

# SCI Blue Mountain Chapter Newsletter

April 2017

From the President:

Another winter is winding down and Spring is in the air. Time to warm up the turkey calls and replace that old line on the trout reels.

Spring also means that our Annual Fund Raising Banquet is in the books and I would like to report it was another very successful year. Thank you to all our members and guests that attended, we raised over \$41,000! Now we will begin to put that money to work to benefit our local programs and community organizations. Also a big Thanks to all the donors , sponsors and volunteers that made it all possible.

Stay tuned for our upcoming events which include our annual membership picnic in June, our sporting clay shoot at Central Penn Sporting Clays to benefit the AWLS program on September 9th, and at least one, maybe two, Wounded Veterans events in partnership with the NWTF. More information to come so visit our website at [BMCSCI.COM](http://BMCSCI.COM) or visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BMCSCI/>.

Scott Itterly

President



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Safari Club International is the leader in protecting the freedom to hunt and in promoting wildlife conservation & education worldwide. With active members in more than 100 countries, no matter which chapter you become involved with, you'll meet individuals and families that share the same passion for hunting and wildlife as you do. SCI fights tirelessly to protect the hunting heritage enjoyed by 45 million families around the globe, just like yours. An SCI membership is a commitment to the future of hunting and wildlife management. The Blue Mountain Chapter helps every sportsman and woman understand how, and why, SCI is truly first for hunters, and Pennsylvania.

# SCI Blue Mountain Chapter

## News and Dates

April 2017

### **Pennsylvania Game Commission News**

#### **COMMISSIONERS TO ADOPT 2017-18 HUNTING & TRAPPING SEASONS**

**HARRISBURG, PA** - The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners will hold its second quarterly meeting of 2017 on Monday, March 27 and Tuesday, March 28 at the Game Commission's Harrisburg headquarters.

Some changes lie ahead for Deer and Bear Hunters. Stay informed at the PGC website:  
<http://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Game-Commission-Details.aspx?newsid=99>

#### **GAME COMMISSION RELEASES DEER HARVEST REPORT**

**HARRISBURG, PA** - Pennsylvania's buck harvest increased 9 percent, and the overall deer harvest was up 6 percent, in the 2016-17 seasons, which closed in January, the Pennsylvania Game Commission reported today.

Hunters harvested an estimated 333,254 deer in 2016-17 – an increase of about 6 percent compared to the 2015-16 harvest of 315,813.

Of those, 149,460 were antlered deer – an increase of about 9 percent compared to the previous license year, when an estimated 137,580 bucks were taken. It's the largest harvest of antlered deer since 2002.

Hunters also harvested an estimated 183,794 antlerless deer in 2016-17, which represents an about 3 percent increase compared to the 178,233 antlerless deer taken in 2015-16.

Bowhunters accounted for nearly 33 percent of the overall deer harvest, taking 109,250 deer (59,550 bucks and 49,700 does) with archery tackle. Meanwhile, 20,409 deer (1,350 bucks and 19,059 does) were harvested during muzzleloader seasons.

The percentage of older bucks in the harvest remained high, with 56 percent of bucks taken by Pennsylvania hunters during the 2016-17 deer seasons being 2½ years old or older. In 2015-16, 59 percent of bucks in the harvest were 2 ½ years old or older.

For more info. go to: <http://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Game-Commission-Details.aspx?newsid=112>

**PLEASE SEND MEMBER PHOTO'S, KID'S TROPHIES, FIRST HARVESTS, OR JUST YOUR OWN TO SHOW OFF A LITTLE! WE WANT TO POST YOUR SUCCESS!**

**SEND PHOTOS TO [bluemountainsci@gmail.com](mailto:bluemountainsci@gmail.com)**

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You need to read this if you are heading out west this year!

## Will the winter kill of 2017 be one for the records?

As the 2016/2017 winter continues, many sportsmen across the country are becoming increasingly concerned with the condition of the wildlife. Along with heavy snowfall across much of the West, many locations have also set record low temperatures with some places reaching -50 degrees. At this point, this winter has been more severe than previous years and the impact of this severe weather on animal populations is still unclear at this point. With us midway through March and spring right around the corner, that doesn't mean we are in the clear.

With deadlines for many nonresident applications quickly approaching, hunters looking to cash in on their hard-earned preference or bonus points are playing a modified game of Russian roulette with their wallet and Mother Nature. In the following article, we take a look at current snowfall data for several locations around a state and discuss the outlook for the 2017 season.

See the state by state breakdown here: <https://www.gohunt.com> Go to the bottom of the page and click on the "Will the winter kill of 2017 be one for the records?"

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Youth Spring Gobbler—April 22, 2017**

**Statewide Spring Gobbler Season—April 29th to May 31st.** 2 Gobblers with appropriate special turkey permit for purchase.

## Trout Season

### REGIONAL Opening Day



Saturday, April 1, 2017

### Statewide Opening Day

Saturday, April 15, 2017

See the PFBC website for more info: [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)