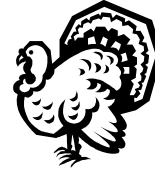


**From the Plymouth Service Center
The Woodchucks**



**To
Sheboygan County Conservation Association
November, 2011**

From the Front Line: Cheryl

2012 Park Stickers available and make great Christmas gifts. Same price as last year: \$25 Regular, \$10 for a Senior Citizen (65 yrs), \$12.50 for a second vehicle in the same family.

The Plymouth Service Center hours will be changing as of Tuesday January 3, 2012. The new hours open to the public will be Monday through Friday 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

From Fish Management: Travis

- The Department of Health Services (DHS) is conducting an online survey of male anglers aged 50 and older related to fishing and fish consumption. The online survey can be accessed directly at <https://study.uwsc.wisc.edu/anglers/> or by going to the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov/fish (see the tab on the right). Over the next 3 years DHS and DNR hope to hear from 5,000 Wisconsin fishermen. Responses will help us better understand fishing and fish consumption, and improve effectiveness of our outreach on healthy fish eating practices.

DHS will begin another phase of this study next spring. From the online participants and other recruitment methods, DHS will be looking for volunteers to provide blood and hair samples to measure levels of nutrients and contaminants commonly found in fish. Again, the target population for this study will be male anglers aged 50 and older but will focus on those who live in one of the AOC counties (Douglas, Marinette, Brown, Sheboygan, Milwaukee).

Contact Pamela Imm, the Study Manager, at (608) 267-3565 or Pamela.Imm@dhs.wisconsin.gov for more information.

- **Visit the Fisheries Webpage for hot topics and upcoming events:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/>

From LE: Joe, Mark, and Mike

2011 Deer Season Synopsis from Chief Warden Randy Stark:

- There were seven (7) firearm related hunting incidents with NO FATALITIES. This is the second consecutive year without a fatality, a milestone in Wisconsin hunting history. The incident rate for the 2011 deer gun season was 1.12 incidents per 100,000 hunters. 3 incidents involved hunters in the same party injuring each other during deer drives. 1 incident involved a hunter from one hunting party injuring a hunter in a different hunting party (the hunters were not hunting together). 3 incidents were self-inflicted (hunter accidentally shot himself).
- The number of people purchasing Mentored Hunting Licenses increased by 12% overall.
- 56,458 females bought deer hunting licenses. Of all hunters age 10 who purchased mentored hunting licenses, nearly one quarter (22.56%) were female.
- The vast majority of hunters contacted in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Zone expressed satisfaction with the new EAB rules that allowed one buck to be harvested without first harvesting an antlerless deer for each person's gun and archery buck deer carcass tag.
- In general, field staff reported hunters had a positive outlook on their deer hunt. Some hunters, predominantly in the north, expressed the view that certain deer management units should have been more conservatively managed by closing the unit to antlerless harvest instead of having antlerless quotas and \$2 Herd Control antlerless permits available.
- Hunter methods continue to evolve. Wardens report more hunters are hunting from fixed locations, and fewer deer drives are taking place. Wardens reported high pressure opening weekend. As the years go by, wardens continue to report reduced hunting pressure the remainder of the season after opening weekend.
- Law-abiding hunters and citizens continue to demonstrate a low tolerance for violations. There were 594 calls for service during the season, similar to prior years.
- There were 1,009 arrests, down 22% from 2010. Changes in firearm casing laws and a reduction in the number of baiting violations largely account for this change.
- Baiting and feeding complaints and arrests were down 15% from 2010. This is the second year in a row the number of baiting violations has dropped.
- Complaints and arrests for hunting and shooting from roadways increased compared to previous years.
- Wardens gave 1,792 verbal warning for violations encountered, that's one warning for every 1.75 arrests, or nearly a 2:1 ratio.
- Wardens were involved in 22 search and rescue situations during the deer gun season.
- As time permitted, and as a customer service, wardens registered 665 deer in the field. Daily deer registrations in the field generally reflect hunting pressure on a daily basis.
- While conflict between hunters was present, wardens reported fewer conflicts between hunters and fewer hunter harassment complaints this year, as compared to prior years. These conflicts tend to fall into three main areas: conflict between neighboring landowners, conflict between hunters on public lands, and conflict occurring between hunters at the property lines between public and private properties. Increased parcelization of land, which tends to bring more hunters in closer proximity to each others' hunting activities, continues to be reported as an underlying contributing factor to conflict.
- Wardens track the number of buildings struck by projectiles as reported to them directly or through other law enforcement agencies. In 2011, 12 buildings and one vehicle were reported to be struck. The number in 2010 was also 13, all of which were buildings.
- Archery deer season closes January 8, 2012 in Unit 69 and January 31, 2012 in Unit 77M.
- Duck season closed on December 4th, and goose hunting in the southern portion of the exterior goose season closed December 14th.

- Pheasant season closes December 31st.
- Those who still possess a fall turkey tag may hunt turkey until December 31st; the season has been extended this year.
- Squirrel season closes January 31st.
- Rabbit season closes February 29th.

From Wildlife: Dale, Missy, Dan, Ed, Kelly, and Dustin

- **An update on the 9-day deer gun season:** Here's a comparison of the deer registration totals for the 9-day deer gun seasons from 2010 and 2011. These numbers are obtained by calling all deer registration stations on the Tuesday after the close of the 9-day deer gun season. A final picture of the deer harvest for 2011-2012 will be available a few weeks after all deer hunting seasons close on January 31, 2012 (end of Archery Deer Season in Metro Units).

Sheboygan County Call-in Deer Registration Totals
(Compared at the end of the 9-day deer gun season of each year)

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Antlered:	523	499	-24	-5%
Antlerless:	<u>601</u>	<u>792</u>	<u>191</u>	32%
Total:	1124	1291	167	15%

Statewide Call-in Deer Registration Totals
(Compared at the end of the 9-day deer gun season of each year)

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Antlered:	102181	102837	656	.6%
Antlerless:	<u>116160</u>	<u>123423</u>	<u>7263</u>	6%
Total:	218341	226260	7919	3.6%

There were 620,534 gun licenses sold through the end of the 9-day season, compared to 621,094 in 2010. This year, 95% were Wisconsin residents, 79,019 (13%) were under the age of 18, 56,458 (9.1%) were female, and 57,285 (9.2%) were seniors.

- The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced today that it is **removing the gray wolf from Endangered Species Act protection**. The Department of Natural Resources will begin implementing Wisconsin's Wolf Management plan by Feb. 1, 2012. Today's action is only the first step in the process. Once wolves are delisted, the DNR will be able to do depredation controls, via trapping and permits to landowners in depredation areas.

More information about the gray wolf in Wisconsin and a copy of the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan are available on the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov.