



TWRA NEWS

CONTACT: Dave Gabbard
200 Lowell Thomas Drive
Jackson, TN 38301
1-731-423-5724
1-800-372-3928
1-731-423-6483 (fax)
E-Mail: Dave.Gabbard@state.tn.us
Hearing Impaired TDD # 615-781-6691
Website at: www.tnwildlife.org

“STOP POACHING” 1-800-831-1173

DATE: March 18, 2008

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HUNT – TRY A WMA
COLD WATER A DANGER EVEN IN WARM WEATHER
ABOUT 1 IN 4 TURKEY HUNTERS BAGGED A BIRD IN 2007
THREE TEAM CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT SECOND ANNUAL
STATE NASP EVENT

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO TURKEY HUNT – TRY A WMA

With the opening day of the 2008 Spring Turkey Season fast approaching, hunters looking for a place to hunt in Tennessee are fortunate to have access to thousands of acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) available to them. Spread across the state, there are WMAs open with the statewide turkey season and many of them are within a short distance of Tennessee hunters.

“For years, hunters have read in major outdoor publications that public hunting lands are over crowded and should be avoided if a hunter wanted a quality hunt,” stated Dave Gabbard, TWRA Region I Information Coordinator. “This is not the case for the majority of lands available for public hunting. Some of our lands receive very little hunting pressure throughout the season and can offer Tennessee hunters an excellent opportunity for a good day afield.”

A complete listing of Tennessee Wildlife Management Areas open with the statewide turkey season and those WMAs which have non-quota hunts scheduled, plus all the rules and regulations that apply to them can be found in the 2007 Tennessee Hunting and

Trapping Guide available at all TWRA offices or wherever hunting licenses are sold. Hunters can also go on line at www.tnwildlife.org.

COLD WATER A DANGER EVEN IN WARM WEATHER

With the warmer weather starting to ease its way into the area, the thought of spring fishing is sure to cure many cases of cabin fever. Boaters should not forget to use caution while on the water during warm days, reminds the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

Even with warming air temperatures, it will take some time for the water to warm up. Tennessee's waters are still cold, with many reservoirs reporting surface temperatures in the low 40s.

"This is a very deceiving time of the year that can result in hypothermia if you fail to be careful while on the water," notes Brian Thompson, TWRA Region I Boating Safety Coordinator. "You need many consecutive nights of warm temperatures before waters become substantially warmer."

The most frequently reported form of boating accident in Tennessee and across America are boaters falling from their vessels or being tossed from capsizing boats. Studies show that as many as one-third of those who drown after falling overboard do so as a result of hypothermia, Thompson notes.

By taking proper precautions, those who fall overboard can live to file their own accident report forms.

"There is something called the 50-50 law that applies this time of year that boaters should keep in mind," says Thompson. "If you fall from a boat into water that is 50 degrees, and you stay in that water for 50 minutes, you have a 50-50 chance of surviving."

While on the water, make sure you and all passengers are wearing a life jacket, and be careful with the way you maneuver your vessel and move about in it.

"Wear a life jacket at all times," Thompson emphasizes. "In addition to keeping you afloat, it insulates and keeps the vital areas of your body warm."

ABOUT 1 IN 4 TURKEY HUNTERS BAGGED A BIRD IN 2007

Tennessee's flourishing wild turkey population has produced a rise in the number of wild turkey hunters and an increasing annual harvest, according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

In the past decade, the number of turkey hunters has risen from under 40,000 to over 80,000, while the annual spring wild turkey harvest has grown from 14,000 to over 30,000.

The spring bag limit for wild turkey has stood at four bearded birds for several years now. Originally, part of that 4-bird bag limit would have had to come from a wildlife management area. The past couple of years, hunters have been allowed to harvest the 4-bird bag limit from private land.

This change has not had much effect on the total harvest or the number of hunters harvesting multiple birds.

From the harvest figures reported for the 2007 spring turkey season, about one in four wild turkey hunters were successful in harvesting a bird. Last year, there were 21,133 successful turkey hunters out of the more than 80,000 hunters in the field.

These 21,133 hunters harvested 31,058 birds with an average of 1.47 birds per successful hunter. Successful hunters by the number harvested are: 14,203 harvested one turkey, 4,581 harvested two turkeys, 1,703 harvested three turkeys, and 646 harvested 4 turkeys. On average, a successful hunter harvested 1.47 wild turkeys.

THREE TEAM CHAMPIONS CROWNED AT SECOND ANNUAL STATE NASP EVENT

COOKEVILLE --- Three team champions were crowned in their respective divisions at The Second Annual Tennessee National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Championships held Tuesday (March 11) at Tennessee Tech University's Hyder-Burks Agricultural Pavilion. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and Tennessee Tech sponsored the event.

Warren County Middle School, in addition to winning its division, was honored as posting the best overall team score. Stone, from Cumberland County, was the elementary school winner. Northwest High, from Clarksville, won its second championship in as many years in the high school division.

Leanetta Anderson from Siegel Middle School had the honor of posting the top score by a female participant. Warren County Middle School's Kyle Pelham had the highest overall male score in leading his team.

Medals were presented to the top five female and male finishers in each division.

In the elementary school division, the top female score was by Meigs County's Kristin Ferry. Taylor Harris (Meigs County) was second followed by Gabi Holland, Destanie Smith (both from Bledsoe Middle School), and Kenzley Scott (Meigs County).

Cory Jarvis and Dillon Crisp (Meigs County) were the top male scorers in the elementary division. Teammates Sam Hennessee and Logan Davis (Crab Orchard) were third and fourth, while Sean Masters (Meigs County) was fifth.

Following Leanetta Anderson in the Middle School Division were Abbie Barlow and Melanie Rush (Warren County). Hannah Crews and Sarah Chapman, from E.O Coffman in Lawrenceburg, rounded out the middle school female top five scores.

Following Kyle Pelham as the top scorers by middle school males were Alex Walker (Warren County), Cody Lowery (E.O. Coffman), Holden Boynton (Bledsoe County), and Stephen Wheeler (Siegel).

Northwest had four of the top female shooters in the high school division. Kryssy Katenthaler and GaHyun Berry were first and second with Hendersonville's Jaqui Mallet taking third. Northwest's Alberta Gutierrez and Rachel Knowles rounded out the top five.

Hendersonville claimed the top three positions in the male portion of the high school division. Jay Stewart, Billy Grisard, and Jared Armstrong helped their team to the second place finish. Ryan Francisco (Meigs County) and Dominick Espinoza (Northwest) rounded out the top five.

Each student shot 30 arrows, 15 from 10 meters and 15 from 15 meters with a maximum score of 300. The top team and top five individuals (female and male) in each division automatically receives a bid to compete in the National NASP Tournament to be held May 10 in Louisville, Ky. Siegel Middle School is the other team to qualify as a result of its score.

Tennessee began NASP in late 2004 with 12 pilot schools participating in the program. A total of 50 schools now participate in the program. NASP is a two-week curriculum taught during school that teaches Junior Olympic style target archery.

If a school or teacher is interested in starting a NASP program, please contact Don Crawford, Assistant Chief of Information and Education at Don.Crawford@state.tn.us or (615) 781-6542 or Matt Clarey, Regional Training Coordinator in TWRA Region III at Matt.Clarey@state.tn.us or 1-800-262-6704 or (931) 484-9571.