



## *Sportsmen's Report*

*Dear Sports Enthusiast,*

As you well know, Pennsylvania hunting and fishing generate a significant amount of tourism revenue and therefore are major players in our state's economy.

I would like to take this opportunity as your state representative to inform you of some of the happenings that are taking place in the Legislature dealing with the outdoors. This newsletter will help to inform you of things that have recently happened and issues that I will be working on in the future for the local sportsmen and sportswomen.

I realize the importance of safety not only in hunting but in everything that we take part in outdoors. We need to stress the importance of safety to our young people to make our woods and waters a safer place.

Good luck in all your sporting activities for the year, and I am hopeful that this newsletter is helpful and informative. If you have any questions about the information in this report, please contact my district office.

Sincerely,

*Lynda Schlegel Culver*

Rep. Lynda Schlegel Culver



## Castle Doctrine Now Law

Legislation that will further protect law-abiding citizens who use self-defense when faced with an imminent threat was signed into law on June 28.

Act 10 of 2011, known as the Castle Doctrine, clarifies state law so that legal protection is afforded to law-abiding citizens who use lethal force in protecting themselves, their families and their properties.

Under previous law, criminals have greater protection than law-abiding citizens who have faced civil lawsuits from intruders or their families. Residents who are protecting themselves, their families and their homes should not have to fear criminal prosecution or a civil lawsuit if using force against an intruder is warranted.

If an attacker or intruder intends to inflict bodily harm, this measure creates the presumption that deadly force may be used to protect oneself, family and others while in their home, an occupied vehicle or anywhere they have a right to be.

That presumption also applies if a person is trying to unlawfully remove an occupant against his or her will from a home or vehicle. The legislation is based on a similar bill enacted in Florida that addresses the use of deadly force in self-defense and others within an individual's residence or occupied vehicle.

The presumption would not apply if the person entering a home was another resident of the home; a law enforcement officer; or a parent, grandparent or other guardian removing a child from the home or vehicle. In addition, this new law would not apply if a person was using his or her home or vehicle to engage in criminal activity.

It is important to emphasize that this new law does not endorse unlawful aggression. It merely provides individuals with the necessary legal protection to respond to such aggression.

This proposal, which I co-sponsored, received strong bipartisan support when it passed the House and the Senate this session.

Gov. Tom Corbett signed into law House Bill 40, also known as the Castle Doctrine, in late June. The Castle Doctrine clarifies state law so that if an attacker or intruder intends to inflict bodily harm, deadly force may be used to protect oneself, family and others while in their home or an occupied vehicle. That presumption also applies if a person is trying to unlawfully remove an occupant, against his or her will from a home or vehicle. Pictured with us are (front row, far left): Rep. Kurt Masser; (back row): Sen. Richard Alloway; John Hohenwarter, the National Rifle Association's state liaison; Majority Leader Mike Turzai; and Rep. Scott Perry, sponsor of the Castle Doctrine.





## Drunken Boaters to Receive Similar Penalties as Driving While Intoxicated

Under a new law enacted this summer, Act 33 of 2011 increases the legal penalty for killing someone while operating a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Previously, the penalties for vehicular homicide while driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol were stricter than those for homicide while operating a watercraft under the influence. The latter crime sets a mandatory minimum of three years, compared to 10 years for homicide while driving under the influence.

The new law changes the penalty for homicide by watercraft while under the influence from a third-degree felony to a second-degree felony, bringing it in line with the penalty for vehicular homicide while driving under the influence.

In addition, because the grading of the offense would increase under the legislation, the maximum penalty would increase from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$25,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 10 years. Also, the new law establishes a consecutive three-year term of imprisonment for each victim whose death is a result of drunken boating.

No matter whether someone is operating a vehicle or a boat while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, the laws and penalties will be the same.

## Safety Tips for this Hunting Season

The fall hunting season is right around the corner, which means our fields and forests will be filled with thousands of Pennsylvania's hunters. In order to have a safe and incident free season, all hunters should follow basic safety tips to prevent hunting-related injuries.

Each year, hundreds of injuries occur, some fatal, because of avoidable accidents caused by hazardous hunting practices.

To cut down and prevent these incidents from happening, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has provided basic safety tips that all hunters should follow:

- Positively identify the target – never shoot at sounds or movement.
- Stay in the zone – never shoot at game moving between you and someone else.
- Be seen – wear the mandated amount of fluorescent orange clothing.
- Plan your hunt, then hunt your plan – let someone know where you are hunting and when you will return.
- Buckle up – wear a fall resistant restraint device when hunting from an elevated stand.
- Dress for success – dress in layers of clothing that repels moisture, insulates and blocks wind or rain.
- Keep fit – hunting is hard work and requires rigorous physical activity; get a check up and follow doctor's advice.
- Do your homework – scout hunting areas and learn the habits of the game you hunt.
- Stay found – learn how to use a map and compass or a GPS unit.
- Be prepared – carry a basic survival kit and know how to use it.

Safe hunting is no accident! Follow all firearm-handling and hunting rules for a safe and enjoyable hunting season.

For more information on hunting safety including firearm, tree stand and turkey hunting, visit the Pennsylvania Game Commission website at [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us).

## Game Code Violations, Poaching Law Penalties Increase

Under Act 54 of 2010, fines and penalties for a number of Game and Wildlife Code violations significantly increased.

Fines for illegally killing game or wildlife, knowingly, intentionally or recklessly attempting, aiding, abetting, or conspiring in the killing of wildlife, illegally selling game or animal parts, and trespassing while hunting are all also increased. Fines and jail time for violations increase, as does the duration of suspensions, denials and revocations of licenses.

## New Law Addresses Powers of Game Commission Officers

A new law, Act 64 of 2010, amends the Game and Wildlife Code to clarify the powers and duties of Game Commission enforcement officers conducting stops, searches, inspections, and demands for identification.

Under the law now in effect, officers may stop any means of transportation under reasonable suspicion or at road checkpoints, and must state the purpose of the stop. A badge or other official identification must be displayed at all times.

Officers may conduct warrantless searches of people, clothing, bags or containers, and any means of transportation or attachments with probable cause, with consent, due to exigent circumstances or by other established exceptions to warrant requirements.

Where there is evidence of hunting, officers are authorized to conduct administrative inspections of persons, licenses/permits, firearms, ammunition, game, game bags, tags, clothing, decoys, tree stands, coolers/containers and any means of transportation used as a blind or hunting location, and must state the purpose of the inspection.

An officer may only demand and secure identification from a person who is the subject of an official investigation or investigative detention, supported by reasonable suspicion of a violation of the Game Code.

Be aware of your rights when you are in the field, and obey Game Commission guidelines at all times, and your hunting experience will continue to be excellent.

Pennsylvania Game Commission - [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us)

Fish and Boat Commission - [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us)

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)



SPORTSMEN'S  
web links

# Adopted 2011-12 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

Information also available at my district office

These are the seasons and bag limits for hunting and trapping from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. Licenses for 2011-12 went on sale beginning June 13, 2011.

**SQUIRRELS (Combined Species): Special season for eligible junior hunters, with or without required license, and mentored youth** – Oct. 8-14 (6 daily, 12 in possession limit after first day).

**SQUIRRELS (Combined Species):** Oct. 15-Nov. 26; Dec. 12-23 and Dec. 26-Feb. 25 (6 daily, 12 possession).

**RUFFED GROUSE:** Oct. 15-Nov. 26, Dec. 12-23 and Dec. 26-Jan. 28 (2 daily, 4 possession).

**RABBIT (Cottontail) Special season for eligible junior hunters, with or without required license:** Oct. 8-15 (4 daily, 8 possession).

**RABBIT (Cottontail):** Oct. 22-Nov. 26, Dec. 12-23 and Dec. 26-Feb. 25 (4 daily, 8 possession).

**PHEASANT: Special season for eligible junior hunters, with or without required license** – Oct. 8-15 (2 daily, 4 in possession). Male pheasants only in WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A and 5B. Male and female pheasants may be taken in all other WMUs. There is no open season for the taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas in any WMU.

**PHEASANT: Male only in WMUs 2A, 2B, 2C, 4C, 4E, 5A and 5B** – Oct. 22-Nov. 26. **Male and female may be taken in all other WMUs** – Oct. 22-Nov. 26, Dec. 12-23 and Dec. 26-Feb. 4 (2 daily, 4 in possession). There is no open season for the taking of pheasants in any Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas in any WMU.

**BOBWHITE QUAIL:** Oct. 22-Nov. 26 (4 daily, 8 possession). (Closed in WMUs 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D.)

**HARES (SNOWSHOE RABBITS) OR VARYING HARES:** Dec. 26–Dec. 31 (1 daily, 2 possession).

**WOODCHUCKS (GROUNDHOGS):** No closed season, except on Sundays, and during the antlered and antlerless deer seasons. No limit.

**PORCUPINES:** Sept. 1-March 31 (6 daily, 12 possession). Closed during the regular two-week firearms deer season.

**CROWS:** July 1-April 8, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only. No limit.

**STARLINGS AND ENGLISH SPARROWS:** No closed season, except during the antlered and antlerless deer season. No limit.

**WILD TURKEY (Male or Female): Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B and 2A (Shotgun and bow and arrow)** – Oct. 29-Nov. 12 and Nov. 24-26; **WMU 2B (Shotgun and bow and arrow)** – Oct. 29-Nov. 18 and Nov. 24-26; **WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E, 4A, 4B and 4D** – Oct. 29-Nov. 12 and Nov. 24-26; **WMUs 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C and 4E** – Oct. 29-Nov. 18 and Nov. 24-26; **WMU 5A** – Nov. 1-3; **WMUs 5B, 5C and 5D** – CLOSED TO FALL TURKEY HUNTING.

**SPRING GOBBLER (Bearded bird only): Special season for eligible junior hunters, with required license, and mentored youth** – April 21, 2012. Only 1 spring gobbler may be taken during this hunt.

**SPRING GOBBLER (Bearded bird only):** April 28-May 31, 2012. Daily limit 1, season limit 2. (Second spring gobbler may be only taken by persons who possess a valid special wild turkey license.) From April 28-May 12, legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until noon; from May 14-31, legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

**BLACK BEAR (Statewide) Bow and Arrow only:** Nov. 14-18. Only 1 bear may be taken during the license year.

**BLACK BEAR (Statewide):** Nov. 19, and Nov. 21-23. Only 1 bear may be taken during the license year.

**BLACK BEAR (WMUs 3D, 4C, 4D, 4E, 5B and 5C):** Nov. 30-Dec. 3. Only 1 bear may be taken during the license year.

**BLACK BEAR (Designated Areas):** Nov. 28-Dec. 3. Only 1 bear may be taken during the license year.

- WMUs 3A and 3C;

- Portions of WMU 3B, east of Rt. 14 from Troy to Canton, east of Rt. 154 from Canton to Rt. 220 at Laporte and east of Rt. 42 from Laporte to Rt. 118 and that portion of 4E, East of Rt. 42; and

- Portions of WMUs 2G in Lycoming and Clinton counties and 3B in Lycoming County that lie north of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River from the Rt. 405 Bridge, west to Rt. 15 at Williamsport, Rt. 15 to Rt. 220, and north of Rt. 220 to the Mill Hall exit, north of SR 2015 to Rt. 150; east of Rt. 150 to Lusk Run Rd. and south of Lusk Run Rd. to Rt. 120, Rt. 120 to Veterans Street Bridge to SR 1001; east of SR 1001 to Croak Hollow Rd., south of Croak Hollow Rd. to Rt. 664 (at Swissdale), south of Rt. 664 to Little Plum Rd. (the intersection of SR 1003), south of SR 1003 to SR 1006, south of SR 1006 to Sulphur Run Rd., south of Sulphur Run Rd. to Rt. 44, east of Rt. 44 to Rt. 973, south of Rt. 973 to Rt. 87, west of Rt. 87 to Rt. 864, south of Rt. 864 to Rt. 220 and west of Rt. 220 to Rt. 405 and west of Rt. 405 to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

**ELK (Antlered or Antlerless):** Oct. 31-Nov. 5. Only one elk may be taken during the license year.

**ELK, EXTENDED (Antlered and Antlerless):** Nov. 7-12. Only one elk may be taken during the license year. Eligible elk license recipients who haven't harvested an elk by Nov. 6, in designated areas.

**Elk, Special Conservation Tag (Antlered or Antlerless):** Sept. 1-Nov. 5. One elk tag for one antlered or antlerless elk was auctioned at the Safari Club International Banquet.

**DEER, ARCHERY (Antlerless Only) WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D:** Sept. 17-30, and Nov. 14-26. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**DEER, ARCHERY (Antlered and Antlerless) WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D:** Oct. 1-Nov. 12 and Dec. 26-Jan. 28. One antlered deer per hunting license year. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**DEER, ARCHERY (Antlered and Antlerless) Statewide:** Oct. 1-Nov. 12 and Dec. 26-Jan. 16. One antlered deer per hunting license year. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**DEER (Antlered and Antlerless) WMUs 1A, 1B, 2B, 3A, 3D, 4A, 4C, 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D:** Nov. 28-Dec. 10. One antlered deer per hunting license year. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**DEER (Antlered Only) WMUs 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3B, 3C, 4B, 4D and 4E:** Nov. 28-Dec. 2. One antlered deer per hunting license year. (Holders of valid DMAP antlerless deer permits may harvest antlerless deer on DMAP properties during this period.)

**DEER (Antlered and Antlerless) WMUs 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3B, 3C, 4B, 4D and 4E:** Dec. 3-10. One antlered deer per hunting license year. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**DEER, ANTLERLESS (Statewide):** Oct. 20-22. Junior and Senior License Holders, Disabled Person Permit (to use a vehicle) Holders, and Pennsylvania residents serving on active duty in U.S. Armed Services or in the U.S. Coast Guard only, with required antlerless license. Also included are persons who have reached or will reach their 65th birthday in the year of the application for a license and hold a valid adult license, or qualify for license and fee exemptions under section 2706. One antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**DEER, ANTLERLESS MUZZLELOADER (Statewide):** Oct. 15-22. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**DEER, ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS FLINTLOCK (Statewide):** Dec. 26-Jan. 16. One antlered deer per hunting license year, or one antlerless deer and an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**DEER, ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS FLINTLOCK (WMUs 2B, 5C, 5D):** Dec. 26-Jan. 28. One antlered deer per hunting license year, or one antlerless deer and an additional antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**DEER, Antlerless (WMUs 2B, 5C and 5D):** Dec. 26-Jan. 28. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

**DEER, ANTLERLESS (Military Bases):** Hunting permitted on days established by the U.S. Department of the Army at Letterkenny Army Depot, Franklin County; New Cumberland Army Depot, York County; and Fort Detrick, Raven Rock Site, Adams County. An antlerless deer with each required antlerless license.

#### ADOPTED 2011-12 FURBEARER HUNTING SEASONS

COYOTES: No closed season. Unlimited. Outside of any big game season (deer, bear, elk and turkey), coyotes may be taken with a hunting license or a furtaker license, and without wearing orange. During any big game season, coyotes may be taken while lawfully hunting big game or with a furtaker's license.

RACCOON and FOXES: Oct. 22-Feb. 18, unlimited.

OPOSSUM, SKUNKS & WEASELS: No closed season, except Sundays. No limits.

BOBCAT (WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4D and 4E): Jan. 17-Feb. 7. One bobcat per license year, but all licensed furtakers may obtain one permit.

#### ADOPTED 2011-12 TRAPPING SEASONS

MINK and MUSKRAT: Nov. 19-Jan. 8. Unlimited.

COYOTE, FOXES, OPOSSUM, RACCOON, SKUNKS and WEASELS: Oct. 23-Feb. 19. No limit.

COYOTE and FOXES (Statewide) Cable Restraints: Dec. 26-Feb. 19. No limit. Participants must pass cable restraint certification course.

BEAVER (Statewide): Dec. 26-March 31 (Limits vary depending on WMU).

BOBCAT (WMUs 2A, 2C, 2E, 2F, 2G, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4D and 4E): Dec. 17-Jan. 8. One bobcat per license year, and all licensed furtakers may obtain one permit.

FISHER (WMUs 2C, 2D, 2E and 2F): Dec. 17-22. One fisher per license year, and all licensed furtakers may obtain one permit.

#### ADOPTED 2011-12 FALCONRY SEASONS

SQUIRRELS (combined), BOBWHITE QUAIL, RUFFED GROUSE, COTTONTAIL RABBITS, SNOWSHOE OR VARYING HARE, RINGNECK PHEASANT (Male or Female combined): Sept. 1-March 31. Daily and Field Possession limits vary. (Migratory game bird seasons and bag limits for falconers will be set in accordance with federal regulations in August.)

## Mentored Youth Hunting Legislation Signed Into Law



On June 24, legislation creating a mentored youth hunting program was signed into law as Act 9 of 2011.

The law permits the Pennsylvania Game Commission to enact regulations for a Mentored Youth Hunting Program (MYHP). This includes allowing the transfer of certain tags or permits from a licensed mentor hunter to a youth hunter participating in the MYHP.

The law limits young hunters to one antlerless deer license in each license year. Also, the law reduces the age requirement for an individual to receive a falconry permit was reduced from 16 to 12 years of age.

The MYHP was created in 2006 to expand youth hunting opportunities and promote hunting safety for hunters under the age of 12. The goal is to instill a love of the outdoors, to increase interest in hunting and to provide hunting experience at an early age.

## Sign Up or Tell a Friend About My Sportsmen's Mailing List

If you are interested in receiving the sportsmen's newsletter, please provide your name and mailing address in the space provided below, and return this card in the mail. Your name will be added to the mailing list and you will receive any future mailings that will provide you with an update on issues related to outdoor activities.

Thank you for your interest!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_



### STATE REPRESENTATIVE LYNDA SCHLEGEL CULVER

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### District Office Here to Serve You

My district office at 106 Arch St. in Sunbury offers constituents assistance with state-related concerns and issues.

The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. and by appointment.

Services that my staff and I can assist with include:

- Information about legislation.
- Driver's license and vehicle registration applications and renewals.
- Assistance with PennDOT paperwork (lost cards, changes, corrections, special registration plates, vanity plates, and temporary placards for disabled persons).
- PACE and PACENET applications for seniors.
- Property Tax and Rent Rebate applications.
- Voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications.
- State tax forms.
- Student aid applications.
- Referrals to agencies to resolve state-related matters.

Please also contact me through my legislative website at [LyndaCulver.com](http://LyndaCulver.com) and through Facebook at [Facebook.com/RepCulver](https://Facebook.com/RepCulver).

