

2011 Region 8 and 9 Youth Waterfowl Hunt



Successful Young Hunters

In early October, Environmental Conservation Officers from Regions 8 and 9 teamed up for another successful Youth Waterfowl Weekend. Organized by ECOs Jim Hunt and Scott Marshall, young hunters began the annual even on Saturday, October 1st at the Wyoming Valley Rod and Gun Club in the Village of Java. Jim and Scott set up the waterfowl identification course and assisted instructors ECO Nathan Ver Hague and his brother, Lt. Joshua Ver Hague, with the course presentation. Twelve young hunters and seven adult attendees received their NYSDEC Waterfowl Identification Certificate at the conclusion of the course.

One week later, nine out of the twelve young hunters returned for a guided waterfowl hunt on the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. ECOs Paul Kroth, and Rick Rauscher of Region 8, and ECO Carlton Gill of Region 9 added their expertise to assist in the hunt. Overall, 14 ducks and one goose were harvested. All of the kids were sent home with donated hunting equipment, hot cocoa and huntin' stories to tell all of their friends.

Successful events like this would not be possible without the support of many people and organizations. Most important to these efforts would be the ECOs and the civilian volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to organize and conduct the hunts. Financial and logistical support were provided for this event by the New York Conservation Officers Association, Knight and Hale Game Calls, Tim Horton's Restaurants, Hogan's Food Mart, Triple S Sporting Goods, Ducks Unlimited, and the Wyoming Valley Rod and Gun Club. Without their support and donations, events of this nature would not be possible.