



Hunting News

Grafton Land Trust

Preserving Grafton's open spaces since 1958

November 2013

Dear Hunter,

RE: Wildlife Management Area regulations apply on three Potter Hill-area properties

During our first annual hunting meeting, which was held on October 22nd, we received a question regarding what hunting regulations apply to our three Potter Hill-area properties: Potter Hill Meadows, G. Knowlton Preserve, and the Rita Martin Preserve. As you may know, a GLT hunting permit is not required to hunt on these three properties because acquisition funding was provided by the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife). The GLT owns the properties and MassWildlife holds the conservation restriction. As a result, the familiar [Wildlife Management Area](#) (WMA) regulations apply to these three properties.

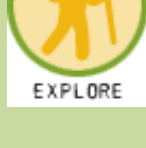
I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the 50 hunters who attended our first annual hunting meeting. Your attendance helped to make the event a big success! We reviewed the GLT hunting policy, discussed our properties, and enjoyed a very informative talk by our guest speaker David Stainbrook, who serves as the Moose & Deer Project Leader for MassWildlife.

A special thanks goes out to those hunters who became members of the Grafton Land Trust recently. We greatly appreciate your support. Annual membership dues are just \$20 for individuals and seniors and family memberships are only \$35. Joining our private, non-profit, member-supported organization is a great way to help us preserve and maintain open space in Grafton. Membership information can be found at www.graftonland.org. Please join us!

See you in the field,

Troy Gipps
Vice President & Hunting Program Coordinator
Grafton Land Trust

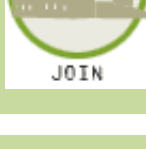
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Submit Your Pics!

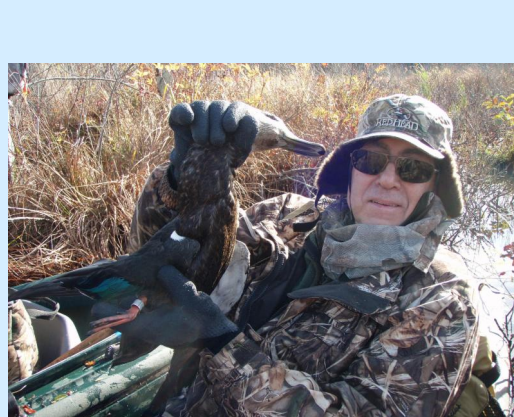
Got a cool photo from a recent hunting trip in Grafton? Send it to hunting@graftonland.org and we'll publish it in the "Photo of the month" section of *Hunting News*.



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!

New Brunswick Black Duck harvested in Grafton

Harvesting ducks with "jewelry" (bands) is an exciting aspect of waterfowl hunting. The hunter earns bragging rights than come with a call lanyard adorned with an ever-increasing number of bands and the bands provide biologists with important data regarding the migratory patterns and life history of North American waterfowl.



On October 26th, GLT hunting permit holder Tom Oertel harvested a banded [American Black Duck](#) in a Grafton wetland. The duck was the lead drake in a flock of five blacks that circled 13 times before the persistent calling of GLT Hunting Program Coordinator Troy Gipps brought them into the decoy spread. Black ducks are notorious for their wary nature and this flock was no exception!

Tom called 1-800-327-BAND to report the band number and a few days later he received a Certificate of Appreciation via email from the Canadian Wildlife Service that contained the banding information. The duck was banded as a hatchling in Albert County, New Brunswick, Canada on August 20, 2010. Albert County is located on the northeast coast of the Bay of Fundy.

About 60 million birds representing hundreds of species have been banded in North America since 1904. About 4 million bands have been recovered and reported.



White-tailed deer feeding at night



TrailCam video by Troy Gipps

New online game check tutorials posted!

New tutorials providing step-by-step instructions on how to check turkey, bear, deer and most furbearers have recently been posted on the [MassWildlife Game Check Information](#) webpage. The tutorials are available for download as Adobe PDF files.

This is the first year hunters are able to report "or check" their harvested deer, bear, turkey, and most furbearers online by logging on to [MassFishHunt](#). Hunters must complete the checking/reporting procedure BEFORE processing any game or furbearers for the table, freezer, fur buyer, or taxidermist.

Deer hunters are reminded that during shotgun deer season (December 2-14, 2013) all harvested deer must be checked at an [official check station](#). Reporting deer at check stations during these 2 weeks allows biologists to collect valuable data needed for deer management. The MassFishHunt system will not allow online checking of deer during shotgun deer season.



Photo of the month



The results of a successful October duck hunt in Grafton. (Photo by Troy Gipps)

What's in season this month?

- Deer (Archery) ... Oct. 21 - Nov. 30, 2013
- Black Bear (Zones 1-9) ... Nov. 4 - 23, 2013
- Gray Squirrel (Zones 1-9) ... Sept. 9 - Jan. 2, 2014;
- (Zones 10-14) ... Oct. 19 - Jan. 2, 2014
- Pheasant ... Oct. 19 - Nov. 30, 2013
- Ruffed Grouse ... Oct. 19 - Nov. 30, 2013
- Woodcock ... Oct. 2 - 26 & Oct. 28 - Nov. 16, 2013
- Duck (Central) ... Oct. 15 - Nov. 30, 2013
- Goose (Central) ... Oct. 15 - Nov. 30, 2013
- Cottontail Rabbit ... Oct. 19 - Feb. 28, 2014
- Snowshoe Hare ... Oct. 19 - Feb. 5, 2014
- Coyote ... Oct. 19 - Mar. 8, 2014
- Raccoon ... Oct. 1 - Jan. 31, 2014
- Opossum ... Oct. 1 - Jan. 31, 2014
- Crow ... (Fri./Sat./Mon. only) July 2 - April 10, 2014
- Snapping Turtle ... Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2013



Complete 2013-2014 [Migratory Bird Regulations](#).

Open Season (year-round; except during shotgun season for deer) ... English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, woodchuck.

[Quick Guide to Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Dates.](#)

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

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The Grafton Land Trust | P.O. Box 114 | Grafton | MA | 01519