



The Quabbin Deer Hunter

Quabbin Reservation

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

Volume 11, Number 1, Summer 2009

State of Emergency Declared - Second Day Cancelled!



Ice storm damage, Central MA, December 12, 2008

The weather during the first day of the Petersham and Hardwick hunt wasn't great. It was wet and cold. However, no one could have predicted what would happen Thursday night (Dec. 11th, 2008) into Friday morning. A severe ice storm moved into the area, prompting the governor to declare a state of emergency and forcing the DCR to cancel a hunt day for the first time in the history of the Quabbin hunts. While disappointing to many hunters, it was an easy decision for the DCR. Road and forest conditions were hazardous at best and impassible at worst. Let's hope for better weather this year!

QUABBIN HUNT DRAWING WILL BE BASED ON HUNTER PREFERENCE

Modifications have been made to the deer hunt computer selection program this year, and as a result, chosen hunters will be assigned a hunting block based on preference. This year's application will ask hunters to indicate their hunting preference for each of the 4 hunting blocks (Hardwick, Petersham, Prescott, & Pelham) by ranking the blocks 1-4, with 1 being their top choice. As before, random numbers will be drawn from a hat. If a hunter's number is chosen, the selection program will determine their top choice (whatever is ranked #1), and place the hunting group into that segment. Once a segment is full, chosen hunters will be placed in their second choice, etc. Hunters are encouraged to rank all hunting segments to ensure that they have the opportunity to hunt Quabbin. If hunters only rank their top choice, there is the possibility that the segment will fill up before their number is drawn, and they will not be placed somewhere else.

The 2008 Hunt

The 2008 deer hunt was the fourth year of a 5-year hunting program that rotates through the 5 hunting blocks. Approximately 1825 people applied for the 2008 hunt, and 1187 (65%) were selected. Around 937 hunters attended the hunt, and 80 deer were killed. Overall hunter success was almost 9% in only 3 days of hunting.



William Dow with his 141lb. Hardwick buck

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



Ricky Boudreau with his 150lb. Hardwick buck

K. MacKenzie

Hardwick was only hunted 1 day during 2008 due to the ice storm on the second day. Attendance was good during the first day. About

170 hunters (82%) attended the hunt, and they killed 18 deer. This equals about 2.0 deer killed/mi² and about

Quick Facts

Biggest Buck:

- 150 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- Ricky Boudreau

Biggest Doe:

- 133 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Chris Desantis

.07 deer/hunter. In other words, approximately 7% of the Hardwick hunters killed a deer.

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	6	0	0	33.3	6
Female	7	0	5	66.7	12
%	72.2	0.0	27.8		
Total	13	0	5		18

PETERSHAM

Quick Facts

Biggest Buck:

- 179 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Paul Browne Jr.

Biggest Doe:

- 128 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- Martin Schwartz
- Anthony Asmar

The agency, and hunters, were hoping for a good harvest in Petersham in 2008. It had been rested during 2007, and the last time it came off a rest year, we had a record harvest. Unfortunately, poor weather cut the hunt short by 1 day. Hunter attendance for the one day was pretty

good. Approximately 290 hunters attended the 1-day of hunting. This is about 81% of the hunters eligible to hunt. Petersham hunters killed 24 deer. This works out to about 1.8 deer killed/mi². Hunter success was moderately low. Approximately 8% of the hunters in Petersham killed a deer.

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	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	12	0	2	58.3	14
Female	5	2	3	41.7	10
%	70.8	8.3	20.8		
Total	17	2	5		24



Robert Souther Jr. with his 177 lb. Petersham buck

NEW SALEM

New Salem hunters experienced an average year, and the harvest was almost half of last year's near record high.



Wayne Nickerson with his NS buck

Quick Facts

Biggest Buck:

- 156 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Wayne Nickerson

Biggest Doe:

- 113 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- Brian Hinnebush

Around 165 hunters, or roughly 93% of those eligible, attended the hunt. These hunters bagged 15 deer. This is about 2 deer killed/mi². Hunter success was the highest of

all the segments. Approximately 9% of New Salem hunters killed a deer.

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	8	0	3	73.3	11
Female	3	1	0	26.7	4
%	73.3	6.7	20.0		
Total	11	1	4		15

PELHAM

Pelham hunters experienced a hunting season very similar to recent hunts.

Attendance was good (approximately 86%), and the 314 hunters attending the hunt bagged 23 deer. This equals about 1.6 deer killed/mi². Around 7% of the hunters at Pelham killed a deer.

Quick Facts

Biggest Buck:

- 149 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Kevin Molloy

Biggest Doe:

- 130 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Leonard Crossman

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	11	0	1	52.2	12
Female	6	2	3	47.8	11
%	73.9	8.7	17.4		
Total	17	2	4		23



Keith Molloy with his 149lb. Pelham buck

K. MacKenzie

THE 2009 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 New Salem block will be removed from hunting during the 2009 season. Therefore, hunting in 2009 will take place in the Pelham, Hardwick, 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.

APPLICATION FEES: Fees will remain at \$10/hunter during the 2009 hunt. Please keep in mind that the fee increase in 2006 was 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. 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 2009. Scouting will take place during Thanksgiving weekend 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 and 2008 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 2009 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 2009 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 3-4, 2009

Petersham/Hardwick: December 10-11, 2009

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



D. Small

Paul Brown with his 179 lb. Petersham buck