



TWRA NEWS

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DATE: February 26, 2008

REGISTER TO WIN A FREE, GUIDED YOUTH TURKEY HUNT

HUNTERS HELP PROTECT WILD TURKEY RESOURCE

SPECIAL YOUTH ONLY TURKEY HUNT SCHEDULED MARCH 22 & 23

PRESEASON TURKEY CALLING PROHIBITED ON WMA'S

REGISTER TO WIN A FREE, GUIDED YOUTH TURKEY HUNT

If you are between the ages of 10-15, hunter education certified and have never harvested a turkey, you are eligible to apply for a hunt of a lifetime for opening day of the Tennessee Youth Turkey Season on March 22, 2008, in Middle Tennessee. Music City Quail Unlimited, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and Dean Martin have graciously donated a fully guided hunt which will be filmed.

The winning hunter will receive a fabulous prize package from a variety of sponsors. The prize package includes: turkey hunting vest, camouflage apparel, calls and more. The winning hunter will be notified by March 15th and will be responsible for providing the appropriate Tennessee hunting license.

If you have access to the Internet, go to the TWRA web page www.tnwildlife.org, print off the application, fill it out and mail to the address below. If you don't have access to the Internet, simply write a letter including the name, address, age, and phone number of the youth and mail it to TWRA, Youth Turkey Hunt Giveaway, P.O. Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204. . All applications must be received by March 12th.

HUNTERS HELP PROTECT WILD TURKEY RESOURCE

Hunters play a vital role in managing and protecting the natural resources of the state. Not only do hunters provide the funding for wildlife management through the purchase of hunting licenses and equipment, but they also keep a watchful eye on poaching activities that are detrimental to wildlife. One common poaching problem across the state is hunting wild turkeys over corn or other types of bait.

As hunters are scouting prior to and during the hunting season, they should be on the lookout for baited areas or even individuals poaching before the season opens. Be on the lookout for blinds built before the season. Blinds may be constructed from brush, logs, or other natural materials. Inspect the inside of the blind to see if the leaves are scraped away or packed down. This may be an indication that someone is hunting before the season opens.

If you find something that looks suspicious, report it to the TWRA. To report poaching activities in West Tennessee, call 1-800-831-1173 from 7:00 a.m. to midnight seven days a week.

In addition to a reward offered by the TWRA, the Tennessee State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation also offers a reward of up to \$300 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of poachers. Information received is kept in the strictest confidence.

SPECIAL YOUTH-ONLY TURKEY HUNT SCHEDULED MARCH 22 & 23

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) would like to remind all young hunters that Tennessee's special statewide youth-only turkey hunt is the fourth weekend of March, before the regular season. This year, the hunt dates will be March 22 & 23, 2008.

This hunt is for young hunters 6 through 16 years of age only. Youths must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult (age 21 or over), who is not required to have a license, but must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device.

The bag limit for this hunt will be one bearded turkey. Legal hunting equipment are shotguns and muzzleloading shotguns, 28 gauge or larger and ammunition loaded with No. 4 shot or smaller. Long bows, compound bows, and crossbows using legal hunting arrows with broadheads may also be used.

All young hunters 10 through 16 must process proof of Hunter Education (if applicable) and hunters 13 through 16 must process the appropriate licenses and WMA permit. WMAs are not open unless listed as open with the statewide seasons.

A complete list of all rules and regulations covering the hunting of wild turkeys may be found in the *Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide* or on line at www.tnwildlife.org.

PRESEASON TURKEY CALLING PROHIBITED ON WMA'S

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) would like to remind hunters that calling wild turkeys from March 1 to the opening day of spring turkey hunts on wildlife management areas (WMAs) is prohibited.

Hunters are not allowed to call or attempt to call wild turkeys using any sound that mimics those made by a wild turkey. Locator calls (crow calls, owl calls, etc.) may be used.

The reason for this regulation is to minimize the possibility of making gobblers call-shy before the hunting season opens.

Remember that this regulation only applies to wildlife management areas, not to private lands.

For all the rules and regulations for the 2008 turkey season, pick up a copy of the *Tennessee Hunting & Trapping Guide* available at all TWRA offices or outlets that sell hunting and fishing licenses. This information can also be found at the TWRA website www.tnwildlife.org.

