



PA. Fish & Boat Commission Report

WINTER TROUT STOCKINGS START IN NOVEMBER

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will stock 19 lakes in 14 counties across the state with 22,200 adult trout as part of the 2004 Winter Trout Stocking Program.

The stockings will begin the week of November 1, though most stockings will be taking place in December. A total of 16,000 rainbow trout account for the largest percentage of the winter-stocked trout. Rounding out the program are 3,950 brook trout and 2,250 brown trout.

The Winter Trout Stocking program provides anglers with expanded fishing opportunities throughout the calendar year. Although the program was not designed solely for ice anglers in mind, the winter trout stockings can provide an additional quarry for the so-called "hard water" fisher. Extended trout season rules apply: anglers are permitted to keep up to three trout (combined species) of seven inches or greater daily. Winter weather or other changes beyond the Commission's control can alter the published stocking schedules without advance notice. Anglers can get the complete winter stocking list and any updates from the Commission's web site at www.fish.state.pa.us.

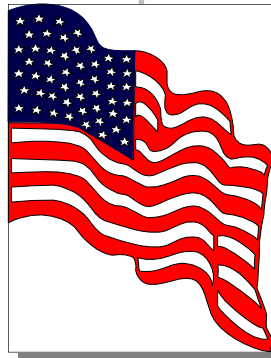
The Game Commission Report

PENNSYLVANIA'S BLACK BEAR SEASON LOOKS VERY PROMISING

Whenever a near-record black bear harvest occurs, as in 2003, hunters typically expect the next year's harvest to drop off. But Pennsylvania Game Commission field officers and biologists don't believe the state will head in that direction when the statewide three-day bear season opens Monday, Nov. 22, so long as inclement weather doesn't keep hunters out of the woods.

"The last few years have been phenomenal for black bear hunting," said Game Commission Executive Director Vern Ross. "Our bear population has been growing for some time and field officers have been tasked to perform more and more bear nuisance work. Residents are seeing bears everywhere. And each year, bears move into more areas where they haven't been seen in a long, long time.

"The first time hunters took 3,000-plus bears in the state, they followed the season with another 3,000-plus harvest. Of course, there's no way of guaranteeing they'll do the same in 2004, but there surely is no shortage of bears in the Commonwealth."

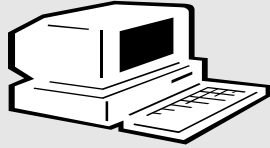


The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

Legislative Update



A.C.S.L. Loses Court Case

Jumping quickly to take credit for the recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court Ruling allowing the State Police and the Rendell Administration to allow the names, address and Social Security numbers of law abiding gun owner's firearms in a database, the Brady Campaign sticks their foot in their mouths.

The Supreme Court rejected our appeal, that the application record of sales database must be destroyed as stated in section 6111.4 of the Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act prohibiting the maintenance of gun "ownership records.". The Brady Campaign was happy that the Court rejected this challenge, declaring that "maintenance of a database, of handgun sales is proper" under Pennsylvania law, as such a database tracks only handgun sales records, not ownership."

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Game Commission (continued)

Pennsylvania recorded its first 3,000-plus harvest in 2000, when hunters took 3,075 bears. In 2001, the harvest dropped slightly to 3,063. Then in 2002, it slipped to 2,686. Last year, the harvest totaled 3,000 bears.

Pennsylvania's four largest black bear harvests have occurred over the last four years, which seems odd for a somewhat reclusive big woods species at a time when development - particularly in the Poconos, a historic black bear stronghold - continually claims more of Penn's Woods. But not according to Mark Ternent, Game Commission black bear biologist.

"Our record black bear harvests have been occurring because the bear population has been increasing, not because hunters are starting to take progressively more bears out of the population each year," Ternent said. "Hunters have consistently taken about 20 percent of the state's bear population annually since 1980. The last four years - although record harvest years - were no exception. Population growth has been most noticeable in places where bears have been expanding their range, like our southern and western counties.

"Right now, the Game Commission believes the state's bear population is nearly 15,000 bears, which is close to where it was last year. These estimates are based on an intensive monitoring program that involves the capture and ear-tagging of about 600 bears annually. Observations of many Wildlife Conservation Officers have likewise followed the same trend - that bears are as abundant as ever, despite record harvests in the past four years."

DCNR WARNS DEER HUNTERS OF DANGERS OF TRANSPORTING FIREWOOD INTO STATE

Bureau of Forestry Targets Spread of Emerald Ash Borer, Other Forest Pests

With the approach of Pennsylvania's main deer hunting season and its influx of thousands of out-of-state hunters, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry is combating the spread of forest insect pests by asking hunters to refrain from transporting firewood into the Commonwealth.

"We especially are targeting out-of-state deer hunters who may be coming from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Maryland and Virginia, and the Canadian Province of Ontario because that's where the emerald ash borer -- a forest pest that could prove deadly to our ash trees -- has been discovered," said Dr. Donald A. Eggen, chief of DCNR's Forest Pest Management Division.

The spread of emerald ash borer and other threatening insects has been linked to the transportation of infested firewood and nursery stock, Eggen said. Usually visible from May to August, the adult emerald ash borer beetles are slightly less than one inch long, thin and bright metallic green in color. The beetle, which feeds in the tissues under the bark of ash trees, has claimed some 7 million trees in Michigan alone.

"We know hunters from those already infected areas may not hear our warning, so we're hoping their Pennsylvania hunting companions who share camps or cabins will tell them, 'Leave the firewood at home; buy it or cut it locally,'" said Eggen. "It's just not a good idea to transfer any firewood anywhere in the state, especially with the ongoing threat of other insects and diseases to our state's forests."

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If infected firewood was transported into Pennsylvania, the emerald ash borer could emerge next spring and begin feeding on ash trees. It prefers green ash but will target all ash trees, regardless of whether they are healthy or stressed. First identified in North America in 2002, the emerald ash borer causes the girdling and death of branches and entire trees.

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry participates in a multi-agency task force assembled to detect and control this invasive threat to Pennsylvania ash trees. Other cooperating members of the task force include the state Department of Agriculture, Penn State Cooperative Extension, the USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine and the USDA Forest Service.

Since 2003, the DCNR has been surveying for the early detection of emerald ash borer on state-owned forestlands. That same year, 18 surveillance sites were established in Erie County. Surveillance efforts were expanded in 2004 to 20 sites in 13 counties: Beaver, Bradford, Bucks, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Mercer, Somerset, Tioga, Venango and Washington.

The state Department of Agriculture and USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine also are conducting surveys in nurseries and urban areas. No emerald ash borer beetles have been detected in Pennsylvania.

Signs of emerald ash borer infestation include upper crown dieback, woodpecker damage, "S"-shaped galleries under the bark and "D"-shaped emergence holes. To report possible infested trees in Pennsylvania, contact DCNR's Division of Forest Pest Management at (717) 948-3941,

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**DCNR WARNS DEER HUNTERS OF
DANGERS OF TRANSPORTING
FIREWOOD INTO STATE**

or BadBug@state.pa.us; or the Department of Agriculture at (717) 772-5228.

Source: PGC

The A.C.S.L. Report

Recipes

Honey Roast Pheasant

Ingredients:

- 1 pheasant
- 3/4 cup honey
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon msg.-optional

Combine all ingredients but the pheasant in a medium saucepan. Cook over low heat until peanut butter is melted, stirring frequently. Place the pheasant in a roasting pan. Pour the sauce over the bird, cover and place into the refrigerator overnight.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour, basting frequently with the drippings. This recipe goes well with fresh vegetables, mashed potatoes, gravy, and macaroni and cheese.