

News Release



Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 21, 360 Smith Road
Shirley, New York 11967

Contact: Refuge Manager: 631-286-0485
Fax: 631-286-4003

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WERTHEIM NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR REGULATED DEER HUNT

In its third year, the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk County, N.Y., is accepting applications through August 24, 2007, for a limited entry, controlled deer hunt for the 2007-2008 season. The refuge offers these hunting opportunities as part of its program to manage an overabundance of white-tailed deer and to provide hunters with a recreational opportunity.

Hunters may pick up applications at the Refuge Office at 360 Smith Road, Shirley, N.Y., Monday through Friday between 8 A.M. and 4 P.M., or download an application from the refuge's website:

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges>. Applications are also available at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Office License Counter, Building 40, SUNY Stony Brook.

In response to hunter feedback, the refuge has made improvements to this year's program. Hunters may apply for the hunt either as an individual or now as a member of a 2-person hunt party. Also new this year, hunters may leave their portable tree stand on the refuge for the duration of their 2 or 3 day hunt period.

A \$10.00 non-refundable application fee, payable by check or money order, is required per hunter. Hunters may only submit one application for the archery hunt and one application for the shotgun hunt. Applications must be postmarked or returned to the refuge office by August 24, 2007. Hunters will be selected through a lottery drawing on September 7 and will be notified by mail of the results. Hunters will be allowed to take up to three deer, however hunters must take two antlerless deer before taking an antlered deer.

Archery hunting opportunities will be available during the following periods: November 4 – 6, November 30 – December 2, 2007, and December 14 – 16, 2007. Shotgun hunting opportunities will be available on January 16 and 17, 2008. Forty-four permits will be issued for each archery hunt period and 17 permits will be issued for the shotgun hunt period. To help ensure a successful and safe hunt, all hunters must complete and pass a written orientation test by October 5, 2007, that will cover important information on refuge regulations, hunt zones, safety, and responsible hunting. To help ensure public safety, the refuge will be closed to the general public during the specific hunt periods.

Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1947, is located along the Carmans River in Suffolk County, New York. The refuge protects one of the last undeveloped estuaries on Long Island. The founding purpose of the Refuge was to preserve habitat for migratory birds. Since that time, management programs have been expanded to other objectives, such as the protection of federally-listed endangered and threatened species, the conservation of native flora and fauna, and the provision of wildlife-dependent public uses. For additional information, please view our website <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/longislandrefuges> or contact the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Office at 631-286-0485.