

## *Eldon Hazlet & South Shore State Park hunting.....something for everyone!*

With the hunting season upon us, hunters are making plans to take advantage of the various opportunities each park offers. From the controlled pheasant hunting to the disabled archery deer program, young hunters to the young at heart are able to enjoy the multiple hunting acres available to the public at Eldon Hazlet and South Shore State Parks. Hunter fact sheets for Eldon Hazlet and South Shore are available at these links:

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/FactSheets/Pages/EldonHazlet.aspx>

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/FactSheets/Pages/SouthShoreStatePark.aspx>

The disabled archery deer program, an outstanding program for all ages, is becoming more prominent each year. The Turkey Federation graciously donated the first hunting blind. Since then additional blinds have been donated by the Hal Hempen Foundation, Ryan Neal Memorial Fund, Dave Joy family, and Tim Lewis Memorial. These weatherproof blinds allow disabled hunters access to ideal hunting locations, only available to this program. Many of the designated areas were prepared by individuals seeking Eagle Scout rank, which is a great opportunity for both the Department and the Scouts. The majority of materials and labor were part of the Eagle Scout projects but the assistance of the site staff also played a role in the successful completion of the areas available.



*Colt smiles as he proudly displays his bow kill. This deer was one of the first deer harvested in the disabled hunting program.  
Photo credit – park staff*

A non-disabled hunting partner is strongly recommended to assist the disabled hunter to and from the blind along with the recovery of any deer harvested. While assisting the disabled hunter, the partner may also hunt and harvest an **antlerless only** deer. All hunters must possess the required licenses, permits and windshield cards necessary to hunt in Illinois. A state issued ID card [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/dsd\\_x164.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x164.pdf) must be submitted to the park office to verify eligibility for the disabled archery deer program. For more information, contact the park office at 618-594-3015.



*Bow hunting in the disabled archery program proved to be successful for Jim as he holds his trophy buck. Photo credit – Jim Jr.*

Since the free windshield card program was introduced in 2013, public hunters at Eldon Hazlet and South Shore State Parks are no longer required to sign in. A current windshield card for the area you are hunting in must be displayed in your vehicle while you are hunting (except for Controlled Pheasant Hunters).

The free windshield card allows hunters to go directly to the public hunting area. An important tip to remember with the windshield card is to keep track and report your number of hunting trips and anything harvested for that location, even if you didn't hunt, it must be reported. Failure to report by the date listed will suspend your hunting privileges the next year.

To obtain the required free windshield card, go to:

<https://dnr.state.il.us/windshieldcard/ufstep1.asp?cR=4>

Disabled waterfowl hunting is also available at Eldon Hazlet State Park. The accessible waterfowl blind was constructed by Jordan Donaldson as his Eagle Scout project. The program enables vehicle access to the blind, which overlooks unit 2 in the North Allen Branch public hunting area.

A non-disabled hunting partner or partners are strongly recommended to assist the disabled hunter to and from the blind along with recovery of any waterfowl harvested. Partners are allowed to harvest waterfowl while assisting the disabled hunter.

All hunters must possess the required licenses, permits and windshield cards necessary to hunt waterfowl in Illinois. A state issued ID card

[http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/dsd\\_x164.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x164.pdf)

must be submitted to the park office to verify eligibility for the disabled waterfowl hunting program. For more information, contact the park office at 618-594-3015.

Generations of hunters have participated in the controlled pheasant hunting program offered at



*Site staff assist the disabled hunter during a controlled pheasant hunt.  
Photo credit – park staff*

Eldon Hazlet State Park. The program begins on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and runs through Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. The controlled program is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Christmas Day.

Controlled pheasant hunting is also available for disabled hunters. A cart is attached to the front of the John Deere

gator, allowing the hunter to sit and hunt. Assistance from site staff is provided during the hunt. A reservation is required to allow for necessary preparation.

A Youth Hunt, planned for Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, always proves to be a fun time for the kids, parents and those who volunteer to serve as guides. On this day, many youth shoot their first pheasant, which is memorable but also an opportunity to acquire the love of hunting. The hunt allows participants to spend quality time outside and experience the beauty of nature along with a great day of hunting pheasants for free. The long tradition of donuts in the morning and attendance prizes donated by Silver Creek Quail Forever Chapter #3129 and ammunition provided by Winchester help make this program complete.



*Successful 2014 youth pheasant hunters, Kaleb and Devon, take a minute to pose with their harvested birds and volunteer guide, Marvin with his great dog Boots.  
Photo credit – Silver Creek Quail Forever Chapter #3129*

A few other hunting opportunities are offered during pheasant season which are referred to as the Young Hunter days. This year the Young Hunter days are Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. The youth hunts for free with a paid adult hunter.

To view availability, reserve a hunting date or more information about the controlled pheasant season, please visit: [http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/programs/controlled\\_hunt/default.asp](http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/programs/controlled_hunt/default.asp)

In addition to hunting, the Illini Campground at Eldon Hazlet State Park is open year round.

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Documents/EldonHazletCampgroundMap.pdf>

Reservations can be made online through [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com) at least three days prior to your arrival date or first-come, first-serve camp sites are available without a reservation. For additional information regarding Eldon Hazlet State Park, please call 618-594-3015, email [dnr.eldonhazlet@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.eldonhazlet@illinois.gov) or visit <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Pages/EldonHazlet.aspx>



Photo credit – park staff

If camping doesn't sound appealing, the Hazlet Cottages are also available year round. For information on the cottages, please visit [www.hazletcottages.com](http://www.hazletcottages.com), email [hazletcottages@gmail.com](mailto:hazletcottages@gmail.com) or call 618-594-8702.

For campground store or pool information, please call 618-594-8701.



Photo credit – park staff

*Thank you for your interest in our state parks!  
We hope you have the opportunity to visit soon.*