



Hunting News

Grafton Land Trust

Preserving Grafton's open spaces since 1958

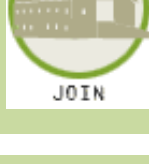
February 2014



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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!

Dear Hunter,

RE: Treestand Removal / Membership

I am happy to report that a safe deer hunt was once again conducted on Grafton Land Trust properties in 2013. Please remain safety conscious during your late season hunting pursuits.

As a reminder, per GLT Hunting Policy, all ladder and hanging treestands must be removed from GLT properties no later than 30 days from the close of the whitetail deer hunting season. Hunters may continue using climbing treestands throughout the remainder of the 2013-2014 season.

If you are not already a member of the Grafton Land Trust, I encourage you to join us in 2014. It's a great way to show your appreciation and support. To join, visit our [membership page](#).

See you in the field,

Troy Gipps
 Vice President & Hunting Program Coordinator
 Grafton Land Trust

hunting@grafftonland.org

Are you in the Skipper Club?

If you are like most deer hunters, you start dreaming of your trophy buck the day after the deer season ends.

In mid-summer, your vision solidifies on the covers of your favorite hunting magazines. He's a 14-point, 200-plus pound behemoth destined for the record books. *This will be the year!*

Your stands are up, your equipment is in tip-top shape, and your physical and mental focus are unmatched. Success is a near certainty. Representatives from the Boone and Crockett Club will soon be at your door. Your Inbox will fill with messages from *North American Whitetail*, *Field & Stream* and *Outdoor Life* editors jockeying for the most sought after hunting story of the year. *This will be the year!*



Then, in the final moments of the last Saturday of the shotgun season -- after more deer-less days afield than you can recall -- you finally see movement. Barely visible through heavy snowfall, a deer approaches. You shoulder your gun and look through the scope, fully expecting to see a trophy rack. Unfortunately, he's a skipper. A short-nosed, stubby-legged, antlerless, "sub-60 class" skipper. You'd need to be riding on his back with a magnifying glass in hand to see this buck's buttons. It has happened before. The typical thoughts enter your mind: "I have a doe permit", "He's not *that* small", etc. But he is small ... very small (59.6 pounds to be exact). Visions of your cover story quickly fade, along with legal shooting light. You think of your empty freezer and take the shot.

It was once again the trophy year that wasn't, but you reconcile expectations with reality and are thankful for a successful hunt. With your gun in one hand and deer in the other, you hold your head high and head back to the truck. After all, he's bigger than a duck and antlers make terrible stew. *Next year will be the year!*

Gray & Red Foxes in Grafton, MA



TrailCam video by Troy Gipps

New England Fishing & Outdoor Expo, Feb. 6-9th

Shake off your cabin fever and attend the [New England Fishing and Outdoor Expo](#) show at the DCU Center in Worcester. Doors opens at 3pm on Thursday, Feb. 6th and close at 5pm on Sunday, Feb. 9th.



Experience the latest innovations in fishing, hunting, boating and camping. Try out the best gear, talk to top manufacturers and learn from world-class outdoor sporting professionals.

The show will be produced by Davis Productions. With over 40 years of experience in the advertising and event planning industry, they guarantee a "must-see" show. They also teamed up with the famous Dan Kenney of [Go Fish with Dan](#), who will be helping host some of the industry's biggest names.

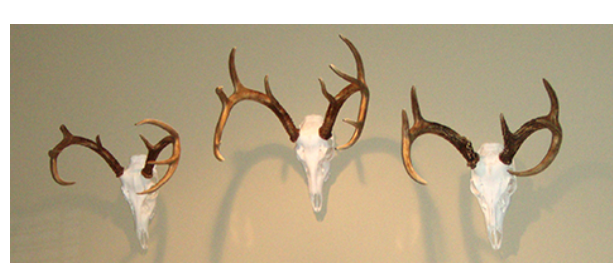
Preserve your trophy with Skulls Unlimited

Taxidermy is a great way preserve memories of your hunt, but the price tag can be prohibitive.



Fortunately, there is another option available to deer hunters who don't want to incur the cost of a shoulder mount but would like to preserve and display antlers from a successful hunt.

[Skulls Unlimited](#) is a commercial supplier of osteological specimens located in Oklahoma that provides a [skull cleaning service](#) using dermestid beetles to strip the flesh from skulls and skeletons. The result is a museum quality "European" skull mount, also referred to as a western mount, that can be hung on directly on the wall or can be mounted on a wooden plaque or pedestal. The cleaning cost for white-tailed deer, with or without antlers, starts at \$125 with a turnaround time of about two months. Skulls of furbearers, such as coyotes, fox and fisher, can be cleaned for only \$45.



Top 10 Reasons to Harvest a Skipper!

10. Trophy room is full
9. Freezer is empty
8. Test your marksmanship
7. Only deer you saw all year
6. Tired of eating track soup
5. Prestige
4. Tastes great
3. Less filling
2. It's bigger than a duck
1. Easy drag!



*Harvest a deer in Grafton this season? If so, [send us a picture](#) and we'll publish it in a future issue of *Hunting News*.*

You have to travel south to harvest a sub-40 class micro-skipper like this one, which was taken in Arkansas in 2008 during a controlled deer hunt on a military base; a doe had to be harvested before a buck. This beast tipped the scale at 35lbs! I invited a few friends over after the hunt and we had one heck of a venison feast.

Photo of the month



Plummeting temperatures made the second half of the duck season a challenge and it continues to test hunters pursuing honkers during the late Canada goose season, which closes on February 15th. Waterfowling images like this one, reminds us of the first half of the season when wood ducks Grafton's early morning sky. (Photo by Troy Gipps)

What's in season this month?

Late Goose (Central) ... Jan. 18 - Feb. 15, 2014
 Cottontail Rabbit ... Oct. 19 - Feb. 28, 2014
 Snowshoe Hare ... Oct. 19 - Feb. 5, 2014
 Coyote ... Oct. 19 - Mar. 8, 2014
 Bobcat ... Dec. 20 - Mar. 8, 2014 (Zones 1-8 only)
 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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