

THE QUABBIN DEER HUNTER

Vol. 19, No. 1, Summer 2017

NEWSLETTER

dcr

Massachusetts



Moose at Quabbin

While deer have always been the focus of this newsletter, I thought hunters might enjoy some info on the other large ungulate roaming around Quabbin, which some of you have probably encountered (click on video below taken by Bruce Abbott during the 2016 Pelham hunt). Moose were relatively scarce 15 years ago, but are now a regular inhabitant of the Quabbin forests. Because of their large size and tendency to eat lots of woody vegetation (including small trees), DCR has a particular interest in their populations and potential impact on the forest. We have been studying moose for quite a few years in cooperation with Quabbin hunters (moose sighting survey), the Umass Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit (moose and deer exclosures) and internal efforts (moose pellet counts). Early results from the exclosure study are interesting. We set up exclosures that kept out moose but not deer, kept out both moose and deer, and a control site that allowed both animals. After studying these areas for several years, Dr. Edward Faison concluded that just deer browsing on young trees had little effect on their growth but the combination of moose and deer browsing delayed trees growing into the understory by about 3 years (http://scholarworks.umass.edu/dissertations_2/451/). While the trees eventually did grow beyond the reach of moose, their shape had been altered by repeated browsing.

Our efforts to estimate moose densities at Quabbin have also yielded some interesting results. Pellet surveys done over the last 3 years have generated moose densities ranging from about 2 moose/mi² in the New Salem area to almost 10 moose/mi² on Prescott. Both of these estimates are much higher than densities reported in New Hampshire and Maine, although the techniques used to generate these estimates vary considerably from state to state. The deer hunter surveys conducted annually also provide insight into moose density, but give us additional information on reproduction and sex ratios. It is clear from all this information that moose are here to stay in Massachusetts, at least for now. Their long-term impact on forest structure is still being studied, and how well moose persist in Massachusetts with changing climate is still undetermined. As always, we appreciate your continued help with our efforts to monitor moose on watershed lands.



The 2016 Hunt

The 2016 deer hunt was the second year of a new 5-year rotation, and Hardwick was not hunted. We received applications from 1,180 hunters, and 100% were selected. About 874 hunters attended the hunt. The total harvest for the four days was 53 deer, representing a hunter success rate of a little over 6%.

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

Prescott

Prescott hunters were unfortunate to have mild temperatures during the hunt. About 290 hunters (78%) showed up to the hunt, and they harvested 14 deer. That equals a success rate of 5%.

QUICK FACTS

BIGGEST BUCK

- 179.5 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Mike Chaves

BIGGEST DOE

- 117 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- Heidi Flanders

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	5	5	0	71.0	10
Female	2	1	1	29.0	4
%	50.0	43.0	7.0		
Total	7	6	1		14



New Salem

New Salem hunters experienced slightly better hunting conditions than the Prescott hunters. About 175 (83%) hunters attended the 2-day hunt, and they harvested 7 deer. Hunters killed less than 1 deer/mi². Success rate in the New Salem block was 4%.

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	3	1	1	71.0	5
Female	2	0	0	29.0	2
%	71.0	14.0	14.0		
Total	5	1	1		7

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New Salem Quick Facts:

QUICK FACTS

BIGGEST BUCK

- 152.5 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Frank Marz

BIGGEST DOE

- 109 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Luigi Carrozzi

hunt. Hunters harvested about 1.5 deer/mi², and hunter success was good, about 9.0%. Petersham hunters killed 16 deer.

	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	5	4	2	69.0	11
Female	3	1	1	3.0	5
%	50.0	31.0	19.0		
Total	8	5	3		16



Petersham

Petersham hunters experienced seasonal temperatures and fair hunting conditions during their 2 days, although there was no snow on the ground. Hunter attendance was similar to other areas; about 180 (78%) attended the

QUICK FACTS

BIGGEST BUCK

- 164 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Demosthenes Skipitaris

BIGGEST DOE

- 132 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Evan Moore

Pelham

Pelham's hunters did pretty well, harvesting 16 deer, which is a 7% success rate. Several large bucks were killed, including the biggest buck, two 182 pounders, as well as deer

weighting 175, 163, and 157 pounds. About 233 (82%) hunters killed 1.2 deer/mi².

QUICK FACTS

BIGGEST BUCK

- 185 pounds
- 3.5 years old
- Mark Palmacci

BIGGEST DOE

- 118 pounds
- 2.5 years old
- Chase Bourdo

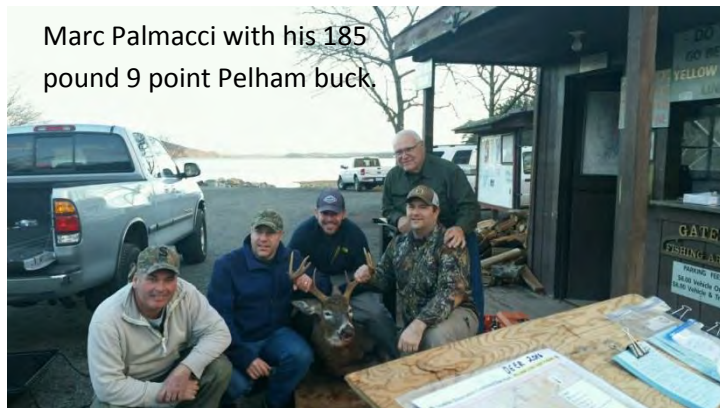
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	Adult	Yrling	Fawn	%	Total
Male	9	5	1	94.0	15
Female	1	0	0	6.0	1
%	63.0	31.0	6.0		
Total	10	5	1		16

The 2017 Hunt



Marc Palmacci with his 185 pound 9 point Pelham buck.

Last year was the second year in our new 5-year rotation, and this year Petersham will not be hunted; Hardwick will be added back into the hunt. Each block will be hunted for one 2-day segment.

Like last years, we have transitioned to an online application so there is no paper application available. Please visit the DCR website to apply. There is **NO** application fee this year. This year, 500 antlerless permits will be allocated to selected hunters. Hunters can participate in the instant award program through the MassFishHunt website. If you were selected for a permit, you can buy it on the same site.

Car scouting will again be the weekend before Thanksgiving and is scheduled for November 18-19, 2017. Car scouting hours will be 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Hunters are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and are reminded that car scouting is for Quabbin hunters only and no firearms are allowed.

The 2017 Quabbin deer hunt application is available online at the DCR website:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/deerhunt>

The 2017 Quabbin hunt is scheduled for the following days:

New Salem/Prescott: Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 2017

Pelham/Hardwick: Dec. 7-8, 2017

Any questions? Call Kiana Koenen at 413-

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her at

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Demosthenes Skipitaris with his 164 pound 8 point Petersham buck.