



# Observations from the Tree Stand

City of Gahanna - Urban Deer Hunting

Volume 5, Issue 6

## 2014 – 2015 Season It's a Wrap!

### Special Points of Interest:

Car -vs- Deer – 27  
Hunter Kills - 45

### Harvested Deer Information:

- ❖ Park Harvests - 29
- ❖ Private Property Harvests - 16
- ❖ Doe Total - 23
- ❖ Buck Total - 22

## The Bar Has Been Set!

### Top Hunters–

**Rick Harter - 4 WOW!!!**

**Norwood Freeman - 3**

**Mike Ivy – 3**

**Justine Argentine, Eric Francis,**

**Mike Hawkins, Mike Newland,**

**Paul Smith and Rodney Wilson – 2 each**



## Chief's Corner



We wrap up our 23rd year of urban deer hunting in the City of Gahanna. This is the fourth year in a row that you have harvested more deer (45) than the vehicles (27). I appreciate all of you who participated in the hunt and applaud those who actually reduced deer to possession.

The data we collect reflects closely to the state statistics of an overall reduced harvest of 8%. I am not a biologist but do have anecdotal observations based on our statistics and a keen sense of humor.

Typically we average 250 hunters who show up at the two mandatory meetings in August. Two-hundred hunters pick up their city permit and 139 (69%) actually hunt at least one day during the season.

Enthusiasm is high early in the season but tempered with heat, humidity, bugs and those green leaves that keep you from seeing the deer. Football season starts and tailgating takes precedence over tree standing.

Then comes the beautiful fall days of brilliantly colored leaves, a cool north breeze, rubs on trees the size of your thigh and the discovery of a new scrape line. Yet you are stuck with work, family and other commitments you just can't avoid.

Winter arrives. Some years earlier than most and the older you get, more brutal. Finding excuses not to hunt is easier than the strapping on the multiple layers of hawk gear, firing up the hand warmers with two pairs of gloves, only to determine you should have peed beforehand.

The last few weeks of January are our deer drives organized and supervised from your own ranks. (Eric Ramsey has been ram-rodding the last two years and I appreciate his thorough planning and superb execution.) It is a great time for comradery and shared hardship for both pushers and standers. Where else can you experience fingers that feel like chopsticks, eyelashes that freeze together and more snot on the side of your face and the back of your gloves?

When I was stationed in Alaska with the Army for seven years, we lived by the adage, "There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing." Shop the after season specials now in anticipation for whatever Ma' nature serves up next year. Don't wait until September to do bow maintenance and string pulling. Shooting is a perishable skill. Find any reason to shoot your bows: spring turkeys, summer ground hogs, archery tournaments, and most importantly, teaching kids to shoot.

It is a dangerous mindset when your default is; "I will have more time next year." Maybe you will, maybe you won't. As hunters, we experience the subtle and not so subtle nuances of nature that are oblivious to others. Embrace it, share it, but don't for a moment take it for granted.

I want to thank all of you. First for helping us manage our deer herd, keeping it healthy, reducing property damage and doing it all at no expense to the tax payers. And thank you for keeping the tradition and heritage of hunting alive.

Chief Dennis Murphy

# Congratulations To Our Top 2014-2015 Hunters!!!



Congratulations to our top hunter, Rick Harter, who harvested four deer. Way to go, Rick!

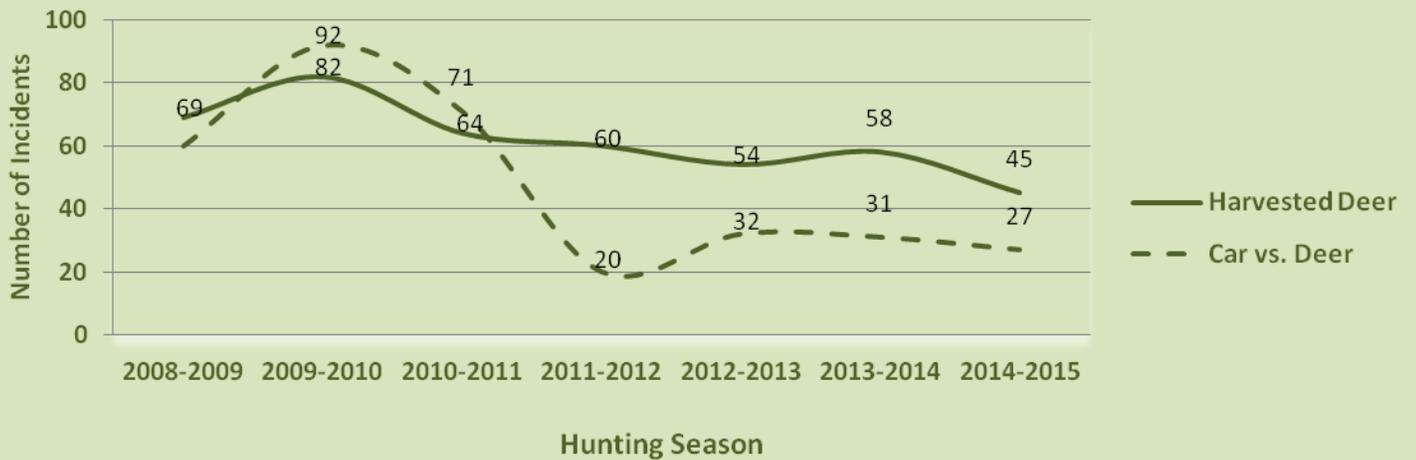


Congratulations to Norwood Freeman who harvested three deer. Nice job, Norwood!

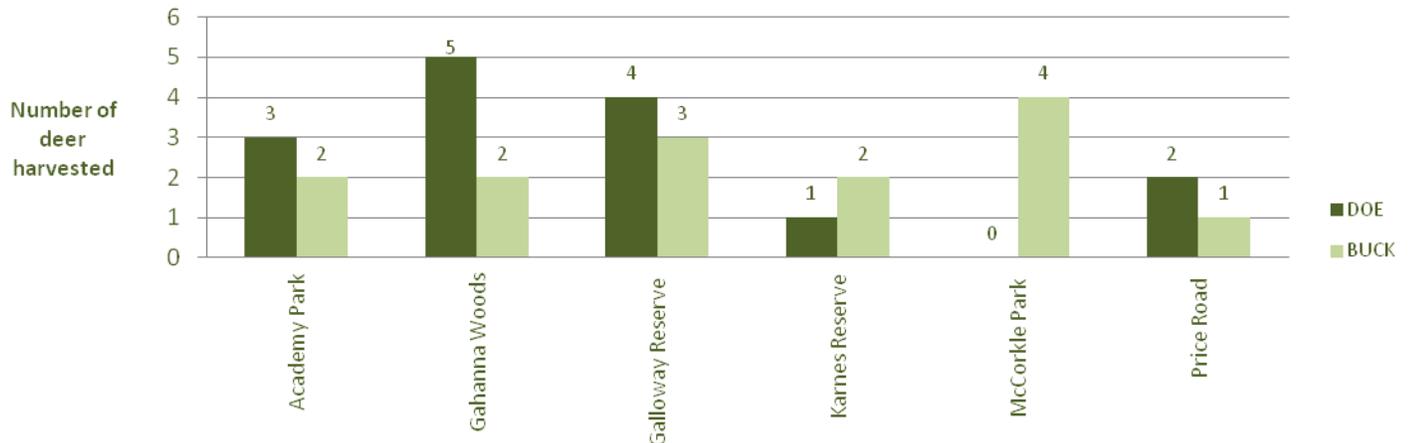


Congratulations to Mike Ivy who harvested three deer. Good work, Mike!

## Harvested Deer vs. Deer Crashes



## Where were the deer hiding?



If you would like additional information, please visit [www.gahanna.gov](http://www.gahanna.gov), click on **Departments, Public Safety**, and then **Urban Deer Hunting**, or you may call (614) 342-4231.