



R3 HUNTING AND SHOOTING SPORTS NEWS

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New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife

Fall 2024

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Tuckahoe Managed Waterfowl Hunt Update

First Split, Youth Waterfowl Hunting, Annual Open House



The 2024-2025 Tuckahoe Managed Waterfowl Hunt season started with our annual open house. The weekend of October 5 and 6, 2024 gave 56 blind winners the opportunity to come ask questions and see the blinds they would be hunting.

The following Saturday, October 12, was the statewide youth only hunting day for waterfowl. A Mentored Youth Waterfowl Hunting Experience was held for youth at our program location. Youths needed to apply separately for this program. A total of 4 youth hunters came to spend their day on the managed hunt grounds in the state provided blinds.

The first split of the season began 1 week later, on October 19 and ran through October 26. So far Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Black Duck, Mallard, Pintail, Widgeon and Mergansers have all been harvested this season.

Positive feedback continues to roll in from our surveys. Here are some of the comments: "Amazing, the location was perfect, and the access was easy" Everything is so well organized and maintained." "Awesome!" "Saw many different species! More than I have ever seen!" and a very important one for us: "Thank you"

Women's Introduction to Sporting Clays Workshop

Safety, Skill and More!



"I just want to say THANK YOU for these programs! As a woman, I greatly appreciate it the education and opportunity to learn from safe instructors. The staff were so helpful and informative." This is just one of the wonderful reviews we received about our Women's Introduction to Sporting Clays Workshop held on September 22, 2024 in partnership with Freehold Fin, Fur & Feather Sportsmen's Club of New Jersey.

The workshop included a lecture on safe gun handling and an in-depth instruction by top New Jersey shooting instructors about the fun and excitement of shooting sporting clays.

We had a great group of women come out to this event, we hope to see more new women at our next event!

Announcing the Women’s Mentored Coastal Waterfowl Hunt

December 5-6, 2024 at the Sedge Island Natural Resource Center



A FREE workshop is being offered to women ages 18 and over to get a once in a lifetime hands on experience for coastal waterfowl hunting in New Jersey. This workshop is catered to women who have some previous hunting experience but wanted to try waterfowl hunting for the first time or who are novice waterfowl hunters.

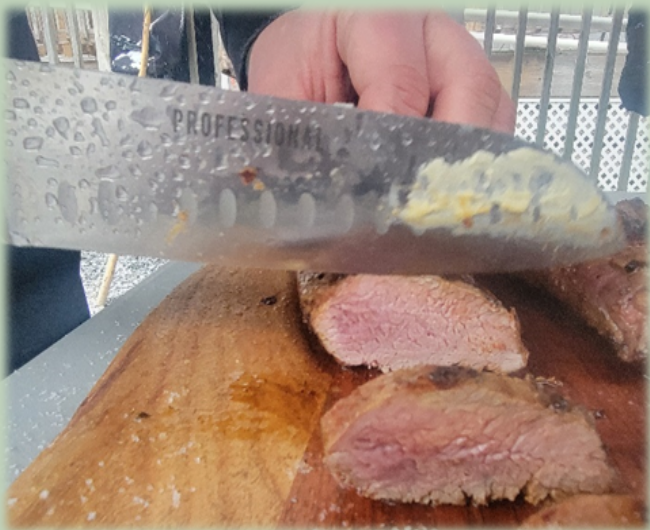
Topics that will be covered include outdoor skills, specifically, coastal waterfowl hunting, waterfowl biology and identification, hunting regulations, equipment, hunting techniques and field dressing

followed by an actual quality mentored (not guided) waterfowl hunt.

For further details and more information on requirements, and registration, please visit: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/womens-mentored-coastal-waterfowl-hunt-2024-12-05.pdf>

2024 Deer Butchering Workshops Continue

Four Workshops Held Across the State



In partnership with Hunters Helping the Hungry, 2 Deer Butchering workshops were held in the southern portion of the state in September of this year. The first being held on the 21st at The Buck Stop in Elmer and the second on the 27th at Bringhurst Meats in Berlin.

A total of 49 participants attended the workshops, 100% agreed the program was very informative. Topics covered by professional butchers included how to skin, cut and package harvested deer. One participant stated “This was a great class! Very informative and a wonderful addition to classes offered by the NJ Fish & Wildlife!”

Workshops for the northern portion of the state are being held in November and December. One being held on November 23 at Growmark FS in Bloomsbury on December 7 at The Heritage Guild of Branchburg. More information can be found at <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/deer-butchering-workshop-2024-11-23-and-2024-12-07.pdf>

Annual Take A Kid Youth Pheasant Hunt

The Tradition Continues On!



We held our annual Take A Kid Youth Pheasant hunt this year on Saturday, November 2, 2024 across 8 Wildlife Management Areas. Each year, we bring together youth hunters, volunteer mentors and volunteer dog handlers for a memorable day. Over 220 youth applied to be a part of this youth only hunting day to kick off the upland hunting season. 45% of the hunters were first time participants to the program, indicating a great recruitment for the future.

The amount of positive feedback we received was truly overwhelming, we cannot thank our volunteers enough! “Absolutely fantastic event! Wonderful experience for first

time and youth hunters (and parents too)! Great instruction and great community of people. Invaluable experience. Leaves a great impression of the sport on attendees. Thank you!”

It is always hard to tell if it is the youth or the dogs that have the best time every year, but we think this year we can say it was everyone!

Introduction to Muzzleloader/Rifle Shooting Workshop

This “In Demand” Workshop has Finally Arrived!



We are always happy to bring programming to our hunting and shooting sports community. Our Introduction to Muzzleloader/Rifle Shooting Workshop has been one in the works for a while and on September 5th and 8th, 2024 it finally came to life!

Participants stated that their favorite topics we covered were the different types of muzzleloaders, equipment/shooting supplies and shooting and cleaning the muzzleloader. There was a lot of information to cover, and our participants and our R3 Mentors did a wonderful job!

Introduction to Small Game Hunting

Squirrel Hunting 101



One of our most popular R3 workshops continues to impress new hunters! A total of 16 participants attended our 2-part workshop covering the Eastern Gray Squirrel. The first day consisted of a virtual meeting which provided a program overview and a question-and-answer session. The second day was our hands-on mentored hunt. Two days were offered for the mentored hunt. After the hunt, 90% of the participants stated they are ready to hunt on their own.

Topics covered by our great staff and mentors included: Small game hunting with a focus on squirrel hunting, regulations, equipment, techniques, accessing small game areas, cleaning and cooking techniques. A total of 2 squirrels were harvested during the workshop and we look forward to more R3 workshops in the future!



Featured Recipe

Squirrel Chips and Curry



Want to try something different this year?
This recipe is a keeper!
[Click here to view the full recipe!](#)

Have a game recipe you'd like to share we us? The R3 Hunting & Shooting Program is interested in what you're cooking up. Send your recipes and tips to R3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov



Black Bear Harvest Data

Segment A Results are In!

New Jersey’s Black Bear hunt ran its first segment in 2024 October 14 -19. The harvest results can be seen by the link here: <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/bears/black-bear-harvest-data/>



Fall Turkey Season

2024 Either Sex Turkey Season

The 2024 fall either sex turkey season took place on October 26 and October 28 through November 2. A total of 98 birds were harvested, 54 hens, 43 gobblers and one unknown reported. There is no lottery for the New Jersey fall season, only in the spring. Spring lottery will open up on January 25, 2025 and run through February 22, 2025. Additional information on both seasons can be found on our website at <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/hunting/wild-turkey-season-and-regulations/>

The R3 Hunting & Shooting Program’s Newsletter will see you at the end of Winter for more program updates, future R3 program workshops for 2025 and other updates in the world of hunting and shooting sports in New Jersey.

Contact Us

Looking for information on something we didn’t cover this month? Reach out to us!

Email: R3mentoredhunt@dep.nj.gov

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