

# New Jersey's Outstanding Deer Program

## What is an "Outstanding Deer?"

An "outstanding" deer can be many things to many different people. An outstanding deer can be an individual's first deer, a buck which meets a sportsman's own specifications for a "rack," a veteran hunter's first deer with a different weapon (such as a muzzleloader rifle), or, a deer which meets certain criteria for antler development or weight as determined by New Jersey's Outstanding White-tailed Deer Program.

The most commonly used system for rating antlers in North America was developed by the Boone and Crockett Club in 1949-1950. This scoring method replaced the various systems which involved counting all points that a ring could be hung on, or measuring only main beam length or outside spread. The Boone and Crockett Club system gives credit to antler length, spread, number of points and symmetry. Although the Boone and Crockett Club system has changed slightly in recent years, it is the system used by the New Jersey Outstanding White-tailed Deer Program and is the basis for the Pope & Young Club's Bowhunting Big Game Records Program.

Recognition of exceptional body size as determined by field dressed weight is generally limited to state trophy deer programs. For example, New Jersey's Outstanding White-tailed Deer Program recognizes bucks with field dress weights exceeding 200 pounds. A new category for does exceeding 135 pounds (field dressed) was added during the 1990-91 deer seasons.

New Jersey's Outstanding White-tailed Deer Program was initiated in 1964 and includes categories for typical and nontypical antlered deer taken with bow, shotgun and muzzleloading rifle, in addition to the weight categories listed above. Minimum scores were revised in September 1996 and are as follows:

Category	Minimum score
Typical Firearm	125
Non-typical Firearm	135
Typical Archery	125
Non-typical Archery	135
Typical Muzzleloader	125
Non-typical Muzzleloader	135

Any properly licensed hunter, regardless of residency, is eligible to enter the Outstanding Deer Program. Deer must be taken in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of New Jersey. Additional rules and requirements are included with official entry forms. Application forms and instructions are available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Outstanding Deer Program, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400. There is no entry fee. All qualified entries will be added to New Jersey's all-time list.

Quality Deer Management programs are bound to result in a significant increase in the number of outstanding deer added to the all-time list. Perhaps in as little as 3 to 5 years, depending on the area in question, results will be seen.

Be sure to join the Division of Fish and Wildlife in celebrating New Jersey's outstanding white-tailed deer at our *new* location for the Garden State Deer Classic in January at the Garden State Outdoor Sportmen's Show. See the ad on this page for details.

Following is a list of the top scoring deer and the hunter who participated in the 2001 Garden State Deer Classic. The Classic showcased the outstanding deer taken during the 2000-2001 deer seasons. Ranks listed represent placement on the all-time list within each category.

## New Jersey Outstanding Deer Awards Program

All deer harvested during 2000 and officially measured for the 2001 Garden State Deer Classic

Division	Category	Rank	Score	County of Harvest	Hunter	Hometown
Antlered	Archery (Typical)	7	157 5/8	Gloucester	Wayne Foster	Glassboro
		9	154 7/8	Salem	John Morris, Jr.	Vineland
		15	152 4/8	Mercer	Steve Ficarro	Princeton
	Archery (Non-Typical)	1	203 3/8	Cumberland	Darrell T. Capps	Bridgeton
		30	146 5/8	Sussex	Arthur C. L'Hommedieu	Johnsonburg
		35	142 0/8	Essex	Kenneth W. Baker	Morristown
	Muzzleloader (Typical)	11	139 0/8	Cape May	Frank Carini	Milmay
		14	137 5/8	Passaic	Dennis A. Post	Oak Ridge
		19	136 2/8	Warren	Guy F. Gallant	Flanders
	Muzzleloader (Non-Typical)	1	188 7/8	Ocean	Edward Eloie	Eatontown
14		136 7/8	Cumberland	Bob Eisele	Leesburg	
Firearm (Typical)	13	158 0/8	Warren	Walter Ziobro	Washington	
	26	152 1/8	Middlesex	Kai Zimmermann	N. Brunswick	
	66	143 7/8	Warren	David Hamlen	Annandale	
Firearm (Non-Typical)	No entry present					
135 Pound	Bow	No entry present				
	Muzzleloader	No entry present				
200 Doe	Shotgun	7	142	Salem	Charles R. Wilson	Pitman
200 Pound	Bow	No entry present				
	Muzzleloader	No entry present				
Buck	Shotgun	No entry present				



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## Black Bears in New Jersey

By Patrick C. Carr, Principal Wildlife Biologist, Black Bear Project Leader

Black bears are the largest land mammal in the Garden State and live in forested areas throughout northern and north-central New Jersey. Here in the most densely populated state in the nation, our native black bears are thriving in close proximity to people. As land was cleared for settlements, timber and farms, and bears were killed indiscriminately and their numbers decreased. Although never eliminated, their range shrank to the most remote areas in the northern part of the state, the Kittatinny Ridge area of western Sussex County and the Highlands area of northern Passaic County. The population recovered after being afforded the protective status of game animal and as the habitat improved with the maturing forests. Today, New Jersey's black bear population is increasing as is the number of conflicts between humans and black bears.



Division personnel began a research project on black bears in the late 1970s, handling more than 1,000 bears since 1980. Garden State black bears are ranked among the heaviest in the United States. Adult females (bears aged 4 years and older) average 185 pounds; adult males average 396 pounds. The largest bear handled by Division personnel was a 608-pound male bear which was struck by a vehicle and killed on April 2, 2002 in Frelinghuysen Township, Warren County. Bears can live more than 20 years; Division personnel captured one female that was 22 years old.



Division personnel have weighed and measured 403 cubs-of-the-year in winter dens. Research data has shown that New Jersey bears are very productive. This 9-year-old, 229-pound female produced 5 cubs in January 2002. The average litter size for cubs in New Jersey is about 2.8 cubs per litter, with litter sizes ranging from 1 to 6 cubs. Female bears 7 years old and older produce an average of 3.2 cubs per litter. The cub sex ratio consists of 51% females and 49% males. Generally cubs travel with the female until she breeds again, 16-18 months later. The breeding season spans from late May until August, peaking in June and July. Both sexes are promiscuous.



Prime bear habitat consists of mixed hardwood forests, dense swamps and forested wetlands. Although classified as a carnivore, black bears are omnivorous, eating plant and animal matter. Bears are opportunistic feeders dependent on a seasonally abundant food supply. Approximately 75% of their diet consists of plant material, including skunk cabbage, grasses, forbs, tubers and bulbs, soft mast (blueberries, huckleberries, raspberries, blackberries, wild cherries) and hard mast (acorns, beechnuts, hickory nuts). Animal matter includes bees and other insects (adults, larvae and eggs), small mammals, bird eggs, white-tailed deer fawns, road-killed deer, and carrion. Their diet is supplemented with human-derived food.

Division personnel collected bear hair samples from hair snares set throughout bear habitat. Individual bears were identified using DNA analysis. Personnel also capture bears to mark individuals with eartags and radio-telemetry collars. These mark-recapture studies provide population estimates for the New Jersey bear population.



Black bears are large, powerful wild animals and should be treated with respect. Be alert in areas where bears are active. DO NOT approach any bear in the wild.

# The Challenges Of Managing Canada Geese

By Ted Nichols, Principal Wildlife Biologist

It is a challenging exercise to set hunting regulations for Canada geese as their separate populations each have a different status. Within New Jersey, our three distinct populations of Canada geese are: Atlantic Population (AP), North Atlantic Population (NAP) and Resident Population (RP). AP Canada geese nest in boreal forest and tundra regions of northern Quebec. NAP geese nest further east in Newfoundland and Labrador. Collectively, AP and NAP geese are referred to as "migrant" geese since they breed in northern Canada and migrate to the US to winter. AP geese winter throughout the mid-Atlantic and Delmarva Peninsula (formed by coastal portions of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia). NAP geese have a much more coastal oriented wintering area which includes the coast from New England to New Jersey. RP geese breed in southern Canada and throughout the United States, generally making no — or relatively short — migrations in winter. Although all three populations of geese readily mix in fall and winter, RP geese are also present in the U.S. during spring and summer. RP geese have readily adapted to man's environment and are usually the goose population responsible for nuisance complaints regarding droppings and poor water quality.

Geese are tremendously philopatric, or faithful, to their breeding areas. Available banding data suggest that geese generally remain in the same breeding population through the duration of their lives. Contrary to popular belief, AP and/or NAP geese do not stop migrating or switch to live the leisurely life of RP geese. AP and/or NAP geese hatched in the boreal forest or tundra continue to migrate and return there to breed while RP geese stay in mid-latitude areas to breed.

Geese from these separate populations have very different life histories, given the geographic location of their breeding areas. For AP and NAP geese, young production can vary dramatically from year to year, largely dependent on the timing of snowmelt as well as the frequency and duration of late spring (June) snowstorms. During years when snowmelt is late, migrant geese may completely forego nesting. RP geese, on the other hand, consistently produce a large number of young since they breed in relatively stable, mid-latitude climates. In addition, RP goslings face relatively few predators compared with their sub-arctic breeding cousins who routinely face arctic fox. Arctic fox populations vary considerably, largely dependent on cyclic abundance of small mammals, particularly lemmings. When lemming populations crash, fox must switch to alternate prey, and during these years, fox can have a significant impact on gosling production.

Survival rates of adult geese can be very different as well. AP and NAP geese must face the



rigors of migration both in fall and spring. In addition, sport hunting can have a significant impact on survival rates of long-lived birds such as Canada geese, and as such, must be strictly regulated. AP and NAP geese can be subjected to significant hunting pressure as they pass through 2 countries and several states whose hunting seasons may have staggered dates. In addition, AP and NAP geese encounter considerable hunting pressure from native, subsistence hunters in Canada when the geese return to breeding areas in the spring. Conversely, RP geese spend much of their time in parks, golf courses and corporate grounds where they are relatively inaccessible to hunters. These differences in young production and survival are the key components that create the status of these three populations of Canada geese.

Wildlife biologists have the responsibility to maintain populations of AP and NAP geese for sport hunters in the US and Canada, for subsistence Inuit and Cree hunters in the Canadian arctic as well as for wildlife viewers in both countries. The migratory flights of Canada geese in October, along with changing leaves, apple cider and crisp nights, are among the most treasured of autumn pleasures. AP goose populations are lower than optimum but recovering. NAP geese are believed to be relatively stable but the uncertainty is much higher. Most people agree that RP geese are overabundant through most of their range, including New Jersey, and their population should be reduced.

Some people suggest allowing natural selection to take its course with Canada goose populations. If RP geese are more adaptable to man's environment, some would say to let them prosper, even if it is at the expense of AP and/or NAP geese. Biologists however, have the responsibility to maintain the historic biodiversity of these continental migrant Canada goose populations.

For times when different populations of Canada geese intermingle, as happens in New Jersey during fall and winter, harvest regulations are crafted for the population with the lowest ability to withstand hunting pressure. This is required since geese from different populations cannot

easily be distinguished from one another. In almost all geographic areas of North America, including New Jersey, at least one population of sub-arctic nesting migrant Canada geese will become the limiting factor when setting season length and bag limits for that area. When possible, special seasons with larger bag limits are designed to harvest RP geese. For example, September seasons occur before the onset of migration and therefore only RP geese are harvested. In New Jersey, special winter seasons are held in areas of the state that have relatively low populations of AP and NAP geese during late winter.

About 25,000 geese are harvested in New Jersey during special seasons, most of which are RP geese. Yet the "regular" season, that is, the traditional goose hunting season from November through January, is still the preferred goose hunting period for many waterfowlers. As such, the regular season plays an important role in controlling the growth of RP geese. It is during this autumn and early winter period, however, that AP and NAP geese are also abundantly mixed with RP geese throughout the state. Therefore, it is the regular season length, bag limit and framework dates (earliest and latest dates that these seasons can occur) that are manipulated most often to ensure migrant AP and NAP geese remain healthy.



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## The Eastern Coyote in New Jersey

By Andrew Burnett, Principal Wildlife Biologist

Eastern coyotes are wild canines found throughout northeastern United States and southeastern Canada. They are dog- or wolf-like furbearers; analysis of eastern coyote DNA suggests coyote/wolf hybridization has occurred. Coyotes have been noted in all 21 New Jersey counties in nearly 250 municipalities throughout the state (see map on page 00). Their population, estimated at less than 100 in 1975, is currently estimated at 3,000. Based on available habitat and suggested winter populations for the Northeast, New Jersey could support 5,000 coyotes. The Eastern coyote is the largest canine found in New Jersey. Females average 34 pounds and can weigh as much as 56 pounds, and males average 39 pounds and can weigh as much as 65 pounds. Body lengths vary from 32 to 42 inches, excluding their bushy tails, and shoulder height varies from 22 to 30 inches. Most coyotes are mottled gray in color with lighter bellies, however coloration can range from blonde to charcoal.

Coyotes are monogamous and maintain pair bonds for several years. Although not regarded as "pack animals," young coyotes may remain with



their parents for up to a year and a half, and may help to rear the next litter. Normally, females do not breed until their second winter. Most mating occurs in February and litters are born from mid-April to early May. Young coyotes begin to disperse from the family group during October.

Coyotes are opportunistic predators, feeding on voles, mice, rabbits, muskrats, woodchucks, birds and fawn deer. They also eat carrion, insects, fruits and other vegetable matter, and occasionally kill and eat poultry; livestock (including goats,

sheep and calves); cats and dogs. They are primarily nocturnal, but may hunt during daylight hours, especially in the morning. Coyotes have excellent senses of sight, smell and hearing, making them extremely wary and challenging to harvest.

Coyotes were given game animal status with no open season in 1975. Furbearer status was granted in 1980 thereby allowing trappers to harvest coyotes during the regular trapping season (Nov. 15–Mar. 15). The New Jersey Fish and Game Council authorized winter coyote hunting seasons by permit from 1997 to 2000. Hunters harvested a total of 28 coyotes during this four-year period (archery—1; muzzleloader—7; shotgun—20), a testament to the coyote's elusive and wily nature. Permits were not required for the 2001 hunting season. For 2002, coyote hunting is now permitted concurrent with the regular fox hunting season. During the 2001–02 seasons, hunters reported taking 35 coyotes (archery—5; muzzleloader—4; shotgun—26) while trapper took 6 coyotes.

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## New Jersey's Nineteenth Waterfowl Stamp and Print Third in the Landmark Series

The Division's Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee is proud to announce the third print in the Landmark Series "Colors of Fall—Wood Ducks at the Water Gap". This year's artist, Jim Hautman, is also a three-time federal stamp competition winner. At the age of 25, Jim became the youngest artist in history to win the prestigious *Federal Duck Stamp Contest*. His second win in 1995 not only took first prize but he set a new record by receiving a perfect scoring in the final judging as well as the distinguished *People's Choice Award*. Jim captured top honors for the third time receiving a perfect judge's score again in 1999.

The eldest Hautman brother, Joe, created the first print in our Landmark Series. His work featured canvasbacks flying past New Jersey's and America's most recognized landmark, the Statue of Liberty. And brother Bob Hautman created last year's stamp and print set featuring tundra swans at Sedge Island on Barnegat Bay.

These three brothers are the only siblings ever to win the prestigious Federal Duck Stamp Competition and since 1990, they have won it five times! The Hautmans are fast emerging as America's foremost wildlife artists. All three brothers have received numerous honors and awards, which includes dominating many state and national duck stamp competitions. At last count the three brothers have seen their art fea-



tured on more than 34 state and federal stamps. Their unique family talent was mentioned in the major motion picture *Fargo*.

New Jersey annually began requiring a waterfowl hunting stamp in 1984. The Division of Fish and Wildlife administers the program for the purpose of purchasing wetlands for waterfowl habitat. Proceeds from the sale of New Jersey's duck stamps and prints have totaled over \$3,800,000 since 1984, all to acquire wetlands for waterfowl habitat and public use. To date, over 13,000 acres of waterfowl habitat have been purchased or donated to the program.

This year's artwork depicts a pair of wood ducks at the Delaware Water Gap National

Recreation Area. The almost 70,000-acre National Park Service property is located in New Jersey and Pennsylvania along 40 miles of the Delaware River. The area is rich in both cultural and natural history: the ridges and river valley contain fascinating geological features, beautiful streams and waterfalls, a diversity of plants and wildlife and a rich history of past occupants and cultures.

The recreation area was originally planned as land bordering the proposed Tocks Island Reservoir. Early planning, management and land acquisitions were accomplished amid much controversy over the proposed dam project. In 1978, Congress designated the section of the Delaware River within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. In 1992, the Tocks Island Dam Project was officially de-authorized.

For more information on how to purchase a print, collector duck stamp, or the souvenir stamp card, please send a self-addressed stamped (first class postage), business-size envelope to the Waterfowl Stamp Advisory Committee, Division of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0400. Mention that you saw this *Digest* article. Or come visit us on the web at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) by clicking on the product section. The important thing to remember is all profits go to preservation of habitat! Buy a stamp or framed print and SAVE AN ACRE!

# Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Of Deer And Elk

## What Is CWD?

Chronic wasting disease of mule deer, rocky mountain elk and white-tailed deer is a new disease which many scientists believe may be caused by an infectious protein, termed a prion. It results in fatal damage to the central nervous system causing the brain to have a microscopic sponge-like appearance, which places it in a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Scrapie of domestic sheep and goats, bovine spongiform encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease" of cattle and transmissible mink encephalopathy of farmed mink are all different types of TSEs in domestic and captive reared animals. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a human TSE, occurs throughout the world with a frequency of approximately one case in one million people each year. Another human TSE is *variant* Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which causes 10–15 human deaths each year. This variant disease is associated with the large-scale outbreak of mad cow disease in cattle herds in Great Britain. The British consumed beef from among the estimated 200,000 infected cattle since 1986. This resulted in 106 human deaths from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease as of February 2002.

## What Does CWD Look Like?

The clinical signs are not unique to this disease, but loss of body weight, even as the deer or elk continues to eat, is typical. The animals may walk in the same short path, repeatedly. They may be slightly unsteady, standing with legs separated wider than normal. Some may have subtle head tremors; sick animals may be found near streams or ponds. They may have periods when they appear sleepy or unresponsive or may carry their head down with their ears lowered. Increased salivation and drooling may also occur. Usually, months to years pass from when the animal is infected to when it shows these signs which have not been observed in deer younger than 17 months. Once the signs develop the animal usually survives for months, but occasionally death occurs within just a few days.

## How Does CWD Spread?

Chronic Wasting Disease can be transmitted among adult deer. The prions accumulate only in certain parts of infected animals—the brain, eyes, spinal cord, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes. This pattern of transmission and association with lymph tissue in the mouth and intestinal tract suggests the CWD prion finds its way through saliva and feces onto grasses and other food. Deer eating contaminated food then contract the disease. Affected organs of deer dying in the wild may be eaten by scavengers, which might disseminate the CWD agent in their feces. The prion is very resistant to traditional disinfectants and persists a long time in the environment. Healthy deer restored to cleaned, disinfected pens developed CWD. The prevalence of CWD in free-ranging deer (13%) has been higher than in elk (1%) in Colorado. Over half the 154 deer in a captive herd in Nebraska tested positive for CWD. The rate of infection in free-ranging deer steadily declined with distance from the captive herd's enclosure. The captive animals were probably the source of infection for wild deer.

## How Do We Test For CWD?

Currently there is no reliable test for this disease in live animals. Microscopic examination of the brain of deer which die or are killed reveals the sponge-like changes typical of CWD. Early in the disease the spongy changes of the brain occur; special chemical stains for the CWD prion will reveal its presence. These stains have also been used to demonstrate the CWD prion in biopsy samples of tonsil from live deer, but these tests require anesthetizing the deer and they don't work well on elk. European investigators have developed tests for the mad cow disease agent. Research is being performed to see if similar tests could be adapted to CWD.

## Where Is CWD Now?

CWD in wild free-ranging deer and elk is known to exist in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, New Mexico and the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. CWD in game farm elk and deer has

been found in Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Alberta and Saskatchewan. CWD infected farmed elk in Korea were traced back to an infected herd in Saskatchewan. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conducted a survey which detected 14 cases of CWD in a 63 square mile area where the deer population was estimated between 3,774 and 6,382. Wisconsin has initiated a major effort to kill large numbers of deer in a zone around the affected area to prevent spread to the rest of the state's wild deer.



<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/>

## Is CWD In New Jersey?

Five hundred six deer heads, mostly from hunter-killed deer, were collected in a cooperative survey conducted by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, USDA Veterinary Services, and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture during the 1997-98 hunting seasons. Brain was tested for chronic wasting disease and lymph nodes for bovine tuberculosis (TB). No evidence of either disease was found. The statistical analysis indicates that if TB or CWD were present, there is a 99% confidence it would be in less than 1% of the adult deer. Without testing each individual animal in a population, it is statistically impossible to say a disease is not present. Because of the sudden appearance of CWD in wild Wisconsin whitetails, the Division proposes to conduct another hunter survey of New Jersey deer for the CWD agent.

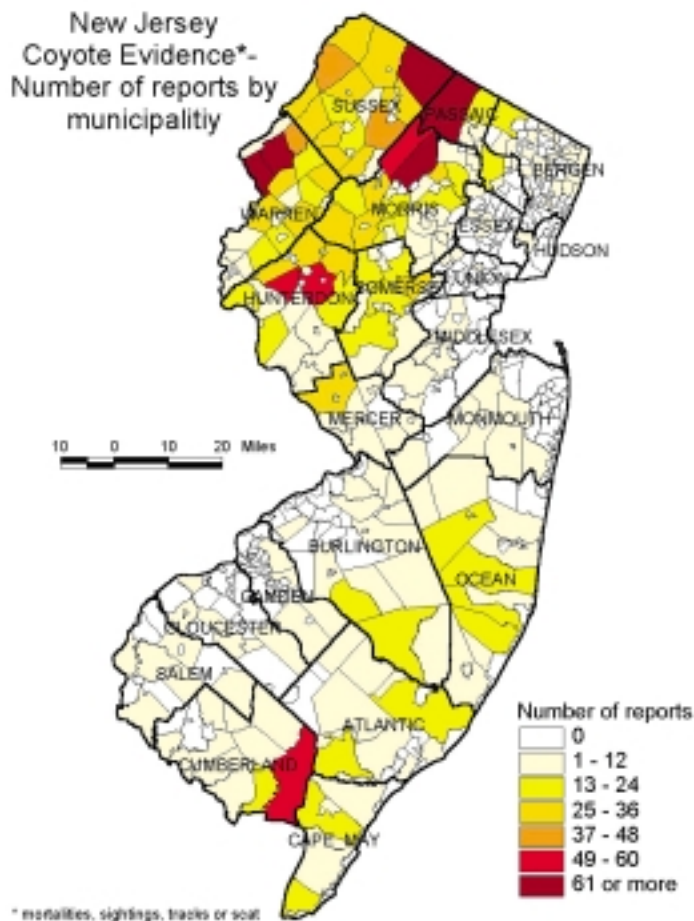
## Can Humans Get CWD?

**NO CASES OF HUMAN CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE OR THE VARIANT HAS BEEN LINKED TO CWD OF DEER,** in spite of a widely circulated unfounded story in the popular press alleging 3 young hunters diagnosed with CJD had in some way been exposed to CWD. While the mad cow disease agent has overcome the species barrier, studies have demonstrated dissimilar species pose a significant impediment to transmission of prion-associated disease. There has also been a long history of humans handling and eating sheep including the brain, yet there is no evidence of scrapie posing a human health risk. In Colorado, over 16 years of monitoring has never found disease in people or cattle living in the CWD infected area. Epidemiologists with the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have conducted extensive studies of human risk from CWD. They were not able to identify any association between human neurological disease and CWD and concluded the risk of infection with the CWD agent among hunters is extremely small, if it exists at all. Nevertheless, there are always uncertainties with poorly understood diseases and in areas where the deer are known to be infected

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## The Eastern Coyote in New Jersey

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Trappers and hunters have reported harvesting 115 coyotes since 1992. They have provided important information on the distribution and status of the Eastern coyote, yet have had no negative impacts on the general population. Disease is probably the biggest mortality factor, followed by vehicular collisions. The Division encourages everyone who observes a coyote to file a sighting report, particularly if noted in areas with little or no previous reports (see map). Sighting forms are available from the Division's website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com/forms.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/forms.htm)

## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Of Deer And Elk

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hunters are advised not to shoot sick behaving deer. The world health organization recommends deer or elk with evidence of CWD should not be eaten by people or other animals.

### How Can CWD Be Prevented Or Controlled?

The strategy which makes most sense is one of surveillance to detect the disease, limit movement of infected animals and slaughter of known infected herds. Twenty-one captive herds of deer and or elk have been identified as infected with the CWD prion in the United States. All but 3 have been depopulated. The USDA Director of Agriculture released \$12 million in funds in February 2002 to indemnify owners of captive deer and elk herds for depopulation due to CWD. In 1999 the US Animal Health Association asked the USDA for a captive elk and deer herd certification process, which could be used to declare a captive herd free of CWD. While drafts of this process are being reviewed the most reliable protection for New Jersey is to prohibit the import or export of members of the deer family. This is accomplished in part under authority of the Director of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife through restriction of permits to possess captive deer. While this safeguard is already in place, policies on captive herd health surveillance will focus on good record keeping, reporting of unexplained deer or elk deaths, and inspections. Active surveillance through sampling hunter-killed deer and passive surveillance through submissions of sick deer to the Division's Office of Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics will also comprise the core of the response to the CWD threat to New Jersey. These efforts will be undertaken in cooperation with and assistance from the USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services, Wildlife Services and NJ Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health.

### How Can Hunters Help?

Hunters are asked not to shoot sick or abnormally behaving deer, but note the animal's location and report it to the Division's Office of Fish and Wildlife Health and Forensics at 908-735-6398 or a local Division field office with numbers listed in this Digest as soon as possible. Hunters can cooperate in donating the heads of their deer when asked by a Division biologist at selected deer check stations.

Links for chronic wasting disease and its management are listed below:

- <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/> (Wisconsin)
- <http://www.outdoornebraska.org> and click on *wildlife* (Nebraska)
- <http://www.aphis.gov> and click on *alternative livestock industry* (USDA)
- <http://www.cwd.info.org> This site is in the process of development and will have current updates on the status of Chronic Wasting Disease in North America.



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## A Great Day for Youth Turkey Hunters

By Tony McBride, Principal Wildlife Biologist

On Saturday, April 13, 2002, sportsman and child entered the forest and sat, side by side, carefully speaking the language of the bird that approached. The morning had been damp and cool, but it did not matter, the gobbles of the approaching longbeard and the pounding heart of the youth drowned out the effects of the elements. After a few moments that seemed an eternity, the youth aimed, and with the help of the soft, assuring voice of his parent, harvested the beautiful gobbler...an experience always to be remembered.

Such a scenario was played out approximately one hundred and fifty times on New



From left: Joseph (14), Rebekah (13) and Andrew (11) Garris of Sussex County pose with their trophies on Youth Turkey Hunting Day. Their father called in each bird at separate times during the morning.

Jersey's very first youth turkey hunting day. The one day hunt open to children 15 and under was a great success. In keeping with a trend that promotes youth hunting experiences, New Jersey's youth turkey hunting day is one of several such days devoted to one of the most important components of our sporting public, our children.

In addition to promoting youth turkey hunting, the Division of Fish and Wildlife is making every effort to ensure that turkeys inhabit all suitable habitat in New Jersey. Part of this process has involved habitat enhancement on our state Wildlife Management Areas in parts of the state where habitat is poor for wild turkeys. This past winter, 80 eastern wild turkeys, the majority of them hens, were captured in Sussex County and transported to

Ocean County, where they were released into enhanced areas. Such habitat improvement involves conducting controlled burns to reduce thick understory growth, and providing plantings of grasses, sunflowers and clovers on existing fields in these pine barrens habitat areas. In the past, similar habitat manipulation, along with turkey releases in Cape May County have helped to create a stable turkey population and also a stable harvest even years after the last release was made. It is believed that a similar effect will take place in Ocean County as a result of these efforts.

Another project, the New Jersey Gobbler Mortality Study, has been in progress since 2000 in the northwestern part of the state. The purpose of this study is to determine the causes of mortality of our male wild turkeys. Wild

turkey males are captured with cannon nets, fitted with radio transmitters, banded, weighed and measured, and released on site to be tracked for up to five years. The radios transmit a special signal (mortality signal) when the bird remains motionless for four hours or more, and the cause of death can usually be determined from visual clues at the scene. Yearly mortality of wild turkeys can be as high as 50% from all causes combined, and hunting mortality should generally not be more than 25%. In the spring of 2000, 3 of 51 marked turkeys were harvested by hunters while 11 of 50 were harvested in 2001. The most significant cause of mortality for turkeys has been predation by coyotes, great horned owls, and red-tailed hawks. Hunting mortality has remained within acceptable limits. If a dead turkey with a transmitter or a leg band is found, please leave the scene intact and call (908)735-8793. Sportsmen and women who harvest a gobbler with a radio or leg band should call immediately after checking the turkey, and will receive a document from the Division which will include information about that particular bird.



Collecting biological information from a hen which will be released in Ocean County.

## Youth Deer Hunt Day

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2002

TAKE A KID HUNTING!



Youth hunters with a valid youth hunting license will be allowed to hunt statewide for one deer on Saturday, November 23, 2002. The youth hunter MUST be under the immediate supervision of a person who is at least 21 years old and who has a valid firearm license. For the purposes of this section, direct supervision is defined as both the youth hunter and parent/guardian set up together at the same location, hunting as a unit and not hunting independently of each other. The adult CANNOT hunt or possess a firearm. The adult can grunt call or rattle for the youth. In addition to the youth, the adult accompanying the youth should wear the required hunter orange. Youths can hunt with either a shotgun or muzzleloader for one deer of either sex. If the youth is hunting with a muzzleloader, both the youth and the adult must have a valid rifle permit. Neither the Earn-A-Buck requirement nor antler point restrictions will apply on that day for the youth hunter. This hunt will be an extension of the six-day firearm season so no special season deer permit is required. The youth hunter must tag his/her deer with a homemade transportation tag. The tag must include the youth hunting license number, sex of deer, number of antler points, date, zone, county and township from which the deer was taken, and must say "taken during the 6-day firearm season-youth hunt". The youth hunter will not be given a supplemental tag when the deer is checked. The bag limit for the youth hunt day is only ONE deer of either sex. This is a great opportunity to introduce youth hunters to deer hunting!

## Youth Turkey Hunting Day

Youth hunters with a valid youth license who have obtained a turkey permit may begin their spring turkey season on the special youth turkey hunting day, April 12, 2003. Youth must be accompanied and supervised by an adult 21 years or older that has a valid New Jersey hunting license.

TAKE A KID HUNTING

**Youth Pheasant Hunt**

**Saturday, Nov. 2, 2002**

WMA	Guided Morning	Open After 1 pm	Open All Day
Whittingham	X	X	
Black River	X	X	
Flatbrook			X
Clinton	X	X	
Assunpink	X	X	
Colliers Mills	X	X	
Glassboro			X
Millville	X	X	
Peaslee	X	X	

**Guided:** Pre-registration required. See Details, this page.

**Open—Afternoon:** Any youth hunter with a valid youth hunting license accompanied by a licensed, non-shooting adult, will be permitted to hunt on the listed Wildlife Management Areas on November 2, 2002 from 1 p.m. until sunset.

**Open—all day:** Any youth hunter with a valid youth hunting license accompanied by a licensed, non-shooting adult, will be permitted to hunt on the listed Wildlife Management Areas on November 2, 2002 from 8 a.m. until sunset.

**Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day**

**Sept. 21, 2002**

TAKE A KID HUNTING

Youth hunters with a valid youth license and accompanied by a non-shooting adult (21 years of age or older), will be permitted to hunt for waterfowl statewide from 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset on Sept. 21, 2002. See the migratory bird supplement and watch for news releases for further details.

Non-toxic shot required.

Bag limit: Same as regular duck and early Canada goose seasons. No federal or state duck stamp required for youths.

TAKE A KID HUNTING

**Pheasant Hunt:**

**November 2, 2002**



The 2002 Take a Kid Hunting Pheasant Hunt will allow properly licensed hunters with a valid youth license to hunt on one of nine stocked Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) on Saturday morning, November 2, 2002. In a cooperative effort between the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, volunteer hunting mentors with trained bird dogs will guide youth hunters on a pheasant hunt. This experience will increase the young hunters' opportunity for harvesting a pheasant in a setting which encourages responsible and safe hunting practices.

All participants must pre-register and be accompanied to the check-in by a parent or guardian. Parents or guardians are welcomed and encouraged to follow the hunters through the fields. All pre-registered hunters will receive an information packet. One session will be offered, starting at 7 a.m.

Only 50 youth hunters will be allowed on each WMA during each session. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of slots available, a random drawing will be held to select participants. To register, please send the application found on this page to the address below. All entries must be postmarked by October 12, 2002. Information will be mailed on October 18, 2002.

Send application to: Take a Kid Hunting, NJ Div. of Fish & Wildlife, Northern Region Hunter Education, 26 Rt. 173 W, Hampton, NJ 08827

Send application to: Take a Kid Hunting, NJ Div. of Fish & Wildlife, Northern Region Hunter Education, 26 Rt. 173 W, Hampton, NJ 08827

**Youth Hunter**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Hunting License # \_\_\_\_\_

1. Select WMA (Check only 1):

- Assunpink     Black River     Clinton     Colliers Mills
- Millville     Peaslee     Whittingham

2. Have you attended the Take a Kid Hunting Pheasant Hunt before?

- NO     YES-2001

3. With what gauge shotgun will you be hunting?

- 12     16     20     28     .410

4. If you have a trained hunting dog and would like to participate as a mentor, enter your daytime phone number.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Youth Upland Bird Hunting Day**

**Saturday, November 2, 2002**

Youth hunters with a valid youth license, accompanied by a licensed, non-hunting adult 21 years or older, will be permitted to hunt on licensed semi-wild preserves. Youths can hunt for pheasants, quail, and/or chukars on Saturday, November 2, 2000 from 8:00 a.m. to sunset. This is a great opportunity for hunters belonging to semi-wild preserves to introduce youth hunters to upland bird hunting without competition from adult hunters.



May 6, 2002

Mr. Robert McDowell  
 Director  
 New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife  
 P.O. Box 400  
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

Dear Mr. McDowell,

Hello, my name is Nick Zemplachenko and I am eleven years old. I grew up in a family that enjoys the tradition of hunting and fishing. I can remember sharing in the outdoor adventures with my dad when I was only four years old. When I turned 10, I successfully passed my firearms test and now spend even more time outdoors.

I am writing this letter to thank you for creating the Youth Hunt Programs that you've provided this past year. Thanks to this program, I had the privilege of harvesting my first buck as well as my first wild turkey.

On November 17th, I sat in my deer stand with my father while he worked the deer call and rattled antlers, and successfully lured in a magnificent buck. From the first moment that we saw the buck, it took about twenty minutes for him to present the perfect shot. My well placed shot put down one of the most beautiful eleven pointers—at least I felt that way at the check station.

On April 13th, I was ready for the youth hunt of the spring turkey season. The weather certainly didn't seem to cooperate. It was drizzling and foggy. The woods were quiet for most of the morning. My dad and I set up in an area that was within view of my deer stand. My dad began working the hen call when multiple gobblers instantly responded. We were crouched behind a big rock, waiting for a gobbler to appear. Within two minutes, three gobblers appeared within forty yards of our blind. We continued to work the call and the gobblers closed the distance to twenty-five yards. I selected the largest of the three gobblers, and successfully harvested the bird with one shot. The bird had a five inch beard and some impressive spurs.

I will always remember these two hunts, and hope to add to my successes throughout my hunting career. My eleven pointer was recently picked up from the taxidermist and now hangs in my room.

Thank you again for putting together the Youth Hunt Program. I've included some photos of my trophies for you to enjoy.

Sincerely,

*Nick Zemplachenko*

Nick Zemplachenko



## Support New Jersey's Wildlife Volunteers

### 2002-2003 Hunter Edition Sports Knife

Choose either the Deer Hunter's Edition—Or —The 2 piece sportsmen's gift set.

Both are ideal for the hunter or knife collector!

- Funds derived from the sale of these items will be used to support the efforts of the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Volunteers.
- Choose one or both of these quality items for the hunter or collector.
- "New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife" etched on each knife blade.



Item #	Description	Cost/ea.
NJILTD	New Jersey 2002-2003 Deer Hunters edition* 4 1/4" Polished brass handle with deer screen inlay *Polished drop blade *Decorative bolster * storage / gift box	\$19.95
NJIGS	New Jersey 2 piece sportsman gift set. 1) 4 3/4" lock blade* pocket clip * partial serrated blade * non-slip TPR handles * one-handed opening * sheath * custom blade etch 2) 8x21 binoculars * rubber coated for sure grip* lanyard * carrying/ storage case.	\$19.95

ORDER FORM				
Item #	Description	Cost/ea.	Qty	Total
NJILTD	New Jersey 2002-2003 Deer Hunter edition Knife	\$19.95		
NJIGS	New Jersey sportsman gift set	\$19.95		
	<b>SPECIAL PRICE: ORDER ONE OF EACH SET</b>	\$34.95		
	NJ Sales Tax (Residents only)	6%		
	Shipping and Handling	\$5.00		
	<b>TOTAL</b>			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 email: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**  
 THE GRANITE GROUP  
 PO BOX 271, FANWOOD, NJ 07023  
 Tel: 908-322-3113 • FAX: 908-490-1962 • E-MAIL: .granitepromo@aol.com

## Hunter Education Volunteer Retires After 44 Years

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program outstanding volunteer **MaryJane Carter**, will be stepping down as secretary of the Mercer County Hunter Education Instructor Club this year. MaryJane has held the position since 1958. During her tenure, over fifteen thousand students were trained and tested for shotgun, bow and arrow and modern rifle/muzzleloader.

Ms. Carter, a resident of Hamilton Township for the last 71 years, was originally asked to act as club secretary by her late husband Hiram Mount, one of the founding members of the club. Although not a hunter herself, MaryJane has volunteered her time for 44 years and has enjoyed seeing so many youngsters successfully complete the Hunter Education course.

The Mercer County Hunter Education Instructors Club voted Ms. MaryJane Carter as Honorary Club Secretary for Life and honored her at a special dinner on Tuesday, March 19th 2002 in Trenton. Joe Leskie from the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife's Hunter Education Program presented Ms. Carter with a Special Appreciation Award for all of her years of service. She was also recognized for her time and dedication at the Division's Volunteer Awards Dinner on June 22, 2002. Thank you Mary Jane for all your time and dedication and best wishes in your retirement.

## Outdoor Skills Workshop for Women



New Jersey's "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" (BOW) Program is part of a nationwide effort to help women overcome barriers to participation in outdoor recreation by providing opportunities to try new activities. Since it began at the University of Wisconsin in 1991, the program has exploded in popularity. BOW can be found in 44 states and 8 Canadian Provinces across North America. New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife has been offering BOW workshops since 1995.

Although BOW workshops are designed for women, they offer anyone 18 years old or older opportunities to try new outdoor activities, improve existing skills, and meet other outdoor enthusiasts. The three-day BOW and one-day "Beyond BOW" workshops offer hands-on instruction in hunting, angling, and related outdoor pursuits in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere.

All of our instructors have many years of experience afield. They were chosen for their ability to pass on their knowledge and their belief in encouraging anyone who has an interest to get involved in the outdoors.

To find out more about the BOW program, log on to our website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) or mail in the coupon below. Those with an e-mail account can subscribe to the BOW list-serve (electronic mail service). The BOW list-serve will send automatic updates about the BOW program and workshop availability. It's simple to subscribe. Go to the Division's website at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) and click on the link for mailing lists located on the left-hand side of the homepage. Fill out the electronic form and click submit. That's it! A confirmation message will ask you to return an authorization code. Once this is done, you'll be ready to receive automatic updates about New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's BOW Program.

**To be placed on the BOW mailing list, complete this coupon and send to: NJF&W, 220 Blue Anchor Rd., Sicklerville, NJ 08081.**

### Outdoor Skills Workshop

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Hunter Education—Easier Access For All

March 13, 2001 marked a turning point for New Jersey hunter education with the implementation of a video based home study program replacing the traditional teacher taught classroom sessions. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's hunter education home study course is proving to be a huge success.

Students can now schedule themselves for a one-day hunter education course, from a list of prescheduled dates posted in all license agents and on the Division's web page at [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com). This innovative new course also allows for students to complete courses in basic shotgun, muzzleloading and bow & arrow all in one day if so desired.

To enroll in a course this fall you must first complete a homework assignment which requires viewing a video tape, review of a student manual and completion of a workbook. This free material can be obtained at most license agents and Division field offices. A complete list of locations where course material can be obtained is also on the Division's web page. After completing your homework assignment, course scheduling is as simple as a phone call to 1-877-2HUNTNJ informing us of the facility and date you plan to attend. Classes are currently conducted at eight centralized teaching facilities throughout New Jersey.

Your one day field session course includes an extensive field walk where you will be required to make decisions based on safe/unsafe and shoot/don't shoot hunting scenarios along with treestand safety, shot placement, blood trailing and wildlife identification. After successfully completing this segment, it's on to the range for the live fire portion of the course. Here you will be tested on the safe handling of firearms and proficient use of archery equipment. The day concludes with a written examination for each discipline you choose to complete.

Our Hunter Education program is continually recognized as one of the top programs in the country. This new program change ensures that hunting in New Jersey will continue to be one of the safest outdoor recreational activities. For further information please call our hunter education office at 877-2HUNTNJ. Remember: Pass on the tradition; invite a friend to enroll in the hunter program with you.

## Respect The Rights Of Others

**By Larry Herrighty, Chief –  
Bureau of Wildlife Management**

Each of us would prefer to have our own private place to hunt, fish or trap; yet that is not always possible. Because many of us will recreate on public land, with numerous seasons overlapping, those enjoying the wildlife resource will occasionally encounter others in the great outdoors. It is at these times that we must remember to **respect the rights of others!**

For example, when you observe a waterfowl hunter with a setup of decoys, give the waterfowler a wider berth (perhaps 500 yards) as you small game hunt in an adjacent field or while bass fishing the same water body. Any closer and ducks flying near will flare instead of coming into his decoys. Likewise, it is rude behavior to move in on a hunter with dogs working a field for pheasant or quail in hopes of getting a shot at a bird that may be flushed and missed. It is also unsportsmanlike to converge on a trout pool when you observe a fellow angler land a nice fish.

This November on some public land in New Jersey, bow hunters, small game hunters, duck hunters, anglers and hikers will share the same grounds. All can enjoy the outdoors if we show respect and share the land with others. On the salt marsh, clammers and waterfowl hunters often vie for the same location. For some turkey hunting spots, one car in a parking lot may be enough. One unspoken rule of good sporting behavior is: first come – first served! There will always be another place, another day, to enjoy the great outdoors peacefully. **Respect the rights of others;** it is what each of us expect in return.