Boone County Conservation District 2016-2017 Firearm Deer Hunt Program
Lottery Applications Now Being Accepted

The Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) is now accepting entries from persons interested in participating in its Firearm Deer Hunting Program. This is a lottery based program. Entries will be accepted from now through Monday, August 15th, the cut-off time is 3:00 p.m. The lottery will be held at noon on Friday, August 19th, 2016 at the BCCD office located at 603 North Appleton Road. Please Note: Entrants must demonstrate proof of having a Hunter Safety Certificate/Card to be eligible for this hunting program. Complete information about the BCCD firearm deer hunt program: rules, procedures, firearm hunting dates, and other important aspects of this hunting program is available on the BCCD website: www.bccdil.org.

Purpose of Firearm Hunt Program – Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

The Boone County Conservation District Board of Trustees expanded its deer hunting program to include a firearm hunt in 2014 as a measure to assist the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in their efforts to effectively control the prevalence and spread of this infectious disease. The BCCD is an agency established to preserve, protect and enhance important conservation lands within its jurisdictional boundaries. Unlike the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the BCCD is not a wildlife management agency. The responsibility of wildlife management lies with state and federal agencies.

The BCCD is encouraging hunter participation as a means of assisting the State of Illinois with this critical wildlife issue. Hunters can help address the many concerns associated with CWD by harvesting deer, getting the deer they harvest tested for CWD, and helping to manage deer density in Boone County where this disease has been persistently found since 2003. Our objective is to hunt, harvest, and help in the fight against this very serious threat affecting the health of our local deer population. If you firearm hunt in Illinois, please consider participating in this program.

Firearm Qualification

The BCCD has established a firearm qualification procedure as part of its’ risk management protocol for this program. Firearm qualifications have been arranged to occur at the Boone County Sheriff’s Department range located next to the Illinois Department of Transportation equipment yard off of Illinois Highway 76, just north of Squaw Prairie Road.

Firearm Qualification Dates

Saturday, August 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 (Noon)
Sunday, August 21st from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 24th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 7th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Note: Depending on the number of participants, we may expand the number of qualification dates/times.
The Mission of the Boone County Conservation District is to preserve and manage natural areas and open spaces for ecological, educational, and recreational benefits of present and future generations.

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Riffles & Eddies is a free newsletter published quarterly. If you know someone who would like to receive this publication, or has an address correction, please call our office at (815) 547-7935.

The Boone County Conservation District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or handicap in admission or treatment, or employment in programs or activities. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Employment Opportunity Officer is responsible for compliance and may be reached at (217)423-7708.

**Qualification Fees**

Our arrangement with the Sheriff’s Department requires that the range is overseen by one Sheriff Department Officer, who will run the firearm range for this qualification process. The BCCD has to cover the expense of these officers at $50 per hour per officer. The County is not charging the BCCD for the use of the range. Our firearm hunting program has a separate fee for the qualification. Last year we charged $15 per person, the fee will remain at $15 per person. This is for qualifying with one firearm. If a hunter desires to use a pistol or other firearm during the hunt, you must also qualify using that weapon. There is an additional fee of $10 for each additional firearm.

To facilitate efficiency of the qualification process and manage the expenses from the Sheriff’s Department, we will be assigning scheduled appointments for qualification date and times. This will be done by entering applicants on the qualification schedule, starting with the first date/time option and proceeding in the order of the receipt of each entry form. We encourage all potential participants to practice their target skills prior to their scheduled qualification – several people in the past did not satisfy the qualification criteria and were not eligible to participate in the firearm hunt program.

**2016-2017 BCCD Firearm Hunting Dates**

1st hunt - November 18th, 19th & 20th
2nd hunt - December 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th
CWD hunt - December 29th, 30th, 31st & January 1st

**Firearm Program Firearm Hunt Participation Fees**

Currently, there is one fee for all three firearm hunts. The fee schedule is:

- Adult Boone County Resident Fee: $50
- Youth Boone County Resident Fee: $25
- Adult Non-Boone County Resident Fee: $75
- Youth Non-Boone County Resident Fee: $35

**Program Participant Volunteers:**

Credited fee reduction – *see 2016-2017 rules/hunting criteria for details about obtaining a credited fee reduction.

**Entry Forms**

Entry Forms can be completed and submitted from the BCCD website. Applicants need to complete all the required information on the entry form to be eligible. The forms can also be completed and submitted by dropping in at the BCCD office and completing the entry form in person, or pick-up a copy of the form at the office and submit by mail using a return receipt postal system option.

**Please note:**

Entries completed and submitted from the BCCD website will be sent a verification e-mail to confirm it was received. All entry forms must be received before 3:00 p.m. on Monday, August 15, 2016 to be eligible for the lottery drawing held on Friday, August 19, 2016 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

The District wants everyone to discover the benefits of recreation. For families considering any of our programs who have special considerations, such as diabetes, asthma or physical or cognitive disabilities, your participation is welcome too. The earlier you contact us so we can talk with you about how to make your experience safe and fun, the more likely it will be safe and fun!
Volunteers Wanted
Do you like being outdoors and meeting new people? Volunteer and become part of the very first Conservation District in the state. Call 815-547-7935 for more information. Come alone or bring a friend or a group of friends.

The BCCD wishes to thank the following businesses who donated to Camp Redwing: Applebees; Jimmy Johns; McDonalds (State St.); Culvers, DIY Yogurt, Jewel and J & N Services. Also a big thanks goes out to all the individuals who donated money to the Send-A-Kid-to-Camp scholarship program. We couldn’t make camp successful without your help and support. We would also like to thank the individual who donated money so we could purchase bait. Once again, thank you!

Environmental Science Merit Badge
This merit badge (or Sustainability) is required for Eagle Scout.

Saturday, October 15th
9AM to 3PM
Minimum: 10 scouts, Maximum: 20 scouts
Cost: $8 per scout/in-county; $10 per scout/out-of-county
For Registration: Call 815-547-7935
REGISTRATION FEE MUST BE PRE-PAID
Bring: lunch, water bottle, blue merit badge card
Be dressed for outdoor activity
This merit badge is also a requirement for the Hornaday Badge and the World Conservation Award.

Fall Color Cruise
Monday, October 10th
8:00 am – 5:00 pm
$45.00
Join us for a visit to Mineral Point, Wisconsin, a Historic Mining Settlement. Travel in the District’s mini bus. Price includes guided tour of the Pen darvis Historic Site and lunch at the historic Walker House. Space is limited. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Call by September 30th at (815) 547-7935 to reserve your spot.
Autumn Pioneer Festival

Saturday, Sept. 24th  
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 25th  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Admission is free, but donations are cheerfully accepted. 
Suggested donation of $5.00 per family.

Travel back to the 1800's for a look at the lifestyles and crafts of the day. Talk to a flint knapper, watch a blacksmith, eat buffalo stew, pioneer fries, sample bean soup and apple butter. Visit the harvest table to purchase fresh vegetables or wander through the ethnic gardens, the voyagers’ encampment, and 2 historic log cabins.

603 N. Appleton Road 
Belvidere, IL 
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