



**FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER**  
P.O. BOX 1231 Cambridge, MD 21613

2018-19 Blackwater NWR Deer Hunt Application Packet Letter

June 22, 2018

Dear Hunter Friend:

Enclosed is the 2018-19 deer hunt packet for Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

**Please read carefully because several changes are being implemented this season.**

- The names of the hunts have changed to limited and open, formerly called quota and non-quota.
- Two muzzleloader hunt days have been removed and two shotgun hunt days have been added.
- Deer drives will still be allowed but are reduced to five days: Dec. 7-8, 2018 and Jan. 4-5 and 26, 2019.
- Area B3 will be open to hunting on eight days; Oct. 18, 19, & 26; Nov. 26 & 30; Dec. 7 & 21; and Jan. 4.
- Hunters will still be able to access parts of the refuge by boat. However, boat access will only be allowed from private land and the Route 335 boat launch. Only areas B1, M1, R, S and T may be accessed by boat.
- Hunters wishing to apply for one of the disabled hunt units must have a Federal Access Pass and the number must be written on the Big Game Hunt application.
- A total of two antlered white-tailed deer may be harvested during the 2018-19 refuge deer hunt season.
- On October 26 and 27 only antlerless white-tailed deer may be harvested, as well as both antlered and antlerless sika.
- Hunters wishing to hunt in area Q2 must have a U designation on MD State hunting license or a handicap placard and a universal disability pass (formally known as a hunt from vehicle permit), and a Federal access pass.
- Area Q2 will be limited to five hunters and they must hunt in assigned areas. A sign-in/sign-out board within the Q2 hunt area must be completed by each hunter.
- In area U1, hunter assistants must remain within five yards of the hunter, except when retrieving a deer.
- Only one unattended tree stand or blind may be left on the refuge during the hunting season. All other stands, blinds and equipment must be removed daily.
- Daylight fluorescent pink has been approved by the state. Therefore, hunters may wear blaze orange or pink while hunting on Blackwater NWR.
- There is no longer an age limit for assistants. However, youth hunters must have an adult 21 years of age or older present while hunting.

This year all applications must be postmarked by October 1, 2018. If you only request an archery permit it can still be purchased at the refuge visitor center beginning August 25, 2018, from 9 am to 4 pm daily throughout the archery season. The check station will only be open from 9:00 am to 9:30 pm during the limited (quota) muzzleloader hunt and 9:00 am to 8:00 pm during the limited (quota) shotgun hunt.

As always, your input is welcome. Feel free to contact the hunt coordinator, Allen Johnston, at 410-221-8815 with questions and/or suggestions. If Allen cannot be reached please leave a brief message and phone number. All calls will be returned as soon as possible. Follow the refuge's facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackwaterNWR> for weather or access closures.

This will be Allen Johnston's last year as the hunt coordinator. We would like to thank him for all of his hard work for the past 20 years and hope you will personally thank him for making this hunt one of the best run hunts in the country. Next year the refuge is going to a web-based system. More information will be available as we get closer to the 2019-20 deer season.

You have been generous in your support of the Friends of Blackwater through your donations and by becoming a member of the Friends of Blackwater. We thank you and hope you will continue to support our organization. Remember to make your Friends membership check out to the **Friends of Blackwater** and separate from hunt fees. The application is on the back of this letter.

Sincerely,

Rick Abend, President  
Friends of Blackwater

**APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TO FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Individual \$15    \_\_\_\_ Family \$20    \_\_\_\_ Heron \$30    \_\_\_\_ Falcon \$60    \_\_\_\_ Eagle \$100  
\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \$250    \_\_\_\_ Life \$1,000

Please make all checks payable to **"Friends of Blackwater"**

VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_\_ DISCOVER \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_ (include 3 digit # found on signature strip)

EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_