

Article – August 2022  
Sarah Betts  
Executive Director  
Seneca Parks

## ***Hunting Experiences***

Memories of great hunting experiences can last a lifetime. Interestingly enough, it is often not the hunt that is the most memorable part; sitting in the quiet misty mornings, watching the sun rise and slowly lighting the stunning landscape all around trimmed in fall foliage, listening to the rustling of leaves in the light wind, watching flocks of migrating birds create ever-changing kaleidoscope images in the sky, the smell of damp soil, walnuts, and gun oil, watching the interactions of all the creatures that come into view, listen to the falling snow, feeling the sting of cold on your nose, and taking the time to share the whole experience with someone special in your life.

Well, there are some simple things you can do now to help create the setting for having those great experiences and lasting memories.

- **Know the Rules.** Knowing and following regulations put in place by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and US Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS) is critical. Bag limits are set based on analyzing hunting licenses and tags purchased in addition to ongoing animal population research.
- **Get the Required Training.** Hunter education classes are offered through ODNR, now even available on-line at [www.hunter-ed.com/ohio](http://www.hunter-ed.com/ohio). Some area conservation clubs also assist with training and education for youth and adults. Check with conservation clubs directly, such as Pheasants Forever, Sandusky River Coon Hunters Club, and the Izzak Walton League for more information on what activities they have available throughout the year.
- **Have a Plan.** Research areas you would like to hunt. Thoroughly review any additional rules and regulations for use of that property, especially if it is not your property. Some public properties require going through a lottery or have reduced hunting times and seasons. These options are generally utilized by public agencies to create a safer experience by reducing the number of hunters onsite at one time.
- **Be Respectful, Be Aware.** Being respectful is a two-way street for both hunters and non-hunters. Hunters and Non-hunters need to know property boundaries and be respectful of private and public boundaries. Non-hunters also need to be aware and follow “no entry” hunting area rules and regulations. Going into places that are closed for general use while hunting is taking place, is not only unsafe and disrespectful of other user groups, but is also considered trespassing.
- **Dress For the Occasion.** Whether hunter or non-hunter, wearing bright colors, like hunter-orange, when out for a fall walk through a woods is a good practice. Deer cannot see colors the way we do. Blues and greens actually stand out more to deer than reds and oranges. Fall weather can also change quickly, so be prepared for sudden temperature, wind, and precipitation changes by dressing in layers.

For those who enjoy walking in areas that close to the public during hunting season, you are encouraged to explore the many other public trails located across Seneca County:

Seneca Parks [www.SenecaCountyParks.com](http://www.SenecaCountyParks.com)

Tiffin Parks [www.tiffinparks.com](http://www.tiffinparks.com)

Fostoria Parks [www.fostoriaohio.gov/parks---rec](http://www.fostoriaohio.gov/parks---rec)

Geary Family YMCA [www.gearyfamilyymca.org/main/fostoria-trail-trekkers](http://www.gearyfamilyymca.org/main/fostoria-trail-trekkers)

ODNR [www.ohiodnr.gov](http://www.ohiodnr.gov)