



Hunting News

Grafton Land Trust

Preserving Grafton's open spaces since 1958

November 2012

Dear Hunter,

RE: Safety During Shotgun Season for Deer

As temperatures drop and the last of the autumn leaves fall to the forest floor, many hunters begin to feel the anticipation that comes each year as we prepare for opening day of shotgun season for deer, which falls on Monday, November 26th.

You may enter the woods as an individual hunter or as a member of a hunting party, but it is important to remember that your actions directly affect the hunting community at large. We all hope to fill our tags, but in the end conducting a safe and responsible hunt is of paramount importance.

We strongly encourage all hunting permit holders and the public at-large to read our [hunting policy](#). It serves as an excellent educational document and establishes a set of reasonable controls to ensure the safety of all those utilizing our properties during hunting season.

Safety can be assured by following these simple steps:

- Scout the area you plan to hunt prior to opening day.
- Be sure of your target and what lies beyond it.
- Wear hunter orange.
- Keep your eyes open for non-hunters; they may not realize it is hunting season and they may not be wearing hunter orange.
- Shotgun buckshot is strictly prohibited on GLT properties.

By working together we can ensure a safe and successful hunting season. If you see an unsafe act, please [report it](#) to the GLT.

Sincerely,

Troy M. Gipps
Hunting Program Coordinator
Grafton Land Trust



- Quick Links**
- [Hunting Policy](#)
 - [Permit Application](#)
 - [Property Maps](#)
 - [Harvest Info Form](#)
 - [Join Us on Facebook](#)
 - [Graftonland.org](#)
 - [MassWildlife](#)
 - [U.S. Fish & Wildlife](#)

Submit Your Pics!

Got a cool photo from a recent hunting trip in Grafton? Send it to hunting@grafftonland.org and we'll publish it in the "Photo of the month" section of *Hunting News*.



We are a member supported organization that relies on you - *hunters* - as well as hikers, equestrians and other recreational users to manage our lands. Please [become a member](#) today!

Safety Tip

Pre-season scouting is not only one of the most effective ways to understand wildlife patterns it is also a key component of conducting a safe hunt in populated areas.



Knowledge gained regarding the location of heavily traveled trails, roads, houses, backyards and parks is as valuable to a successful hunt as finding deer runs, rubs and scrapes. Possessing an in-depth knowledge of a particular property best positions a hunter to both hunt safely and enjoy his or her time in the woods. Technology certainly assists many hunters with their scouting efforts, but it is no substitute for walking the ground you plan to hunt prior to opening day. The president of the GLT recently had the opportunity to get a bird's eye view of Grafton from a small plane. We encourage you to visit our [Picasaweb Album](#) to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the Grafton landscape.

Photo of the month



This mature drake Wood Duck was harvested recently on a local river. Arguably the most beautiful of all North American ducks, it is rarely seen by non-hunters. It's elusive nature coupled with the thick, tangled wetlands and swamps it inhabits keeps it well hidden from most. The bag limit was recently raised from two to three birds per day due to their increasing numbers. Wood duck nesting boxes erected by hunters and non-hunters alike have played a big part in this duck's population success story in recent years. (Photo by Dean Cerrati)

Trail Cam Shot!



Trail cameras can improve your hunting success by providing photographic proof that a game species frequents an area you plan to hunt. They can also help you determine periods of peak wildlife activity. This photo of a fisher was submitted by Steve Paulin. You can see more of Steve's trail cam shots on our [Picasaweb Album](#).

What's in season this month?

- Whitetail Deer (Archery) ... Oct. 15 - Nov. 24
- Whitetail Deer (Shotgun) ... Nov. 26 - Dec. 8
- Black Bear ... Nov. 5 - Nov. 24
- Gray Squirrel ... Sept. 10 - Jan. 2, 2013
- Cottontail Rabbit ... Oct. 13 - Feb. 28, 2013
- Snowshoe Hare ... Oct. 13 - Feb. 2, 2013
- Ruffed Grouse ... Oct. 13 - Nov. 24
- Pheasant ... Oct. 13 - Nov. 24
- Coyote ... Oct. 13 - Mar. 8, 2013
- Raccoon ... Oct. 1 - Jan. 31, 2013
- Opossum ... Oct. 1 - Jan. 31, 2013
- Woodcock ... Oct. 29 - Nov. 17
- Ducks (Central) Oct. 8 - Nov. 24
- Canada Goose (Central/except Snow & Blue) ... Oct. 8 - Nov. 24
- Snow & Blue Goose ... same as ducks
- American Coot ... same as ducks
- Mergansers ... same as ducks



The Grafton Land Trust is a private, member-supported, nonprofit organization that preserves, maintains, and advocates for open space in Grafton, and promotes environmental education and stewardship.

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