

2011 Youth Pheasant Hunt Program

The Massachusetts Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program was developed by MassWildlife to provide an opportunity for 12-17 year old Hunter Education graduate to practice firearms safety, develop shooting skills, and participate in a special pheasant hunt with a safe, experienced hunter in a friendly environment.

Walpole Sportsman's Association is one of eight sportsmen's clubs in the state that participates in this program. We also offer the Hunter Education program as well which is a pre-requisite for participation in the youth hunt. Hunter safety is emphasized in all aspects of the program to help build the confidence of young adult hunters so they may feel comfortable hunting alone or with others in the field. This program is more than just a day of pheasant hunting in the field. It is a comprehensive three part outdoor recreation program (see inside for more details.)



For More Information
Contact:
Joe Creedon
(508) 654-6448
jfcjhc@aol.com
or
Mike Mularczyk
mmularczyk@mms.org



MassWildlife

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Wayne F. MacCallum, Director



www.walpolesportsman.com

Part One - Shooting Instruction and Practice

One of the most important elements for becoming a safe and ethical hunter is developing and practicing shooting skills. Participants in the program will practice the fundamentals of shotgun shooting and firearms safety by receiving hands-on instruction at our club ranges. Usually during the month of August prior to the hunt we will be hosting several Thursday evening instructional shoots at our skeet and sporting clays ranges.



Part Two - Pre-hunt Workshop

Young adults will have the opportunity to practice all aspects of a safe hunt during a pre-hunt workshop held just prior to the actual pheasant hunt. This will be a hands-on "in the field" session that will include safety exercises such as hunting in a group, zones of fire, crossing safely over obstacles, safely loading and unloading firearms in the field, proper field carries, handling and operating firearms safely, shoot/don't shoot scenarios and hunter ethics. In addition, the pre-hunt workshop will cover the basics on firearms for upland hunting, ammunition, gear, clothing, and other equipment typically used in upland hunting.

Part Three - Young Adult Pheasant Hunt

The program culminates with a day in the field pheasant hunting in a relaxed and friendly environment under the watchful eye of a safe, responsible, experienced hunter. It is an opportunity to experience the enjoyment and excitement of watching a dog working a bird; the thrill of seeing a pheasant flush from cover and taking the shot, and then cleaning the day's harvest. We also have a post hunt BBQ which in addition to the usual burgers and dogs, also has various game and recipes for people to try.



Frequently Asked Questions

Who may sign up for the Program?

Young women and men ages 12-17 who have successfully completed the Massachusetts Hunter Education Program are eligible to participate in the program. A Firearms Identification Card (FID) and hunting license is required for all young adults between the ages of 15 to 17. Young adults 12 to 14 years of age do not need a license or FID card.

Are there any costs or fees to participate in the Program?

There are no costs to participate in this program. Safety glasses, hearing protection and hunter orange caps and vests will be provided free of charge. Clubs may, however, ask for a nominal donation to cover costs for such things as lunch, refreshments, clay targets or ammunition.

When does the Program take place?

Part 1 of the Program; shooting instruction and practice, will take place during the summer or early fall. Part 2, the pre-hunt workshop will be held a week or two before the young adult pheasant hunt. The actual hunt (Part 3) is scheduled for the first or second Saturday in October.

Where can young adults sign up to participate in the Program?

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