



News & Views

West Chester Fish
Game & Wildlife
Association

December 2018

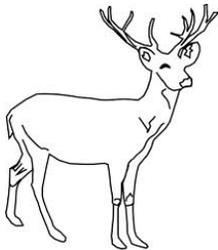
Sick and Dead Deer Reported in the Area

Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) has been confirmed as the cause of death for the deer mortality event occurring in the northern Chester and southern Berks County area. Since August 29, 2018, dozens of dead deer have been found in the affected area. PGC Game wardens continue to investigate new reports and collect and submit tissue samples from deer that are not in advanced stages of decomposition.



The Pennsylvania Game Commission is cautioning hunters to wear gloves when handling animals in the field, and wash their hands and tools thoroughly afterwards.

EHD has been shown to not affect humans and there is no evidence that EHD can be contracted through midge bites or by consuming venison that has been infected with EHD. However, once EHD is contracted by an animal, the likelihood of other diseases being contracted increases. As a result of the additional exposure to other infections, it is recommended not to consume venison from animals that are visibly sick.



Clinical signs of EHD in deer include swelling of the face or neck, loss of appetite, lethargy, weakness, lameness, respiratory distress, fever and excessive salivation. Deer with EHD will often have ulcers in the mouth and may bleed from the nose and/or mouth. Infected animals may develop swollen, blue tongues. They will also often experience hoof overgrowth and may have indentations or cracks in the walls of their hooves. White-tailed deer and mule deer are the primary wildlife species affected by HD.

EHD is transmitted by biting flies or midges in the group called Culioides (Ku/lick/oyed/eez). Hemorrhagic disease is one of the most common diseases of white-tailed deer in the eastern United States and can cause a significant number of deaths during outbreaks.

To report dead, sick or injured deer, please call the PA Game Commission in Reading at 610-926-3136.

Information courtesy of the PA Game Commission

Events Calendar

Nov. 1, 2018- April 30, 2019
Mandatory cold weather life jacket wear

December 1, 2018
2019 Fishing Licenses & Vouchers Available for Purchase

Dec. 26, 2018-Jan. 12, 2019
Deer, Archer, Statewide, antlered and antlerless

Dec. 26, 2018-Jan. 26, 2019
Deer, Archer WMUs 2B, 5C, 5D, Antlered and Antlerless

Dec. 26, 2018-Jan. 26, 2019
Deer, Extended Firearms: (Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties) Antlerless

March 30, 2019
Trout Opening Day-Regional

April 13, 2019
Trout Opening Day-Statewide



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**WCFG&WA Officers
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President—Gary Dunn
Vice President—Fletcher Swanson
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Treasurer—Bernie McGovern
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 Tom Anderson, Ben Anderson, Chris Anderson (Jr. Mem.), Don Finn, David Goodroad, Inger Goodroad, John Johnson, Liz Rutter

Exec. Committee 2017-18

Mike Colley, Gary Dunn, Matt Estberg, Steve Estberg, Bernie McGovern, Andy Madsen, A.J. Miller, George Poole, John Rickards, Jim Semetti, Glade Squires, Fletcher Swanson

Helpful Contacts

PA Game Commission
 Hunting License Division: 717-787-2084
 SE Region Office: 610-926-3136, 610-926-3137
 Report a Violation: Operation Game Thief: 1-888-PGC-8001

PA Fish & Boat Commission
 Pollution Incident 1-855-FISH-KIL (1-855-347-4545)
 Licensing – 877- 707-4085
 Boat Registration/Titling – 866-262-8734, (866-BoatReg)
 SE Region Office: 717- 626-0228

**Turn In A
Poacher Or
Litterer**

**Call W.C.O.
Bob Bonney**

610-637-6398

Game Camera Usage *by Dan Finn*

Game cameras have experienced a lot of advancements in the past few years: increased image quality, including night time photos, remote notifications and improved battery life. The improved quality and battery life are the two features I appreciate the most. The cameras are relatively affordable and early season deals can be found, including trading in your old cameras for additional savings.



Photo courtesy Dan Finn



Photo courtesy Dan Finn

Using a game camera can be enjoyable all year round and in many settings that you would not normally think of using them. There is the traditional use of setting them up near your favorite hunting grounds in order to try to patterning the deer as they traverse the paths. This is fun to see, but if you keep the camera up long enough you see the deer change time as the month's progress toward hunting season. But it is still fun to see the deer go through velvet stage and to see the one you wanted last year still here this year.

A camera used in a non-traditional setting can also bring valuable insight into curious items. Utilized during nuisance wildlife control, cameras can be used to find/confirm what animal is doing the damage or where they may be entering buildings. You can also see what other animals are roaming around and the need to avoid certain unfavorable species (think skunks!).



Photo courtesy Paul Marchese



Photo courtesy Dan Finn



Photo courtesy Dan Finn

Improvement Plan for West Valley Creek

On Friday September 7, 2018 George Poole, Gary Dunn and Steve Estberg met with Tyler Neimond, PFBC Habitat Manager to review West Valley Creek. The focus of the review was the section of West Valley Creek upstream from the Ravine Road Bridge.

The goal was to develop an improvement plan for implementation in 2019 and years beyond. It is a comprehensive plan, taking at least three years to complete. Upon walking the stream and noting conditions, it was decided that the improvement plan will have three main areas of focus.

The first priority will be the section of the stream in the photo below. The plan will be to construct a large mud-sill parallel to the bank and a cross vane deflector. The combination of these devices will provide the following benefits:

- The mudsill will prevent further widening of the stream and prevent further bank erosion.
- It will provide cover for the fish and it will create an area for easy stream access from which to fish.
- The cross vane will be located in an area of elevation change such that the scouring should create a deep mid-stream pool. This is a feature lacking in this portion of the stream.



The second area of focus will be the section between the above device and the submerged cross vane created a few years ago. There is severe bank erosion on the pond side of the stream that is under-cutting several large trees that are now in jeopardy. See the photo below.



Saw-tooth-type log deflectors will be used to remediate this area. This will require the construction of 3-4 log face deflectors. These deflectors will be slightly different from the typical 30-60-90 triangle shape used in other areas of West Valley Creek. These deflectors will be designed to penetrate less into the stream, thus avoiding pushing the stream flow to the road side of the stream and undercutting that area.

The third area of focus is the placement of mid-stream boulders. From a habitat standpoint this is an important part of the plan as it will create mid-stream cover for the fish which is lacking for the entire length of the stream.

The plan will take approximately three years to complete and ensure that West Valley Creek continues to be a healthy habitat that we can enjoy for years to come.



The Trout Arrived and Passed Inspection

Our new trout were delivered to the nursery on October 17th by the PAF&B Commission. In addition, on November 14th, Brian McHale, Cooperative Unit Leader of the PAF&B Commission inspected our trout and found them to be free from gill lice. Good news since all of the trout would need to be destroyed if gill lice was found.

All cooperative nurseries are now required to pass a gill lice (*Salmincola edwardsii*) inspection. Gill Lice are actually tiny, white crustaceans which attach to a fish's gill and can inhibit the fish's ability to breathe.

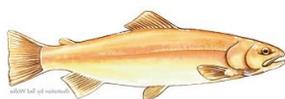


Rainbow Trout



Brook Trout

We received 700 Brook trout, 700 Rainbow trout, 700 Brown trout and 50 Golden Rainbow Trout. We need feeders for all these hungry mouths, so if you would like to volunteer, please contact Mike Colley or Jae Eisenhower at wcfgwa@gmail.com.



Golden Rainbow



Brown Trout

All illustrations courtesy of Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission. Information courtesy the PAF&B Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Trout Feeders Needed



The trout have arrived and need feeding! We could use your help. Daily feedings occur twice a day. Once in the morning and once in the evening. The feeding only takes 10 to 15 minutes. The commitment runs from mid-October when the fingerlings arrive through mid-May when we do the final stocking. Training is provided for volunteers.

Feeding is weather/stream conditions permitting (extended freezing temperatures, high/muddy water). Notification will be emailed if the feeding schedule is paused. Also, coverage is available any time you are unable to be there.

The Process is simple:

1. Log information about your session:
Name, Time, Water temperature, Condition of nursery, Number of dead fish, Amount of food given
2. If aerator is on, turn it off (dial timer) for feeding
3. A note will be posted with the amount of food to give. Scoop food from the barrel and distribute throughout the pens. A handful or two to each pen and repeat until appropriate amount of food is spread
4. Wash up, turn off the lights and lock the building.

If you are interested, please contact Mike Colley or Jae Eisenhower at wcfgwa@gmail.com.

Snakeheads Reported in Octorara Creek

Snakehead fish were reported in Octorara Creek, Chester County by a fisherman in June of 2018. Northern Snakeheads are an invasive species of predatory fish, native to parts of China, Russia and Korea. They will compete with other fish species for forage and habitat.

All Snakeheads are distinguished by their torpedo shaped body, long dorsal and anal fins without spines, and toothed jaws. Northern Snakeheads are typically distinguished by a flattened, pointy head with enlarged scales on their head, hence the common name of snakehead. They have a large mouth with a protruding lower jaw that typically contains canine like teeth. Their coloration and size vary, with the largest one recorded being 4 feet in length. Snakeheads have the unique ability to live out of water for up to three days, and are able to slither across land.



Photo courtesy PAFBC

Northern Snakeheads can be confused with native Pennsylvania species like the Bowfin and Burbot. One way of identifying Bowfin from Snakeheads is to view the tops of their heads. Bowfin have no scales on their head; Snakeheads have scales on their head with a scale pattern that is more interlocked or mosaic-like in its pattern—similar to a snake. Burbot has a single barbel (whisker) on the chin and the presence of two dorsal fins. Neither Bowfin or Snakeheads have these characteristics. Additional information on the differing characteristics can be found at www.fishandboat.com/Fish/PennsylvaniaFishes/Documents/snakehead-poster.pdf.



Photo courtesy U.S. Geological Survey Archives

Northern Snakeheads were first confirmed in Pennsylvania in July 2004 after an angler caught and preserved two from the 17-acre Meadow Lake in Philadelphia County. PFBC biologists confirmed they were indeed Northern Snakeheads and captured additional ones from the lake. The lake is part of a maze of interconnected embayments and tidal sloughs and the

Commission believes additional Snakeheads are likely present elsewhere in the system, including the nearby lower Schuylkill and Delaware rivers.

If You Catch One: Anglers catching Snakeheads should dispose of them properly. Anglers suspecting they have caught a Snakehead are encouraged to *NOT* release it, and report it to the PFBC at 610-847-2442 or via email to: mkaufmann@pa.gov.

PA Regulations:

- It is unlawful for a person to sell, purchase, offer for sale or barter live Snakehead species in Pennsylvania.
- It is unlawful to possess live Snakehead species in Pennsylvania.
- It is unlawful to introduce or import live Snakehead species into Pennsylvania waters.
- Transportation of live Snakehead species in or through Pennsylvania is prohibited.

Additional information on snakehead fish may be found at www.fishandboat.com/Fish/PennsylvaniaFishes/Pages/Snakehead and www.fws.gov/Fisheries/ANS/pdf_files/Snakeheads.pdf.

(Information courtesy of the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)



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610-436-8800

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West Chester Fish, Game & Wildlife Association

Membership Application

Date: _____

Full Name (Please Print Clearly) _____

New Renewal

Address: _____

Regular \$25.00

City, State, Zip: _____

Family \$30.00

Telephone No.: _____

Junior \$10.00

E-Mail Address: _____

Life \$250.00

Donation \$ _____

Make your check payable to:
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West Chester, PA 19381-0511
www.wcfgwa.org
wcfgwa@gmail.com



West Chester Fish Game & Wildlife Association
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Upcoming Events

Executive Committee

Meets the second Monday of each month at the East Bradford Township Building.

Please remember to send your email to: wcfgwa@gmail.com

Nov. 1, 2018- April 30, 2019

Mandatory cold weather life jacket wear

December 1, 2018

2019 Fishing Licenses & Vouchers Available for Purchase

March 30, 2019

Trout Opening Day-Regional

