

# **Saint John's Abbey Arboretum Controlled Deer Hunt 2013**

**Welcome to Saint John's for the 12th controlled deer hunt since 1933.**

17 July 2013

The following rules apply to all hunters allowed on Saint John's Abbey property.

## **GENERAL INTENT OF ABBEY ARBORETUM ARCHERY DEER HUNT:**

Saint John's 2,700 acre Abbey Arboretum is private property. Hunting on Saint John's Abbey property is a privilege not a right. Preserve that privilege by respecting all property and hunting safely. As owners of private property, Saint John's Abbey reserves the right to refuse any hunter permission to hunt or to continue to hunt at any time for any reason.

All hunters must follow the Minnesota State Big Game Laws. This is not a MN DNR special hunt. Hunters must bring and use their own archery deer license. The Collegeville State Game Refuge (established in 1933) mostly coincides with the boundaries of the Abbey Arboretum and special rules can apply to hunting on the refuge. Due to Refuge status, all wildlife species other than deer (including coyote) are protected and may not be taken.

Saint John's Abbey's intent is to reduce the deer population to a level that allows natural regeneration of the forest ecosystem that is essential to the long-term habitat of deer and other components of the ecosystem. Harvesting primarily antlerless deer is the best method for controlling the deer population.

Our annual harvest goal as recommended by MN DNR is about 30 deer. We have not had a hunt since 2010. The 2013 hunt will end once a total of 55 deer are taken. If that occurs, hunters who have not taken a deer will not be able to continue hunting at Saint John's this deer season, nor have any priority for future seasons.

Archery hunting will be the only option for taking a deer in 2013. Archery hunting allows Saint John's to extend the season, avoid conflicts with other campus events (like hikers and football games), allows more hunters to participate, allows hunting closer to campus, and reduces the need for security personnel. Saint John's also hopes to provide opportunities for hunter socialization on campus.

Hiking, teaching, field excursions, races, and other land use activities will continue throughout the hunting season. Hunters must be flexible in respecting campus events (e.g. 5K fun run through your hunting district). NOTE: Any non-hunters who intentionally or otherwise needlessly disrupt hunting as determined by Saint John's will be asked to leave. The same is true for any hunters who disrupt campus events.

Enforcement officers will be patrolling Saint John's occasionally by truck, ATV, and foot. Contact them if you need assistance. You may also call 320-363-2144 to reach Saint John's Life Safety and be referred to the field officers. From October 26 – December 31, 2013, please check with Life Safety if you have any questions or concerns about the hunt or other hunters. Prior to that date, check with the Abbey Arboretum at 320-363-3163.

Saint John's Abbey will annually review and adjust the deer hunting goals and rules as needed.

## **ELIGIBLE HUNTERS and HUNTER RESPONSIBILITIES:**

All hunters must understand and obey the Minnesota Deer Hunting Rules and Regulations.

All hunters must have valid MN DNR archery deer license and must be able to take an antlerless deer in a

zone covering Saint John's (218 south of I-94 and 215 north of I-94). Party hunting is allowed at Saint John's within the rules set by MN DNR for party hunting.

Youth less than 18 years old may hunt if they have both a valid MN DNR license and a qualified adult supervisor. The adult supervisor must also possess a valid license or have completed a MN DNR hunter education/safety course. The adult supervisor, is not required to hunt, and must be in very close proximity (< 50 feet) of the youth at all times. If the adult supervisor intends to hunt, they must apply as a party. There must be one adult supervisor over 21 assigned to each youth under 18.

Only hunters with valid Saint John's Abbey hunting permits are allowed to hunt in the Saint John's Abbey Arboretum. Permits are non-transferable.

No fires are permitted anywhere except in an emergency.

Alcoholic beverages and/or drugs are not allowed. Any hunter suspected of being under the influence will be escorted from the property, possibly cited and not allowed to return.

Hunters must be aware of other hunters and users of the Abbey Arboretum at all times. Non-hunters have priority and hunters must assure that non-hunters are not needlessly affected by hunting.

As a private landowner, Saint John's Abbey reserves the right to terminate any hunter's permission to participate without prior notice or cause.

#### **APPLICATION AND FEES:**

There will be a \$5 non-refundable application fee per person. Application deadline is 4:00 p.m. on August 5, 2013.

If selected, an additional non-refundable payment of \$20 per person will be required by September 9, 2013. This fee includes a complimentary supper at Saint John's for hunters to meet each other. All successful applicants will be required to attend an orientation and safety meeting at Saint John's in conjunction with the supper. The tentative date for the supper and safety orientation meeting is October 4, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

About 100 hunters will be allowed to archery hunt in 2013. A lottery will be used as needed. Hunters may apply singly or in parties of 2 to 4 people. Parties will receive one "lot" in the lottery, but if it is drawn, all party members will be allowed to hunt.

The same lottery numbers will be used to assign hunting districts within Saint John's Abbey Arboretum. Once a district has reached its limit, hunters must choose a different district.

Hunters who have completed the MN DNR [Bow Hunter Education](#) course (and hunting parties in which every member has completed the course) will be given priority in the lottery. This is done to acknowledge the extra skill and safety training that these hunters have taken.

#### **EARN-A-BUCK:**

To encourage hunters to apply and to help balance the gender ratio of the herd, individual hunters (or parties) who successfully take 3 antlerless deer from Saint John's will earn the opportunity to take an antlered deer in the current or future hunts. Saint John's will keep a record and the opportunity rolls forward. Note: a party of four hunters who took 3 antlerless deer between them during the season could take a buck yet that season or it would roll over to future seasons. (The party decides who gets the buck. If not used in the first season, it would roll over in the name of the party leader.)

Note that Saint John's Abbey does not imply or guarantee that it will hold a hunt in any given year and that Saint John's may alter, suspend, or end hunting in general and the "Earn-a Buck" in particular at any point in time with no obligation to participants.

### **HUNTING SCHEDULE:**

Archery hunting will be allowed from Saturday, October 26 through December 31, 2013.

Each hunter will be allowed to erect and leave up to two portable stands/ground blinds beginning October 4, 2013. All stands/ground blinds must be removed within 7 days after filling the tag or by January 4, 2014 whichever comes first.

Hunting times must follow DNR regulations – Between ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset.

### **THE ARCHERY DEER HUNT:**

#### **General:**

Bring only legal archery equipment. Crossbows are allowed with valid MN DNR permit. No firearms are allowed to be in possession or used in relation to the hunt.

An article of blaze orange must be worn while traveling to and from the stand and while tracking deer. It may be removed when on the stand. Note that because Saint John's is private property, the DNR's blaze orange requirement will apply all day when the archery season overlaps the firearms season.

As we are a college campus, bows must remain cased until the hunter has reached his/her hunting district.

Due to hunters being restricted to specific districts, making deer drives will not be possible or allowed.

Hunters will not pursue wounded game into districts closed to hunting at Saint John's or onto neighboring private property. If a wounded deer goes into a closed district or on a neighbor's property, contact Saint John's Life Safety at 320-363-2144.

Legal (and non-legal) baits are not allowed. Scents are allowed. Trail cameras are allowed.

Impeding vegetation: Any tree limbs less than ¾ inches may be cut, but no tree main stems of any size may be cut.

Per state law (M.S. 97B.085, Subd. 1) radio devices, including cell phones, may not be used to assist in taking game. However, use of 2-way radios and cell phones for safety is allowed & encouraged.

#### **Stands and Ground Blinds:**

Each hunter is allowed to have up to 2 stands/ground blinds that may be left in the field during the hunting season. Only the stands/ground blinds and ladders may be left overnight. (No water bottles, packs, trash, etc.)

All stands/ground blinds must be clearly marked with hunter's assigned number on tags provided by Saint John's. Those not marked with the Saint John's tag will be confiscated.

Building permanent stands/ground blinds on Saint John's property is not allowed. Due to the high quality wood and our active logging program, no screw steps, nails, equipment hangers, or metal fasteners of any kind are allowed. Hunters may use bungee cords or rope to secure stands or to create a

hanger for their equipment. Saint John's will not provide any permanent stands/ground blinds.

Safety harnesses are required to be used in stands.

Stands/ground blinds are not to be shared without permission of the owner.

It is the responsibility of each hunter to know his/her location and the boundaries at all times. No stands/ground blinds are allowed within 100 yards of the property boundaries.

No stands/ground blinds are allowed within 50 yards of another hunter except for hunters in the same party. The first hunter to erect a stand/ground blind has the priority for that location.

Stands/ground blinds may be moved within a hunting district without permission of Saint John's. Hunters may move stands/ground blinds into a different district which has vacancies with approval of Life Safety.

Saint John's has no responsibility for any equipment left in the field.

### **Access and Vehicles:**

This is a walk-in hunt. Passenger vehicles may be used on specified dates to carry deer stands/ground blinds closer to hunting districts and to retrieve harvested deer with Life Safety notification and approval. No driving off existing roads and trails.

ATV's are not allowed on Saint John's property except for enforcement and fire protection purposes.

Prior to hunting season, several days will be designated and roads opened for driving to locations to erect stands/ground blinds.

Hunters will only park in designated locations. ([See map.](#)) A dashboard hunting/parking authorization card will be issued. The speed limit is 20 MPH.

Hunters who take a deer must contact Life Safety (320-363-2144). If requested and conditions allow, permission will be granted and gates unlocked to allow the hunter to drive closer to the pick-up site. Permission to drive a vehicle to remove the harvested animal may not be granted during prime hunting in consideration of other hunters.

At no time will hunters drive through the main part of campus. Harvested deer shall be transported in the most discreet method possible.

### **Daily check-in and check-out:**

Prior to hunting each day, each hunter (or hunting party) must notify Saint John's Life Safety Dispatch office as they arrive on campus. This can be done with a phone call to Life Safety at 320-363-2144 or each hunter may personally come into the Dispatch office in St. Thomas Hall. Note that if the hunter wants info about who else is hunting that day, they must come in personally. (Life Safety Dispatch is open 24/7).

Hunters may check out by coming into the Life Safety Dispatch office or by phoning Dispatch when they leave the woods or campus. (320-363-2144)

Even if they plan to return, hunters leaving the woods for any reason must also notify Life Safety by

phone when they leave. When returning and checking in again, hunters may do so by phone.

Hunters must be checked-out within one hour of the close of the hunt each day. Searches for unaccounted hunters will commence 1 ½ hours after sunset.

Hunters who are tracking wounded deer outside their hunting district, but inside Saint John's must call Life Safety first.

**Successful hunts and registration:**

Successful hunters must follow all DNR rules of tagging and registering a kill. A plan for removing a harvested animal must be in place prior to the harvest.

Hunters who take a deer must also contact Saint John's Life Safety before transporting the deer in a vehicle. (320-363-2144)

Saint John's staff will meet the hunters as they exit to estimate the age, gender, and size of the deer for our records. Participants may be required to save certain anatomical parts of the harvested animal for deer research purposes. These parts could include a liver sample, front leg below the knee, and an antler if the antler will not be wanted for mounting. The samples will be placed in a provided ziplock bag and given to Saint John's staff upon exiting.

Vehicles are subject to search upon entering and exiting Saint John's property.