



# The Quabbin Deer Hunter

Quabbin Reservation

485 Ware Road • Belchertown, MA • (413) 323-6921

Volume 13, Number 1, Summer 2011

## A New Study to Start in 2011: Quabbin Hunters' Help is Needed

Quabbin Reservation covers a huge geographical area. All 5 hunt areas represent over 40,500 acres or approximately 64 square miles. While there is an impressive network of roads, there remain large areas of Quabbin that are remote and difficult to access. Because the Quabbin hunts are relatively short (only 2 days per

segment for the last several years), DCR managers have always wondered how much of the Quabbin is actually being covered by hunters. Certainly there are areas in the Quabbin where prime habitat attract more deer (and hunters), but are there also large blocks of Quabbin that remain isolated and relatively hunter free? The DCR hopes to find out with a new study being initiated during the 2011 hunt. We were able to purchase over 30 GPS units recently that will be used to determine how hunters are moving through the forest. Some goals of this study are to determine hunter distribution throughout the hunt area, track how far an average hunter travels, determine what types of habitat hunters favor, and get a sense of how long hunters spend in the woods moving and remaining stationary. To accomplish all

these goals, we need the help and cooperation of the hunters.



After the annual deer hunt drawing and orientations, we will randomly select one of the 2 initial hunting segments (either Prescott or Pelham) and then randomly select 30 hunters. It is likely we will first categorize all the hunters into various groups, based on a combination of factors including age, sex, residency, etc. This way, we will have a more representative sample of the average Quabbin hunter. The randomly selected hunters will be given a GPS unit as they check into the hunt on the first day. The unit will be turned on, and the hunter will be asked to attach the unit to their backpack, beltloop, etc. We ask that all participating hunters not touch the GPS unit. It will be set up and programmed to record specific data. At the end of the day, GPS units will be collected as hunters check out. During the second day of the hunt, a new group of 30 hunters may be asked to participate. While we strongly encourage all hunters to take part in the study, if you would prefer not to, you can tell the check station attendant. We will keep an alternate list of hunters and give the GPS unit to one of them. If you are chosen for the study and decide to participate, it is important that you hunt as you normally would. The best approach would be to forget the GPS unit is attached and simply go about your normal hunting plan. We intend to continue this study for the next several years. As we get information, we will share the results of the study with all hunters.



# The Quabbin Deer Hunter

Quabbin Reservation

Vol. 13, number 1 • Summer 2011

## The 2010 Hunt

The 2010 deer hunt was the first year in a new 5-year hunting rotation that will follow the same pattern as previous rotations where 4 of the 5 areas are hunted each year, and each block sits out one year. Approximately 1850 people applied for the 2010 hunt, and 1234 (66%) were selected. Around 1000 hunters attended the hunt, and 116 deer were killed. Overall



Mike Corenzo with his 182 lb. Prescott buck

hunter success was about 11% in the four days of hunting.

The following section summarizes results from each hunting block. The “Quick Facts” in the beginning of each section summarizes statistics that hunters most often inquire about.

### HARDWICK

Hardwick was hunted for 2 days in 2010 and hunters were met with bright skies, but bitter cold temperatures.

Attendance was good during the hunt. About 172 hunters (82%)

attended the hunt, and they killed 24 deer. This is close to 3.0 deer killed/mi<sup>2</sup> and about .14 deer/hunter. In

**Quick Facts**

**Biggest Buck:**

- 161 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Chad Degrenier

**Biggest Doe:**

- 143 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Mark Krejmas Sr.

other words, approximately 14% of the Hardwick hunters killed a deer.

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	1	10	3	58.3	14
Female	4	4	2	41.7	10
%	20.8	58.3	20.8		
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>24</b>

### PETERSHAM

Petersham hunters in 2009 experienced a very productive year, so we expected the harvest during the 2010 hunt to be less. Still, hunters did pretty well, given the extreme cold but no snow cover. Hunter attendance for the hunt was good.

Approximately 333 hunters attended the 2-day hunt. This is about 86% of the hunters eligible to hunt. Petersham hunters killed 32 deer. This works out to about 2 deer killed/mi<sup>2</sup>. Hunter success was average. Approximately 10% of the hunters in Petersham killed a deer.

**Quick Facts**

**Biggest Buck:**

- 194 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Tim Jamros

**Biggest Doe:**

- 135 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Chris Dulmaine



Tim Jamros with his 194 lb. Petersham buck

# The Quabbin Deer Hunter

Quabbin Reservation

Vol. 13, number 1 • Summer 2011

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	9	3	5	53.1	17
Female	7	3	5	46.9	15
%	50.0	18.8	31.3		
Total	16	6	10		<b>32</b>

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	10	6	14	66.7	30
Female	12	1	2	33.3	15
%	48.9	15.6	35.6		
Total	22	7	16		<b>45</b>

## PRESCOTT

Prescott hunters had the highest harvest of the 2010 hunt. As usual, Prescott hunters are a dedicated bunch, and attendance was very good. Around 386 hunters, or roughly 86% of those eligible, attended the hunt. These hunters bagged 45 deer. This is about 2 deer killed/mi<sup>2</sup>. Hunter success was good. Approximately 12% of Prescott hunters killed a deer.

### Quick Facts

#### Biggest Buck:

- 183 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Joseph Page

#### Biggest Doe:

- 133 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- Barry Julius



K. Koenen

Joseph Page with his 183 lb. Prescott buck

## NEW SALEM

New Salem hunters experienced a pretty good hunting season very similar to recent hunts. Attendance was excellent (approximately 88%), and the 167 hunters attending the hunt bagged 15 deer. This equals about 2 deer killed/mi<sup>2</sup>. Around 10% of the hunters at New Salem killed a deer.

### Quick Facts

#### Biggest Buck:

- 198 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Frank Marz

#### Biggest Doe:

- 139 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Anthony Davis

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	6	0	1	46.7	7
Female	6	1	1	53.3	8
%	80.0	6.7	13.3		
Total	12	1	2		<b>15</b>



D. Small

Frank Marz with his 198 lb. New Salem buck

## THE 2011 HUNT

As mentioned earlier, the DCR began its third 5-year hunting plan with the 2010 hunt. The success of the previous 2 5-year plans suggested that no large changes were needed in how the hunts operate. Following a similar rotation to the original 5-year plan, the Hardwick block will be removed from hunting during the 2011 season. Therefore, hunting in 2011 will take place in the New Salem, Pelham, Petersham and Prescott blocks. Each block will be hunted for one 2-day segment.

Most of the details related to the Quabbin hunt will remain the same. Up to 6 hunters may apply on each application, and selection will be through a random drawing. I encourage hunters to prioritize all the hunting blocks. This will help them during the selection process, since hunters are selected based on the random drawing of their license numbers and then assigned to a hunting block based on the ranked preferences they wrote on the application.

**APPLICATION FEES:** Fees will remain at \$10/hunter during the 2011 hunt. Please keep in mind that the fee increase in 2006 was the first increase since the hunts began in 1991. The increased revenue will allow the DCR to defray some of the associated costs of the hunt. Please keep in mind that application fees are non-refundable.

**SCOUTING:** Two days of car scouting for each hunting block will be allowed again in 2011. Scouting will take place during Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 26-27, 2011) as it has in the past. This year, the hours will be remain shortened, and scouting will be allowed from 8:00-1:00. Hunters are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to explore and familiarize themselves with the various hunting areas. Please remember that scouting is reserved for Quabbin hunters only, and no firearms are allowed while scouting.

### **MUZZLELOADERS ALLOWED:**

During the 2007-2010 hunt, hunters were allowed the option of using either a muzzleloader or a shotgun.

After internal discussion, the DCR agreed to continue to allow hunters the option of using shotguns with slugs or muzzleloaders while hunting at Quabbin. For security reasons, please keep in mind that a FID card is **still required** to hunt at Quabbin.

Like in previous years, the 2011 Quabbin deer hunt application will be available online at the DCR website.

The \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_ is <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply.htm>

As in previous years, antlerless deer killed during the Quabbin hunt will be considered “bonus” and will not count towards a hunter’s bag limit. During orientation sessions last fall, we allowed hunters to purchase an extra antlerless permit, in addition to the one that is required. We will again offer hunters the opportunity to purchase an extra antlerless permit during orientations. In addition, we will offer this opportunity to hunters exempt from orientations. Keep an eye out for details on how to go about purchasing extra permits if you’re drawn for the hunt.

For your convenience, we have included a 2011 Quabbin deer hunt application. Hunters are encouraged to apply for this year’s hunt.

The Quabbin hunt is scheduled for the following days:

Prescott/Pelham: December 1-2, 2011

Petersham/New Salem: December 8-9, 2011

Any questions? Call: Kiana Koenen, Wildlife Biologist at (413) 323-6921 ext. 163 or e-mail her at [kiana.koenen@state.ma.us](mailto:kiana.koenen@state.ma.us) OR contact Bill Pula, Regional Director at (413) 784-1249 ext. 101.

