



Hunterdon County  
Division of Parks & Recreation

# News Release



Mailing Address: PO Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900  
Office Location: 1020 State Highway 31, Lebanon, NJ  
Telephone (908) 782-1158 • Fax (908) 806-4057  
E-mail: [parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us)



**BOX TURTLE**



**PAINTED TURTLE**



**SNAPPER**

## TURTLE TIME!!!

### Why did the turtle cross the road?!!?

Because it was probably a pregnant female looking for a nesting site!

It's that time of the year again, folks! Every year, from late spring into the early fall, it's turtle nesting season for the various types of turtles in Hunterdon County! As you can imagine, they tend to be even a bit feistier and more mobile at this time. This means that there is a higher chance of pregnant (gravid) females crossing roads in an effort to find somewhere to nest. These soon-to-be moms will venture farther away from bodies of water in order to find soft, loose, loamy soil to lay their eggs in. They will deposit the eggs into a cavity about seven inches into the ground and carefully cover them up. This can be done several times in the season, most often at dawn or dusk.

Unfortunately, being hit by cars during this time has become a major cause of death for these species. Just the other day, we had a snapping turtle brought into us after being hit on a busy stretch of road. Drivers need to share the road with turtles as well as bikes and motorcycles! If you do come across traveling turtles, without creating a traffic hazard or compromising your safety, drivers are encouraged to avoid running over them. Also, if you wish to assist the turtle with crossing, make sure to move them onto the side that they were already headed. If not, they will just try to cross again. When moving a turtle, make sure to pick it up like a hamburger and not to turn it upside down. Specifically with snapping

turtles, make sure to watch your fingers by grabbing them behind the head on the shell and at the base of the shell near the tail. Snappers tend to be more aggressive on land due to their lack of defenses. Never remove and relocate the turtle to another area that is far from where it was found. After all, this is their home too!

*"Snapping turtles, embodiment of turtles who shared the earth with the dinosaurs for a time and are now obliged to share it with the human species, might well report that the former companions were far less stressful." - Carroll*