



P E N N S Y L V A N I A GAME COMMISSION

**YOUR STATE
WILDLIFE AGENCY**

Managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.

DECEMBER 2021



LISTEN TO CALL OF THE OUTDOORS

episode 23 for a behind-the-scenes look into Pennsylvania's Hunters Sharing the Harvest program. This episode features the program's first Executive Director John Plowman and its current Executive Director Randy Ferguson.

They join host Matt Morrett and share the step-by-step process in which a hunter can donate a deer to the program at no cost to them and how it gets from the processor and back into the community. This program is a national leader and has grown into a huge success, thanks in large part to the generosity of Pennsylvania hunters.

Hunters Sharing the Harvest shows hunters in their best light and in a way they can be appreciated and respected by the public by sharing their harvest. Hunting and filling a tag is one thing, but taking the time and effort to ensure the meat gets into a program that provides a warm meal to someone in need is extraordinary. Visit www.sharedeer.org to learn more.

Call of the Outdoors is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's podcast and all episodes are available online at www.calloftheoutdoorspgc.com, Apple Podcasts, Google Play Store, iHeartRadio, Spotify and Stitcher.



For most of its 30 years, Pennsylvania's Hunters Sharing the Harvest Program was run by co-founder and former Executive Director John Plowman, pictured here. John retired in February, and we thank him for

his decades of dedicated service to the program, Pennsylvania hunters and our state. Randy Ferguson is now overseeing the program, which currently includes more than 100 processors, 70 coordinators in 56 counties. Visit www.sharedeer.org to learn more.



PENNSYLVANIA'S HUNTERS HAVED SHARED NEARLY TWO MILLION POUNDS OF VENISON SINCE 1991

Pennsylvania hunters are awesome! Since its inception in 1991, Pennsylvania's acclaimed Hunters Sharing the Harvest program has donated nearly **TWO MILLION pounds** of venison to hungry families across the state, thanks to the generosity of Pennsylvania hunters.

One deer can provide as many as 200 high protein, low fat servings. Last year, in 2020, the program set a new all-time record when **190,302** pounds of venison was distributed across the Commonwealth.

Hunters Sharing the Harvest is a hunter-inspired community service outreach that works through a network of approved deer processors to channel venison donations to local food banks, soup kitchens and hungry families in Pennsylvania's urban and rural communities.

Good luck to all Pennsylvania deer hunters who are taking to the woods to fill their tags and freezers this fall and winter. With many wildlife management units offering multiple deer tags, longer seasons and special hunting opportunities, there are plenty of chances for hunters to share their harvest.

Hunters can donate venison to the program at no cost, thanks to the many program sponsors. We encourage everyone – hunters and non-hunters – to join the Pennsylvania Game Commission in supporting this meaningful program that gives back to neighbors in need and to help set a new state record for venison donations this year.

Whether you donate venison or send a monetary donation, you are giving back and assisting fellow Pennsylvanians. Monetary donations go directly toward the cost of processing meat and storage.

Visit www.sharedeer.org or call 866-474-2141 to learn how to donate or volunteer, or to locate a processor, area coordinators and/or food banks near you. More information is also available on page 60 of the 2021-22 Hunting & Trapping Digest.

PURSUE SMALL GAME THIS WINTER



From squirrel, to pheasant, to rabbit, grouse and bobwhite quail, the small game hunting opportunities this winter are plentiful!

The statewide seasons for all these species run Dec. 13-24, 2021. Squirrel, pheasant, rabbit, and bobwhite quail opens again on Dec. 27, 2021 to Feb. 28, 2022.

*Please note, a pheasant permit is required for most pheasant hunters. More than 40,000 pheasants are scheduled to be stocked in the late season. 2021 Pheasant stocking information, as well as an interactive map is available online at www.pgc.pa.gov.

Small game hunters are required to wear a minimum of 250 square inches, on head, chest and back combined, visible 360 degrees, at all times. Visit www.pgc.pa.gov or page 7 in the 2021-22 Hunting & Trapping Digest for small game seasons and bag limits. Good luck. Have fun. Hunt safely.

REPORT BANDED WATERFOWL

Waterfowl hunters who harvest banded birds are reminded to report them online at www.reportband.gov or by phone at 1-800-327-BAND.

Each year tens of thousands of waterfowl are marked with leg bands to help estimate survival probability, populations and more.

To report a harvested bird, you will need the band number as well as where, when and how you recovered the bird. Thanks in advance for your help and for reporting bands!



LIFE JACKETS REQUIRED BY LAW

Attention waterfowl hunters: To help reduce fatalities due to cold-water immersion this winter, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission would like to remind all boaters to wear a life jacket while boating now through April 30, 2022.

An accidental fall into the water, especially during cold-water months, can hurt or even kill you. Protect yourself by ALWAYS wearing a life jacket when you are on, in, or near the water.

Visit www.pgc.pa.gov or pages 41-44 in the 2021-22 Hunting & Trapping Digest for more waterfowl hunting information. Good luck. Have fun. Hunt safely.

MAKE YOUR HARVEST COUNT

Thank you in advance to hunters who report their harvests. Hunters can report a harvest three ways: online at www.huntfishpa.com; by calling 1-800-838-4431; or by mailing a report card to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (Attn: Harvest Reports), 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9851.

Every time a hunter or trapper reports a harvest to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, wildlife management gets better in the Commonwealth. By reporting a harvest, hunters provide information that aid our wildlife biologist's decision-making process and tag allocations for not only next year, but for years to come. Visit www.pgc.pa.gov to learn more.

TAG IT. REPORT IT. YOUR HARVEST COUNTS!

ONLINE. BY PHONE. BY MAIL.



WWW.PGC.PA.GOV

SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS WHILE SUPPORTING WILDLIFE

From the Pennsylvania Game Commission family to yours, have a safe and wonderful holiday season. Enjoy some time in the great outdoors this winter.

As a way to say, "THANK YOU for being a Pennsylvania hunter," the Pennsylvania Game Commission has partnered with top brands within the outdoor industry to help make your hunt a success. Shop now at www.Interstate-Outdoors.com.

Each purchase supports the future of Pennsylvania wildlife and conservation. Plus, get a FREE custom Browning Knife with every purchase! Thanks in advance for your support.

Pennsylvania wildlife-related merchandise, including Pennsylvania Game News subscriptions, the 2022 Pennsylvania Wildlife Calendar, the 2021 Pennsylvania Big Game Records Book, "Penn's Woods Passages" by Bob Sopchik, campfire mugs, wooden wildlife boxes, patches and more can be purchased online at www.huntfish.pa.gov or by calling 717-787-4250.



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Pennsylvania Game Commission would like to remind hunters who harvest deer in a Disease Management Area (DMA) to once again submit their deer heads for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing. Not sure if you hunt in a CWD DMA? Visit www.pgc.pa.gov to view the boundaries.

The collected data helps the Game Commission better monitor and manage CWD in the state. Hunters can help reduce the risk of spreading CWD by properly disposing of high-risk deer parts. If you harvest a deer in a DMA, please dispose of them in household trash destined for a lined landfill or use a dumpster for disposal of high-risk parts available in the Established Area.

While leaving high-risk parts at the harvest site is legal, it is preferable to remove them from the landscape to limit contamination and exposure to deer and other wildlife. Taking

proper actions now may help protect deer and deer hunting into the future.

*Please note, since last hunting season (2020-21), DMA 2 has expanded into parts of Dauphin and Northumberland counties and DMA 5 was established in parts of Warren County. Locations of DMAP units, head collection bins, and high-risk parts v can be found online at www.pgc.pa.gov.



HELP PROTECT PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE

Wildlife crimes affect everyone. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Operation Game Thief program serves to protect wild birds and wild mammals and encourages those who have information related to wildlife crimes to report details as soon as possible.

To report information, call the Operation Game Thief's toll-free hotline – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year – at 1-888-PGC-8001 or fill out an online form at <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>.

Calls to the Operation Game Thief hotline are always answered by a secure recording device. Although it is beneficial to provide contact information in case game wardens have follow-up questions, callers may remain confidential. Learn more about the program here: <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>.



TUNE IN TO CALL OF THE OUTDOORS

Call of the Outdoors is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's podcast, hosted by Marketing Bureau Director Matt Morrett. New episodes featuring guests from within the agency, as well as hunters, public figures and more, are published each month.

The episodes feature unique and relevant issues, explaining Pennsylvania hunting and wildlife-related subjects and provides listeners with better ways to explore, promote and understand our natural resources. Call of the Outdoors episodes are available on www.callofthe-outdoorspgc.com, Apple Podcasts, Google Play Store, iHeartRadio, Spotify and Stitcher.



REMOTE LEARNING RESOURCES AVAILABLE: WILDLIFE ON WIFI

Wildlife on WiFi (WoW) is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's award-winning virtual wildlife education program and is available [by clicking here](#) or visiting www.pgc.pa.gov. The program's vision is to connect Pennsylvania residents to their state's wildlife agency from anywhere.

WoW provides wildlife enthusiasts – especially educators, students, parents and high-risk health communities – with home-based conservation and wildlife science education activities and lessons, virtual field trips and events, and social media games.



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PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION: YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY

HEADQUARTERS

2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
Phone: 717-787-4250

REGION OFFICES

NORTHWEST REGION: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren counties
1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323
Phone: 814-432-3187

SOUTHWEST REGION: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland counties
4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923 | Phone: 724-238-9523

NORTHCENTRAL REGION: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Union counties
1566 South Route 44 Highway, Post Office Box 5038, Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038 | Phone: 570-398-4744

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York counties
8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652
Phone: 814-643-1831

NORTHEAST REGION: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming counties
3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas, PA 18612-0220
Phone: 570-675-1143

SOUTHEAST REGION: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill counties
253 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605 | Phone: 610-926-3136

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