

## Hunters Have a Successful Year

### Hunters Help Identify Moose

Hunters during the 2007 Quabbin hunt were again asked to keep an eye out for moose. Hunters were given a sighting card when they entered the hunt the first day and were asked to return the card and also report any moose sightings. Hunters were happy to comply, and the results we received provided an outstanding amount of information on how many moose are in the Quabbin.

Hunters did an excellent job of returning their cards at the end of the hunt. Almost 90% of the Pelham hunters turned in a card. In the end, there was quite a range of sightings. Almost 50% of the cards turned in during the Prescott hunt had a moose sighting on them, while only 4% of Hardwick cards had a sighting.

DCR biologists spent hours pouring over the cards with sightings trying to determine how many unique individuals could be identified during each hunting segment. Again, there was quite a range of results. Preliminary estimates indicate that there were very few moose (<10) present in the Hardwick and New Salem block, while the Pelham and Prescott block had substantially more individuals. In the end, DCR estimates that there are at least 100 moose in and around the Quabbin.

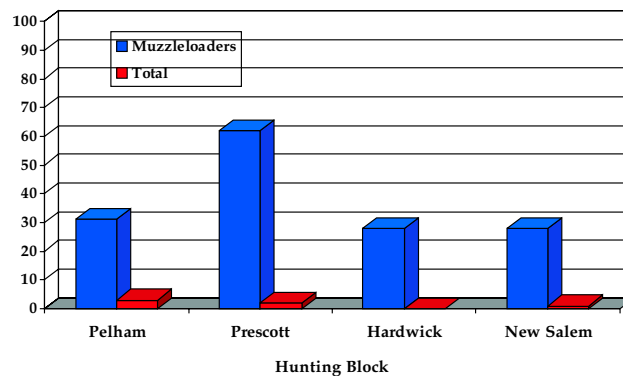
The 2007 Quabbin hunt proved to be another successful year. Hunting conditions were good, and there was even some snow on the ground for part of the hunt. The total harvest was slightly higher than the previous years.

A new twist was introduced during the 2007 hunt. Hunters were allowed to hunt with either a muzzleloader or a shotgun. For security purposes, the DCR still required hunters to have a valid FID card. This requirement will continue with future hunts. While it is unclear how many people hunted with a muzzleloader, very few deer were killed with a primitive firearm (see Table)



D. Small

Nick Dussault with his 145lb. Prescott buck



In order to get a better understanding of how many hunters are using a primitive firearm, the DCR will ask hunters to check off whether or not they used a muzzleloader during the hunt on their 2008 access card.

## The 2007 Hunt

The 2007 deer hunt was the third year of a 5-year hunting program that rotates through the 5 hunting blocks. Approximately 1760 people applied for the 2007 hunt, and 1331 (76%) were selected. Around 1090 hunters attended the hunt, and 147 deer were killed. Overall hunter success was almost 14% in only 4 days of hunting.



Robert Haas with his 148lb. Hardwick buck

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

### HARDWICK



Don Cantwell with his 154lb. Hardwick buck

excellent. Approximately 205 hunters (90%) attended the hunt, and they killed 26 deer. This equals about 2.9 deer killed/mi<sup>2</sup> and about .13 deer/hunter. In other

#### Quick Facts

##### Biggest Buck:

- 175 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Philip Courchaine

##### Biggest Doe:

- 127 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- Kevin Musiak

words, approximately 13% of the Hardwick hunters killed a deer.

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	6	4	4	53.8	14
Female	7	2	3	46.2	12
%	50.0	23.1	26.9		
Total	13	6	7		<b>26</b>

### PRESCOTT

#### Quick Facts

##### Biggest Buck:

- 191 pounds
- 3.5+ years old
- Thomas Koziol

##### Biggest Doe:

- 125 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- Paul Browne, Jr.

Prescott hunters had an excellent year during 2007. Approximately 375 hunters attended the 2-day hunt. This is almost 90% of the hunters eligible to hunt. Prescott hunters killed 62 deer. This works out to about 3.2 deer killed/mi<sup>2</sup>. Hunter success was exceptional.

Approximately 17% of the hunters in Prescott killed a deer

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	13	14	2	46.8	29
Female	22	7	4	53.2	33
%	56.5	33.9	9.7		
Total	35	21	6		<b>62</b>

# The Quabbin Deer Hunter

Quabbin Reservation

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Tom Koziol with his Prescott buck

## NEW SALEM

New Salem experienced its highest harvest since 1994 - the year after the hunting block opened for the first time. Around 186 hunters, or roughly 89% of those eligible, attended the hunt. These hunters bagged 28 deer. This is almost 4 deer killed/mi<sup>2</sup>. Hunter success was very good. Approximately 15% of New Salem hunters killed a deer.



Nathan Berthiaume with his NS buck

### Quick Facts

#### Biggest Buck:

- 153 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- Nathan Berthiaume

#### Biggest Doe:

- 118 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- Jarek Przybyla

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	4	6	2	42.9	12
Female	4	4	8	57.1	16
%	28.6	35.7	35.7		
Total	8	10	10		<b>28</b>

## PELHAM

Pelham hunters experienced a hunting season very similar to the 2006 hunt. Attendance was good (approximately 88%), and the 321 hunters attending the hunt bagged 31 deer. This equals about 2.1 deer killed/mi<sup>2</sup>. Around 10% of the hunters at Pelham killed a deer.

### Quick Facts

#### Biggest Buck:

- 161 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Anthony Methot

#### Biggest Doe:

- 136 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Alfred Tetreault

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	8	9	2	61.3	19
Female	9	2	1	38.7	12
%	54.8	35.5	9.7		
Total	17	11	3		<b>31</b>



Keith Rose with his 133lb. Pelham buck

## THE 2008 HUNT

As mentioned earlier, the DCR began a second 5-year hunting plan in 2005. Following a similar rotation to the original 5-year plan, the Prescott block will be removed from hunting during the 2008 season. Therefore, hunting in 2008 will take place in the Pelham, Hardwick, Petersham and New Salem 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 check off on the application as many hunting segments as they are able to hunt. This will help them during the selection process.

**APPLICATION FEES:** Based on results from a 2006 survey, application fees increased to \$10 per hunter during the 2007 hunt. Fees will remain at \$10/hunter during the 2008 hunt. Please keep in mind that this is the first fee increase since the hunts began in 1991. The increased revenue will allow the DCR to defray some of the associated costs of the hunt.

**SCOUTING:** Two days of car scouting for each hunting block will be allowed again in 2008. Scouting will take place during Thanksgiving weekend as it has in the past. This year, the hours will 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:

Results of a 2006 survey indicated an overwhelming majority of hunters were in favor of allowing muzzleloaders in the Quabbin hunt. Therefore, during the 2007 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 2008 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 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 2008 Quabbin deer hunt application. Hunters are encouraged to apply for this year’s hunt.

The Quabbin hunt is scheduled for the following days:

New Salem/Pelham: December 4-5, 2008  
Petersham/Hardwick: December 11-12, 2008

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.



**Matt LaPlante with a lucky find**