

State News You Can Use!

ILLINOIS

WINGSHOOTING CLINIC FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN AT THE JIM EDGAR PANTHER CREEK SFWA ON JUNE 10-11

Opportunity to Learn Shotgun Shooting Safety and Skills

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Illinois Conservation Foundation are sponsoring a wingshooting clinic for youth, young adults, and women on Saturday, June 10 and Sunday, June 11 at the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area (JEPC) near Chandlerville, IL in Cass County.

The JEPC Youth/Women's Wingshooting Clinic is an introductory clinic designed for boys and girls ages 10-15, young adults ages 16-18 and women of all ages interested in learning to shoot or improving their ability to shoot a shotgun at moving targets. The youth/women's clinic is provided at no cost to participants.

Youth/Women's wingshooting clinics are about learning to safely shoot a shotgun at moving targets with reasonable reliability. The clinic starts with a shotgun safety presentation at 10:00 a.m., followed by a short small group hands-on shotgun orientation session with each group's wingshooting instructor. The afternoon is spent in the field shooting clay targets. Shotguns and shotshells are provided. Not only do the participants learn to safely handle and shoot a shotgun, but they learn that being skilled at shooting clay targets is a lot of fun.

This clinic is taught by instructors certified by the IDNR and the National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA). The participant-to-instructor ratio is four to one. Typically, participants are grouped with others of similar shooting skill ability.

Advanced registration is required. Registration forms for the JEPC Wingshooting Clinic can be accessed at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/wingshooting/Pages/default.aspx>. Once the Wingshooting Website is accessed, click on the "Calendar" button; then click on the date to access the registration forms. Follow the instructions on the forms.

The shooting range at Algonac State Park in St. Clair County will be closed for improvements today through Tuesday, July 4.

Range improvements will include accessible sidewalks connecting features throughout the site, berm modifications and shooting structures to mitigate sound, as well as benches and other amenities.

These improvements are made possible, in part, through a federal grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Pittman-Robertson funding) with assistance from the National Rifle Association Public Range Grant Program.

Algonac State Park is located at 8732 River Road in Marine City, Michigan.

Search for other shooting ranges around the state and learn more about Department of Natural Resources shooting ranges at michigan.gov/shootingranges.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?



Dozens of snow geese poached in April north of Winston.

MINNESOTA

DNR SEEKS INPUT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO SHARP-TAILED GROUSE HUNTING

Sharp-tailed grouse hunting in the east-central part of the state would begin about a month later under a proposal from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

"We would limit early-season fall hunting in an area already open to sharp-tailed grouse hunting where habitat changes have significantly reduced their numbers," said Dave Olfelt, DNR northeast region manager. "The change aims to boost survival of young-of-the-year birds and adult hens with broods, which could provide a benefit to the overall population."

Fall sharp-tailed grouse hunting is allowed in the northern third of the state. If approved for 2017, the sharp-tailed grouse season in a part of east-central Minnesota and east of a line from Floodwood to the northern border would be open Saturday, Oct. 14, through Thursday, Nov. 30. In the rest of the open hunting zone, the season would run from Saturday, Sept. 16, through Nov. 30. Sharptail-GrouseMap

People who want to provide input on the proposal can attend meetings in early May and give input through Thursday, June 1, online or via mail.

To get a written copy of the input survey, contact the DNR Information Center by telephone at 888-646-6367 or email jason.abraham@state.mn.us. Written comments may be emailed, or mailed to Sharp-Tailed Grouse Comments, DNR Section of

Wildlife, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155-4007.

Sharp-tailed grouse are somewhat larger than ruffed grouse and live in open grassy or brushy areas. The once-thriving population has declined sharply in the last 50 years due to loss of suitable habitat.

During spring mating, the males try to attract females by making coos and clucks, stomping their feet and clicking their tail feathers in a courtship dance at specific locations called leks.

The DNR maintains blinds that are available to the public in areas where the public can watch sharp-tailed grouse courtship. More information on sharp-tailed grouse viewing blinds is available on the sharp-tailed grouse webpage.

MONTANA

HELP NEEDED IN CASE INVOLVING DOZENS OF POACHED SNOW GEESE

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is asking the public for help with a recent case involving 37 dead snow geese found north of Winston.

FWP wardens are investigating after receiving a call last week about the geese. The birds were discovered on land off Highway 12. They had clearly been shot with a shotgun or rifle likely between Apr. 21 and Apr. 23.

The geese may have been dumped on the property in the middle of the night.

Anyone with information is asked to call local warden Josh Leonard at 406-439-0451, or 800-TIP-MONT. Callers may remain anonymous.

The waterfowl season ended in January. The limit for snow geese during the waterfowl season is 20.

UPLAND GAME BIRD COUNCIL TO MEET IN HELENA

An advisory council who presented their recommendations on a long-range strategic plan for FWP's Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program in 2012 will meet in Helena May 8 - 9 to participate with program planning efforts for the 2017 field season. The meeting will be held at FWP's Montana WILD, 2668 Broadwater Avenue Helena, Montana, beginning Monday at 8:00 a.m.

The public is invited to attend the meeting and may provide comments to the council during the time identified on the agenda. Click Upland Game Bird Council for meeting details.

For more information, contact Debbie Hohler at: 406-444-5674, or by e-mail: dhohler@mt.gov.

FWP IMPLEMENTS NEW PERMITTING PROCESS FOR TRAINING DOGS IN THE OPEN FIELD

A permitting system is now available through Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to allow people to train hunting dogs in open fields and in proximity to wild nesting birds.

Montana law prohibits the training of hunting dogs within one mile of nesting birds, wildlife management areas or game preserve without a permit. However, until now no clear permitting process was in place.

"Hopefully this permitting process will provide clarity for people looking to train their bird dogs around wild birds," said Ken McDonald, FWP wildlife division administrator.

In recent years, dog trainers have come to Montana to train their hunting dogs in the open field. These trainers are often working with dozens of dogs and are in the field at a time that can be problematic for gamebirds -

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