

**2015-2016 Hunting & Fishing Rules**  
**James A. Zaepfel Nature Sanctuary & Research Center**

Hunting at the Zaepfel Nature Center is by permit only; Hunting at Zaepfel is a privilege not a right. Signing the blue Landowners Permit acknowledges that you agree to be bound by the Centers rules. All individuals enter onto CLDC properties at their own risk under the General Obligations Law of NYS.

**Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Rules/Guidelines for Zaepfel Nature Sanctuary 2015-16**

**I. General Rules:**

- A. Deer Hunting Season days are as follows: Every day, we will try this for a 2nd season & review;
- B. **After the first full week of bird hunting seasons the No Hunting days for birds are as follows: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.** This takes pressure off them during the migration period. It also readily identifies poachers and those who do not abide by the rules of the Center;
- C. Please pick up any trash that you may find while enjoying this property & collect your shells;
- D. Of the 800+ acres that comprise the Zaepfel Center, 547-acres are in the Wetland Reserve Program. The soil and plants are fragile. **Do not drive trucks/cars into the property.** Park at the: Green Barn, "Zaepfel" Allegany Road sign site, wind-break across from the Milks Farm, beginning of north end road, on the west side at the club house and Kings Highway North turn around area;
- E. Those who have patrol permits may use ATV's on trails only but drive respectfully, don't make ruts and if you make ruts fill them in! Hunters need to be courteous to each other and demonstrate good sportsmanship! Know your target and backstop. Except for the disabled, all types of hunters (turkey, duck, geese, grouse, deer) have the same privileges;
- F. The "Fire Fly House" is available if you need shelter. Keep it clean and be sure to close it up.

**II. Restricted Types of Hunting:**

- A. **There will be no bear stalking or hunting.** (Also includes: bobcat, lynx, otter, coyote, and any big cat or big foot.) **Anyone who has a permit that stalks and harvests a bear will lose his or her permit forever and will be charged with trespassing;**
- B. There is no small game season at the Center other than game birds.
- C. No Amish are allowed to hunt or fish at the Center, if you see one on site ask them to leave.

**III. Deer, Bird and Fishing Rules:**

1. **All hunting permits will be on allotment and lottery basis for those who have contributed to our work in some meaningful way;**
2. Blaze orange is required for shotgun and muzzle loading season;
3. Deer: hunting will be confined to tree stands and still hunting. Driving of deer is not permitted; There is a one (1) doe limit per permit holder, (with valid NYS 9K or antler less deer tag) and there is a maximum of two (2) bucks (1 with shotgun/1 with bow or black powder) you may harvest (with valid tags). Strive to harvest 3 ½ year and older bucks; **Antler restriction is three (3) points one (1) side for male hunters, this rule does not apply to female and/or youth hunters;**
4. All tree stands must have a tag with name and cell telephone number. Any unoccupied tree stand may be used by a member by simply calling the owner of the tree stand in advance to confirm the owner does not plan on using it. If the owner is not available leave a message. Tree stands are not to be nailed to trees. All hunting stands (tree and others) are to be removed by **April 15, 2016 after this date, the stands will be considered abandoned, they become property of the Center and will be disposed of as a fundraiser for the center;**
5. Youth hunters (those 18 years and under) are welcome if accompanied by a permit holder. **Youth hunters may harvest doe or buck if they have the opportunity;** The allowing of additional family members hunting with a permit holder is on a case-by-case basis and must be cleared 7 days in advance by contacting the Rick LeFeber at 257-3237. If you have a disabled vet you want to take hunting contact me.
6. The only reason to shoot a fawn is that it is injured, put down any observed injured deer;
7. **Each Hunter is to keep a diary of their activities and harvest.** A copy of this is to be sent to Rick LeFeber by **15 January 2016** for deer hunters and by **June 15, 2016** for bird hunters. (We will review

- these records to collect data on game harvest to aid in future management decisions, permitting, and the carrying capacity of the property);
8. A scale and disposable camera will be available at the barn. Left small sliding door (Hunter's Room) combination is 21-31-5, please weigh, measure and photograph all deer harvested, and photograph any other wildlife harvested on the property. The Centers map, with stands marked with pins, will be posted in the Hunter's Room:
  9. Early Bow hunting is October 1st thru November 20<sup>th</sup>. Crossbow season is November 7<sup>th</sup>–November 20<sup>th</sup>. Bow & Crossbow hunters may hunt every day of the week. Shotgun deer season, which starts on November 21st, permit holders may hunt every day until and including December 13th. Late Bow hunting and Muzzle Loading season are December 14<sup>th</sup> till December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hunters may hunt every day of their respective season.
  10. Bird seasons (Turkey, Grouse, Woodcock, Pheasant, Duck & Geese) are **per NYS Guidelines, after the first full week of hunting then NO Hunt days are: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Because of weather Late Duck & Goose season you may hunt everyday.** Only non-toxic shot; i.e. bismuth, steel or tungsten shot for goose/duck;
  11. **Catch and release all fish except for northern pike, remove all pike.** Please does not use lead sinkers. If a fish is gut hooked cut the line and leave the hook in place
  12. Beside Black Powder, **for the first time we will be issuing a Limited Number of Rifle Permits to adults only. We will try this for one season and review the results.**

Zaepfel management goals are to use good science practices to improve, preserve and protect natural resources, bio-diversity and wetland functions. The Center will only allow hunting as long as we believe it can achieve the following goals:

- Manage for a mosaic of optimal habitats to promote bio-diversity and manage the hunters;
- Insure the population of white tail deer is within the "*carrying capacity*" of the environment of Zaepfel. If the population is beyond the carrying capacity then negative effects on other wildlife and ecological processes will occur. Reporting and analysis of population dynamics of the deer herd is needed to determine doe/buck ratio. Gathering and analysis of information will result in making informed, logical and science based decisions for the Center's goal of preserving and promoting bio-diversity;
- Manage the center with sustainable practices for the enjoyment of a wide variety of audiences, i.e. manage the hunters and stop the poaching.
- The Deer management practice has certain guidelines:
  - ✓ Not harvesting bucks until they are 3+ years old;
  - ✓ Not hunting deer by driving them;

**The Centers goals will be achieved by:**

- ✓ Continually monitoring, updating and refining the Centers Adaptive Management Plan;
- ✓ Utilizing and issuing special permits for hunting, fishing, trapping and ATV usage;
- ✓ Patrolling the Center;
- ✓ Reviewing and refining hunting practices. QDM is only one of many process's that is on hold and being reviewed for creating a balance within the deer population of does to bucks;
- ✓ Establishing a more accurate reporting system of what type of game has been harvested;
- ✓ Restricting days of the week for hunting.
- ✓

The Executive Director will interview those hunters who do not abide by these rules. The results of the interview will determine if the individual will retain their hunting privileges. Your signature on the Landowners Permit, which the CLDC issues, confirms that you have read the rules for the 2015-2016 season and agree to abide by those rules.

**Report all incidents of improper hunting, poaching or ATV usage by calling Rick LeFeber at 257-3237, the DEC at 532-0461, or the Cattaraugus County Sheriffs Department at 938-9191 then dial 0 for dispatch. Mail your hunting records to: CLDC, Post Office Box One, Cattaraugus, New York 14719**