trapping through June 30, 2021.)
- Distancing while fishing. Anglers are asked to fish close to home and with household members, keep at least six feet from others while fishing – about the length of an outstretched rod – and change locations if another angler is in their intended fishing area.
- No publication of trout stocking schedules. To discourage crowds and permit safe distancing, the schedules were not published this year.



Enjoying great company at last year's Bessemer Rod and Gun Club Picnic.



Visiting the Coachmen Club booth last year at the Lawrence County Fair.

# \$1 HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES: A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

A recent proposal would discount the cost of a one-year hunting or fishing license to just \$1 for Pennsylvania's first responders. I believe this would be a great way to let our police, firefighters, EMTs and other frontline first responders know how much we value and appreciate them.

There are few downsides to the proposal. Both the state Game Fund and the state Fish and Boat Fund have surplus reserves, and both commissions will continue to remain eligible for the federal matching funds they receive for licenses sold.

For purposes of the license discount, first responders would include law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, emergency service dispatchers, ambulance drivers, corrections officers and others who respond to requests for emergency assistance.

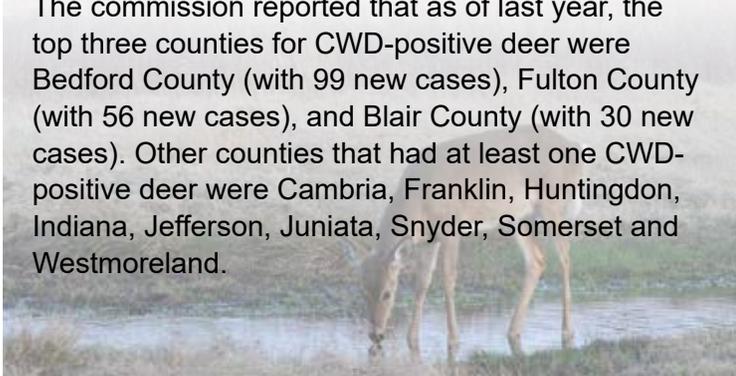
## HUNTERS TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN NEW PLAN TO FIGHT CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Since Chronic Wasting Disease was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2012, the fatal neurological condition in white-tailed deer, elk and other cervid species has spread to greater numbers of the deer population.

To better fight the disease, the Game Commission announced a new plan that will include expanding hunting opportunities in certain areas to reduce deer abundance and remove more CWD-positive deer from the landscape.

Although CWD has not been prevalent in Lawrence County, the commission reported in June that the three existing Deer Management Areas have expanded because more sick deer have been showing up in more places.

The commission reported that as of last year, the top three counties for CWD-positive deer were Bedford County (with 99 new cases), Fulton County (with 56 new cases), and Blair County (with 30 new cases). Other counties that had at least one CWD-positive deer were Cambria, Franklin, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Snyder, Somerset and Westmoreland.



## HUNTERS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hunters: There will be additional hunting opportunities on these three Sundays:

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

### Deer season

Regular firearms season this year opens on Saturday, Nov. 28, and includes a day of buck hunting on Sunday, Nov. 29.

The season runs from Nov. 30 – Dec. 4. Antlerless deer hunting is scheduled for Dec. 5 and continues through Dec. 12, concurrent with the antlered deer season.

Archery season runs Oct. 3 – Nov. 14, Sunday, Nov. 15, Nov. 16-20, and Dec. 26 – Jan. 18, 2021.

### Bear season

Regular firearms season opens on Saturday, Nov. 21, includes a day on Sunday, Nov. 22 and continues Nov. 23-24.

Muzzleloader season: Oct. 17-24

For more information on hunting seasons for other game, including bag limits, please visit the state Game Commission website at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

## INTERESTED IN BEING A DEPUTY GAME WARDEN?

Whether you enjoy hunting or simply love the great outdoors, you might want to consider becoming a deputy game warden. The state Game Commission recruits deputy game wardens on an as-needed basis.

Although deputy wardens do not receive a regular salary, they may be entitled to compensation on certain approved days at a commission-

approved, per diem rate in lieu of wages and expenses.

Candidates 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 [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) and click on "Information & Resources" and then "Careers and Volunteer Opportunities."

# ANGLERS: STEER CLEAR OF THESE TROUT

The Fish and Boat Commission recently reminded anglers that during very hot, dry conditions, trout will seek out the closest source of cold water for thermal relief, resulting in many congregating at the mouths of cool-

water tributaries or spring seeps.

Although these crowded and thermally stressed trout may seem like an easy catch, the commission warns that they are typically in poor condition

and difficult to catch. The commission recommends anglers avoid fishing during these conditions because doing so can have lasting impacts on the fish population.

## WATCH OUT FOR LICENSE SALE SCAMS!

Anglers and hunters: Beware of third-party websites advertising hunting and fishing licenses.

Both the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission have reported cases of consumers purchasing licenses from third-party vendors at extra fees – some as high as \$50 – and then never receiving them. Some websites even request the purchaser's Social Security number, setting the purchaser up for identity theft. Many scam sites are designed to mimic the branding of the state Game Commission or Fish and Boat Commission.

The best way to ensure that you receive a legitimate fishing or hunting license is by visiting The Outdoor Shop online portal at [www.pa.wildlifelicense.com](http://www.pa.wildlifelicense.com).

For fishing licenses, the Fish and Boat

Commission will issue a printable, electronic version as soon as the purchase is made.

For hunting licenses, consumers will receive an email from the commission, and licenses will be mailed to the purchaser within two weeks.

If you encounter a website that does not appear legitimate or does not link to the Outdoor Shop portal, contact the PFBC Fishing License Help Line at 877-707-4085 or PGC's license division at (717) 787-2084.

Consumers who are victims of a fishing or hunting license scam should also notify the state Attorney General. Visit [www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov) and click on the "Submit a complaint" link at the top of the page. Then, scroll down to the link on the right titled "Scams Form."

## STEPS TO REPEL PESTS

Follow these tips from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to protect yourself from mosquitoes and ticks:

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (OLE), para-menthane-diol (PMD) or 2-undecanone.
  - Treat your clothing and gear with products containing 0.5% permethrin.
  - Wear clothes that cover your arms and legs and tuck your pants into your socks.
  - Do a full-body tick check on yourself and your pets after spending time outside.
  - Shower within two hours after returning indoors.
- If you receive a tick bite, monitor the area for symptoms of Lyme Disease and contact your doctor immediately if you develop symptoms, which can include a bulls-eye shaped rash (occurs in about 70%-80% of cases), fever, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, joint pain or other unexplained problems.

## ANGLERS AND BOATERS: DON'T SKIMP ON SAFETY

In a report last month to the state Fish and Game Commission, the executive director indicated that seven boating fatalities have already occurred during 2020, and none of the victims were wearing life jackets. In fact, about 80% of all boating fatalities occur because the boater was not wearing a life jacket.

The commission reminds anglers and boaters to wear a life jacket at all times, regardless of the weather conditions.

The commission is also warning anglers and boaters to remember that spring and summer thunderstorms can create dangerous, rapidly changing conditions,

including high, fast-moving water and high winds.

If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning, which can strike 10 miles or more from a storm. The commission recommends boaters invest in a portable NOAA weather radio and keep a close eye on the forecast both before and during the trip.

To find more safety tips and lots of additional information on boating, download a free copy of the Boaters Handbook. Visit [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com) and scroll down to the heading titled "Featured," where you'll find a link to the handbook.

## ORANGE: REQUIRED FOR FIREARMS, OPTIONAL FOR ARCHERY, HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR ALL

Hunters in deer, bear and elk firearms seasons; small game season; and hunting coyotes during daylight hours within deer, bear or elk firearms seasons must continue to wear 250 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material on their head, chest

and back combined. It must be visible 360 degrees and worn at all times.

As of last year, fluorescent orange is not required for archery deer, bear or elk seasons or when hunting turkeys or waterfowl -- although the state Game Commission highly recommends its

use. For example, the commission recommends turkey hunters wear a fluorescent orange hat while moving. Additional information on wearing orange and other regulations is available in the online Hunting and Trapping Digest.



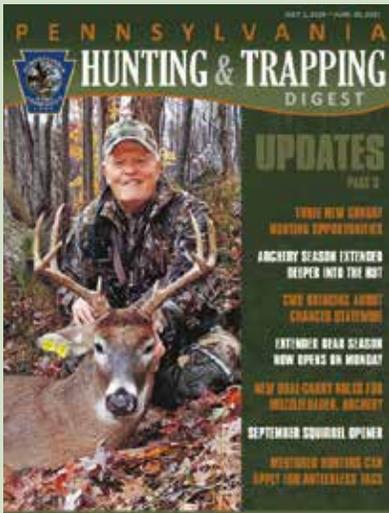
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# DOWNLOAD YOUR 2020 HUNTING AND TRAPPING DIGEST

The 2020 Hunting and Trapping Digest is packed with helpful information on licenses, schedules, regulations and other useful information. You can download an online version for free. Visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) and click on the "Hunting Digest" link.



Coachmen Club members do a lot to keep kids active and interested in the outdoors. The photo above was taken during a previous year's Youth Field Day.



Nearly 180 kids participated in the 2019 Annual Lawrence County Youth Field Day at the Mahoning Sportsman Association in Hillsville! Volunteers did an amazing job teaching kids about archery, trapping, hunting and other outdoor activities.

