**Ohio Division of Wildlife**

# MAGEE MARSH CONTROLLED DEER HUNT

Congratulations for being selected to participate in the **Magee Marsh Wildlife Area Controlled Deer Hunt.** This letter provides you with background information on the wildlife area.

Purchased in 1951 by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Magee Marsh is one of the few remaining wetland complexes on the Lake Erie shoreline. This 2,200 acre wetland is a part of what was once called the Great Black Swamp, an area from Cleveland to Detroit which totaled over 300,000 acres. During the early 1900's, John N. Magee had plans to dike off and drain the marsh utilizing it's fertile soil for agricultural purposes. However, after several years of high lake levels, farming this area became impossible. Mr. Magee then made plans to maintain the site for private duck hunting and furbearer trapping. With these plans, Magee Marsh became a reality. Today, Magee remains a diked wetland comprised of emergent marsh, wet prairies and forested beach ridge. It is also home to the Sportsmen's Migratory Bird Center.

Magee Marsh is managed as a diked wetland to provide habitat for a variety of wetland wildlife. By manipulating water levels, different plant communities can also be maintained. Various management strategies are used to attract waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, and furbearers. The water levels inside the 12 separate wetland compartments comprising Magee Marsh can be maintained independently of each other, thus creating diverse habitat types.

Controlled deer hunting at Magee Marsh began in conjunction with the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge in order to provide a quality wildlife recreational opportunity. Magee Marsh is limited to two deer units. The Turtle Creek Woods unit consists of flooded swamp that contains several abandoned dikes. The Goose Haven Woods unit contains thick swamp, grass hummocks and the barrier beach ridge along Lake Erie.

# OTTAWA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND MAGEE MARSH CONTROLLED DEER HUNT RULES AND CONDITIONS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the ODNR Division of Wildlife have cooperated in the establishment of a controlled white-tailed deer hunt. Hunters will also be contacted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and be given more specific information regarding these hunts.

1. For gun hunts, on the day of your hunt you must check in by 5:30 a.m. at the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, or contact them by 5:30 a.m. at 419-898-0014. For archery hunts, you must check in between 7:00 a.m. and Noon on the Monday of your hunt week.
2. Hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ after sunset. Only deer are legal during this hunt. A valid Ohio Special Deer Permit must be in your possession.
3. Antlerless Deer Hunting Permits may be used to harvest antlerless deer. However, they will not be available to purchase at the refuge headquarters.
4. All State of Ohio deer hunting regulations apply unless otherwise stated. Hunters must wear a hunter orange hat **in addition to** state regulations during gun season.
5. Archery deer hunters may harvest 2 deer during the archery hunts; one either-sex, and one antlerless only. Only one deer is permitted to be taken during the gun hunts; permittee may take a deer of either sex, partners may take an antlerless only deer. Hunters in Ohio may only take one antlered deer per year.
6. All hunters, successful or not, must check out by 6:00 pm. The submission of your Hunter Harvest Card in the harvest card drop box satisfies the check-out requirement. Harvest cards can also be submitted at the refuge visitor center during normal business hours (8:00 am – 4:00 pm). **Once you turn in your harvest card, your hunt is complete.**
7. If you wound a deer and feel sure it is in an adjacent sector, come back to the check station for assistance. On private land, permission from the landowner is required before you can retrieve your deer.
8. Hunters should be aware that waterfowl hunting and controlled trapping are taking place in the area.
9. Permits are transferable; follow instructions given. NOTE: It is unlawful for any person to buy, sell, trade, or barter any Division of Wildlife issued controlled hunting, fishing or trapping permit.
10. No person may participate in the controlled hunt more than once during the current deer season.
11. Mobility impaired permit holders will receive an either-sex permit and youth hunters will receive an either-sex permit. ATV's will be permitted to transport disabled hunters to and from blinds.
12. Portable blinds or tree stands may be used.
13. Each hunter is responsible for their own transportation to and from the designated hunting zone.
14. Gun hunters may use any legal hunting weapon to take deer that is legal to use during the statewide deer gun season.
15. A pair of hip boots or waders is highly recommended for retrieving or tracking deer.
16. Partners: The permit holder may bring a hunting partner(s) as specified below:

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| Ottawa Youth Deer Hunt: | 2 youth partners and at a minimum 2 non-hunting adults. We strongly recommend 1 non-hunting adult accompanies each youth hunter. |
| Magee Youth Deer Hunt: | 1 youth partner and non-hunting adult |
| Ottawa/Magee Adult Deer Archery: | 2 partners |
| Magee Adult deer Gun: | 1 partner |

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| Ottawa Adult Deer Gun: | 2 partners |
| Ottawa Mobility Impaired Deer: | 2 partners and 1 non-hunting assistant |

17. Failure to follow these controlled hunt rules and conditions could result from dismissal from the hunt, in addition to criminal charges pursuant OAC 1501:31-9-01(u).

## CHECK STATION ADDRESS

For information go to http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Ottawa/
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, 14000 West State Route 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio,
phone: (419) 898-0014

## CHECK STATION LOCATION

From Toledo, take State Route 2 east 15 miles to the refuge entrance signs.
From Port Clinton, take State Route 2 west approximately 18 miles to the refuge entrance signs.

**Check in will take place at the Ottawa NWR Visitor Center.**

**(R7/16)**