



QDMA-NB NEWSLETTER

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The New Brunswick Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Daniel Gautreau

*A Year to Remember...
And One to Look Forward To!*

Well what a year 2008 has been for deer hunters in New Brunswick. Perhaps not for all the reasons we might expect. In fact, many hunters I talked to considered this last hunting season one of the toughest in recent years. It wasn't all bad. There were a few good bucks taken this year, but overall, harvest levels were down. This was expected of course because of the harsh winter of 2007-08. The good thing is that the harvest numbers are in line with what biologists were expecting. They sure know their stuff!

Most of us won't remember 2008 for being run over by deer, but there were a couple of very significant events that marked the year. For starters, this was the first Sunday hunting season in modern hunting history. This is not only convenient for weekend hunters, but it is very significant for protecting our hunting heritage. All hunters benefit from this new hunting opportunity, and in the long run, will help promote and introduce our favourite past-time to new recruits.

Secondly, the QDMANB, your deer & deer hunting association was named Best New Branch of the Year for 2008. The significance of this honour cannot be overemphasized. This distinction goes to a new branch that is starting out, but is making significant effort and progress. With nearly 200 Branches in 33 states and two provinces, the QDMA annually honours a Branch chartered in the preceding 12 months whose members worked effectively in education and fundraising to have an immediate impact on the area they serve. The board of directors of the QDMA felt our group of volunteers did a great job in promoting the QDMA and the QDM philosophy. This goes to show how dedicated a group of volunteers we have. Yup, the seeds of QDMA are definitely planted. We can safely say the QDMA movement is here to stay and catching on.

So what's planned for 2009? I can guarantee that 2009 will be very exciting for deer enthusiasts in New Brunswick. Of course, we are still in the growth stage of our organization. So there will be again this year many symposiums in order to educate hunters all across the province on what QDMA is all about. For instance, during spring, symposiums will be held in the Miramichi, Acadian Peninsula and Sussex areas. In mid summer, it will be time for a field day to show landowners first hand techniques to manage their land in order to improve deer habitat. And for the first time in QDMANB history, we will hold a dinner banquet in late summer. This will take place in the Fredericton area. This is on top of the Newsletter, other speaking engagements, the 2nd annual lottery and a research project designed to study deer densities in localized areas of the province. Needless to say, a lot will be going on. If you love deer and deer hunting, New Brunswick will be a great place to be in the year 2009.

Daniel Gautreau
President QDMANB

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QDMANB Newsletter

The QDMANB Newsletter is published at least three times per year, by the New Brunswick Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association. News bulletins are also distributed to our mailing list throughout the year.

QDMANB extends to all of you an invitation to participate in our activities. We are also interested in your comments on this newsletter or any other matter that will serve the interests of the whitetail deer, deer management and hunters in general.

QDMA is for all those that have an interest in the white-tailed deer and Quality Deer Management. While several of our members are woodlot owners, our association provides an opportunity to access information, and to unite individuals keen on making a difference in deer management in the province.

Please take the time to invite those persons you believe may be interested in our newsletter to write to us by e-mail or regular mail, in order to be included on our mailing list.

Hunter Education

There are many opportunities for enlisting in Hunter Education programs in NB. Obtain more information on: [Hunter Education](#), [Firearms Safety](#), [Bow Hunter Education](#), [Trapper Education](#), [course schedules](#) and other related topics by visiting the Web page of the NB Department of Natural Resources at the following internet address: <http://www.gnb.ca/0078/HunterEd-e.asp>

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MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Looking forward to 2009

By: Matt Ross

New Brunswick QDMers,

As we enter the beginning of 2009, it's a good time to stop and reflect back on what we have accomplished as an organization in Canada and particularly in New Brunswick, in such a short amount of time. Just a few short years after QDMA became incorporated in Canada in 2005, our membership growth continues to pick up speed every day. For all provinces combined, QDMA Canada's membership grew from 354 individuals last January to over 470 like-minded people at the end of this past fall. That change represents a whopping 30% growth in less than one full year. That's incredible! In fact, it far surpasses any individual states' growth in the U.S. in 2008. As far as New Brunswick is concerned; in July of 2007 there were only 21 active QDMA members in this province. Today, we are proud to serve literally twice that amount, and have a growing contact list that is approaching the 100 mark. I know these numbers may appear small on paper, but anytime you see positive annual growth, and the kind that calculates in the double digits, it's something we should all be proud of!

Another major accomplishment for the QDMA's New Brunswick Branch and its members last year was the nomination and acceptance of the international QDMA New Branch of the Year Award for 2008! This award is given annually and is presented at the QDMA national convention each summer, which this past year was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Typically we see between 30 and 50 new Branches formed in a given year, so this award is evaluated among only these, our newest volunteer groups. The recipient team is judged on its members' ability to work effectively together in education and fundraising efforts and their impact on the area they serve. The New Brunswick Branch as a group exemplified these attributes last year and showed the deer management world a shining example of how volunteers can turn their excitement and enthusiasm into meaningful action. Past Branch President Jim Steeves and Provincial Deer Project Leader and convention speaker Rod Cumberland were present to accept the award. Congratulations to all involved!

Finally, as we take the time to reflect on all of these amazing accomplishments we've achieved, I think it's also appropriate to take the time to look forward as well. In the coming months, QDMA Canada will be updating the national website, will be forming new and innovative corporate relationships, will be hosting booths at various

large sporting shows, has secured air time on a major Canadian television outdoor show, and is determined to keep the membership growth rate pointed skyward.

If you personally would like to see more growth in Canada and in New Brunswick for the QDMA, and possibly double our membership again by 2010, you can make a difference. I would encourage you to keep up the educating, keep pushing, keep telling your hunting companions about us and maybe even buy a hunting partner or relative a new membership? The best way we can insure that we will grow is to continue taking the time to explain to all hunters the importance of stewardship and proper deer management.

Either way, I hope you remain with us as a strong deer management advocate as we charge forward in 2009! And truly, thanks for all that you do for the QDMA Canada.

Yours in whitetail conservation and stewardship,

Matt Ross

QDMA Certification Programs Director

Some National Events in 2009

By: Matt Ross

QDMA Canada will have a booth again this year at the Toronto Sportsman's Show from March 18th to 22nd and another booth at the Ontario Monster Whitetails Magazine Big Buck Show/Bass Pro Shop Fishing Classic on March 21st and 22nd.

The Toronto Sportsman's Show typically draws over 120,000 people and 450 exhibitors in a five day time span and is widely considered as Canada's biggest fishing and outdoors show. Exhibitors here feature an extensive assortment of fishing equipment and outdoor gear.

On Saturday and Sunday of the same week, QDMA-Canada will also host a booth at the Bass Pro Shop store on the other side of town (Vaughan). Back by popular demand, Ontario Monster Whitetails Magazine (OMWM) and certified measurers from the Foundation for the Recognition of Ontario Wildlife (FROW) will be in-store to score moose or deer antlers. A \$250 Bass Pro Shops Gift Card will be awarded to a Best in Show, as awarded by OMWM.

These are big events and I'm excited about this opportunity for QDMA-Canada. If you can attend either of these shows, please stop by the booth and say "hello"!

LOWER HARVEST NUMBERS WERE EXPECTED IN 2008

By: Rod Cumberland

As always, at this time of year, all eyes are on the fall deer harvest numbers. It is particularly so following a tough winter. Most readers of this newsletter have hopefully read some of the past articles that have explained how NB estimates winter herd losses and how this factors into deer management.

Deer management in NB has changed dramatically over the past 10 years. We use a new system to manage the deer population that involves gathering reliable biological information on where the herd is at with respect to carrying capacity (CC) as well as many other parameters. We then adjust antlerless permits through a deer model developed specifically for our herd in order to direct growth. We actually control the female component of the deer harvest. Presently, harvest is at a level we want it to be. I always caution hunters not to read too much into fall harvest numbers since they are no longer a direct "indicator" of where the population is at, but more a fallout of what we want removed to cause a certain change in herd growth. With our data and modeling ability, we are able to closely predict the upcoming harvest in April, a full 6 months prior to the fall harvest.

Based on winter mortality information gathered in April of 2008, (as well as other indicators such as population size, age and sex ratios, fecundity information, mortality rates of adults and fawns), we knew that once this was entered into our model and based on past hunter effort, we'd likely harvest pretty close to 8,000 deer in the fall of 2008. In the previous year, we predicted a large increase in the 2007 harvest due to antlerless permit levels and expected hunter effort. We predicted an increase to nearly 11,000 deer from 6881. We actually harvested 10,570 in 2007.

In 2007-8, our measures of winter mortality suggested that we lost roughly 14% of the herd in southern NB, 24% in central NB and upwards or over 34% in northern NB. Some local areas lost even greater numbers. In 2008, many central and northern WMZ's were allocated zero antlerless permits. Any zone that showed we were experiencing a declining population received a drop in permits to try and stem the decline. Unfortunately, many zones would decline even if we reduced antlerless tags to zero. This is why many central and northern zones did have an antlerless allocation of zero. Even with no harvest of female deer, the winter losses were significant enough that the herd would still decline in certain areas where there would be no harvest of females. This demonstrates how much of an impact a severe winter can have on our deer population.

Thankfully, we do have some central and southern WMZ's that are relatively healthy, have decent amounts of winter habitat and have been growing at a healthy rate for the past few years. In addition, these zones also experienced less winter mortality. Therefore in these areas, we could still allocate some permits and have the herd continue to grow. In some specific zones, we could actually increase antlerless permits in an attempt to try and slow the herd growth. Zone 23 (Saint John region through Sussex) has an urban deer situation that has required higher levels of antlerless tags in an attempt to bring this herd in check with the habitat. Other social issues (including discharge of firearm distances and posting of land) will keep this a complicated issue to manage for some time.

Deer Harvests in NB Selected Years

Year	TT Harvest	Difference With Previous Year
1987	26752	-----
1995	10944	-----
2000	8312	-----
2001	4314	- 48.1%
2002	6443	+ 49.3%
2003	5733	- 11.0%
2004	6878	+ 20.0%
2005	6881	-----
2006	9570	+ 39.1%
2007	10570	+ 10.4%
2008	** 7777	- 26.4%

** Preliminary numbers

Source: NB DNR

All biological data suggested that our harvest would decline in 2008 to around 8,100 deer. We also knew that our first week of harvest would be just over 2000 deer. As it turned out, the harvest during the first week was 2,177 deer, and by the end of the 4 week rifle season we came in just below our prediction levels at 7,777 deer harvested. This is a preliminary number that will be refined slightly once all the registration sheets are entered into the computer and collated by Wildlife Management Zone. As always, weather can and does play into fall harvest numbers, as many hunters stay indoors when things are miserable out, but take complete advantage of snow if and when it occurs. This can influence hunter harvest as much as any other factor and definitely more than a full moon.

I hope this provides a bit of insight into the deer harvest at present. More analysis will be made once harvest numbers by zone, as well as the ages and other biological information is available.

Note: Rod Cumberland is NB's Deer Wildlife Biologist with The Department of Natural Resources.

HARVESTS IN NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS

The following tables show deer harvests in neighbouring jurisdictions for 2005 to 2008. Numbers for 2008 are preliminary results. Preliminary harvest numbers were not available from Nova Scotia at time of publication.

Québec

Year	Harvest	% difference
2005	65809	-----
2006	68907	+ 04.7%
2007	74938	+ 08.7%
2008	56102	- 25.1%

Source: Ressources Naturelles et Faune Québec

Maine

Year	Harvest	% difference
2005	28148	-----
2006	29918	+ 06.3%
2007	28884	- 03.5%
2008	24098	- 16.6%

Source: Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Nova Scotia

Year	Harvest	% difference
2005	7200	-----
2006	9491	+ 31.8%
2007	10075	+ 06.2%
2008	N/A	

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

New Brunswick

Year	Harvest	% difference
2005	6881	
2006	9570	+ 39.1%
2007	10570	+ 10.4%
2008	7777	- 26.4%

Source: New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources

WINNERS OF QDMANB RAFFLE

The winners of the QDMANB Raffle held in December are presented below. Members sold 881 tickets with net revenue of approximately \$2000.

Winners

1st prize Fully loaded Bow Set valued at \$1100.

Jocelyne Boutot – Lac Baker

2nd prize Remington 270 valued at \$1000.

Gaston Pelletier – Clair

3rd prize Deer Head Mount valued at \$500

Katrina Isbill-Floyd – Springfield

4th prize Tree Stand valued at \$300

Bob Hooper – Saint-John

5th prize Pheasant Hunt valued at \$250

Jacques Cyr – Grand Falls

6th prize Painting valued at \$160

Tony Benson – Sussex

7th prize Trail Camera valued at \$125

Trevor Thorne – Sussex

8th prize Uniden Radio set valued at \$100

Jonathan Moffet – Sussex

9th prize Bag of Food Plot Seeds valued at \$35

Jacques Leblanc – Saint-Antoine

10th prize Bag of Nutritional Supplement valued at \$30

Melissa Saunders

11th prize Bag of Food Plot Seeds valued at \$23

Terry Richards - Sackville

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QDMA Membership

To renew your membership, or to join our growing association, drop us a line and we will send you a membership application form along with a brochure on QDMA.

A one year membership is \$40 or \$115 for a three year membership. Membership entitles you to a subscription to the popular Quality Whitetails magazine and opportunities to participate in QDMANB Deer Management Seminars and other activities. You will also receive our Newsletter and regular Members Bulletins.

Email us at:

QDMANB@nb.sympatico.ca

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THE STRUCTURE OF THE DEER HARVEST

By: Rod Cumberland

As a deer hunter myself, the structure of the deer harvest is information that is of real interest to me. I keep a close eye on the percent of mature bucks harvested. Although many hunters are quite content with any deer, some hunters are primarily concerned about taking a nice large buck. One of the primary influences of what we harvest is the past winter. You may ask: "How can the amount of snowfall last year affect what I shoot this fall since I have control on what is harvested when I pull the trigger?" Not all hunters take as long as some of us before they decide to pull the trigger. We know that many hunters will shoot the first thing they see with antlers. Therefore, the abundance of yearling bucks that usually sport spikes, forks or small basket racks pretty much determines the percent of younger bucks harvested.

There are several things that determine the number of yearling bucks in the population, but a major influence is the number of fawns that survive the previous winter. In any winter, usually a certain percent of an age/sex class is lost due to the weather. Fawns are the smallest deer physically, and cannot out-compete larger and more aggressive deer for food. They also have the least fat reserves of the three classes of deer (i.e. bucks, does and fawns). In winter, despite how mild or severe it is, we usually find that fawns make up 50% of the losses. If we only lose 5 % of the herd, and say that equates to 5000 deer lost, then 2,500 of those lost will be fawns while bucks and does make up the remainder. If we lose 15% of the herd or 15,000 deer, then 7,500 fawns will be lost in the winter. So quite simply, the tougher the winter, the more fawns we lose that were going to be yearlings in the next hunting season. If we have a mild winter, and fawn survival through winter is high, there is usually a "bumper crop" of yearling bucks the next fall. Yearling bucks in the harvest during the fall following a mild winter will be higher than normal, because as any buck hunter knows, these bucks are the easiest to bag. If you check out our percent yearling bucks in the harvest the past several years, you see this phenomena. In the early 2000's, yearling bucks (spike, fork and basket racked deer) made up on average 40 to 45% of the buck harvest. However, in 2005 and 2006 following very mild winters, the percentage jumped to 56% of all bucks killed.

Several things happen while this occurs. First, this takes a lot of pressure off the older age classes because hunters are bagging their deer and then packing it in for the season. Taking this pressure off the older age classes means that there is less hunting mortality on older bucks, and they squeak through the season. The opposite happens when we have a tough winter when there are fewer

yearling bucks, and therefore, fewer show up in the harvest. I've already predicted (we won't have the actual numbers until February) that because we had a very tough winter in 07-08, there were fewer yearling bucks available for harvest in 2008. In addition, hunters had the opportunity to harvest more mature bucks simply as a result of hunters taking more yearlings during the past two years and not pressuring the mature bucks as much. Our percent of mature bucks of 3.5 years and older in the harvest should look pretty impressive in 2008, and be upwards of 30%, which is pretty unheard of in most provinces and states. The other factor that influences yearling bucks is the birth pulse two years previous. This determines the total number of fawns, which in turn determines how many fawns enter winter. So to have a decent handle on buck harvest requires consideration of how many fawns are being produced and how they make out getting through their first winter.

I have heard some comments recently such as "NB needs a spike law" and "we're shooting too many bucks". These comments always get a rise out of me, since I study our deer herd so closely. There are a few things to consider before suggesting we overhaul the entire NB deer management system. In NB we harvest 40 to 45% of yearling bucks in most years. Many places that move to a point rule or restriction have harvested 80 to 90% yearling bucks. That is a significant difference. However, what really matters is the percent of yearling bucks you are shooting, and how many are surviving to become 2.5 year olds. The reason for point restrictions is to allow more deer to become a year or two older. In most of these states, the percent of mature bucks in the harvest is 2 to 10 percent at best. Our percentage in NB last year was our lowest for some time at 16%, and is more attributable to the glut of yearlings thanks to a few good winters. Most years, it runs between 20 to 30%.

If you are shooting too many bucks, you will see several things occur in the population that can be directly measured by the data we gather. First, the percent and number of mature bucks will decline and not because of a tough winter. If you look at the percent of mature bucks in our harvest, it is always between 16 to 30% of all bucks, and it only drops in years we harvest more bucks because there are more yearlings. Our actual number of mature bucks in the harvest has increased over the past 7 years from 1000 in 2001 to 1440 in 2007. If we were shooting off all the mature bucks, this number would decline because there would be fewer out there to shoot. Secondly, the percent of does being bred continues to remain high. We actually measure this every spring, and fecundity rates fluctuate little from year to year unless we have a tough winter. In the last 5 years, between 77% and 87% of all adult does were successfully bred in NB. Someone is successfully breeding them!

Private Woodlot Owner's Corner

QDM – How do I get started?

You've finally decided that you want to implement a Quality Deer Management Program on your own woodlot, or on someone else's woodlot who is interested in having you manage it for them. What now? What to do first? Where do I go for help? These are some of the questions that first come to mind and don't worry; there are answers out there to help you. There are many different avenues to take that may ultimately achieve the same goal, but probably the most important one of all, is to have a woodlot management plan prepared. It is a detailed professional evaluation of everything you have on your woodlot, including such things as boundary line conditions, road conditions, tree/shrub species identification, maturity classes of the vegetation, timber volume estimates, classification of unique stands of trees and even prescriptions for each unique area/stand over a certain time frame.

The management plan is a great tool to have to guide you for the next 10, 20 or 30 years. It will outline what activities/treatments you should undertake in the various stands of timber or other unique areas on your woodlot. The plan is designed for you based on your management objectives for your property. If you're interested in managing for QDM, then you would simply need to let your local professional forester or certified forest technician, who would be producing the plan for you, to keep that goal in mind.

Sounds like a good idea doesn't it? How do you go about getting a management plan done? Who do you call? Well, here is some good news for you. We are very fortunate here in NB, that for several decades, the provincial government has been promoting private woodlot owners to have management plans produced for their woodlots. In the hopes that woodlot owners will be encouraged to sustainably manage their woodlot resources, the provincial government has even been providing \$100 per property to assist each woodlot owner to have a plan produced. Sounds good doesn't it? Wait, it gets even better. There are currently 7 woodlot owner groups called Marketing Boards located in NB. These Marketing Boards provide many services to woodlot owners, including such things as the marketing of wood products, delivery of the provincial silviculture program and yes, you guessed it, woodlot management plans. Many of the Boards will even provide more financial assistance towards the cost of the plan bringing the assistance level up to a total level of 50% or more. Now that's encouraging isn't it?

The Marketing Boards have trained professional foresters and technicians who are more than capable of designing a plan for your woodlot based on your objectives. If your focus is on QDM, then they will design the treatments to

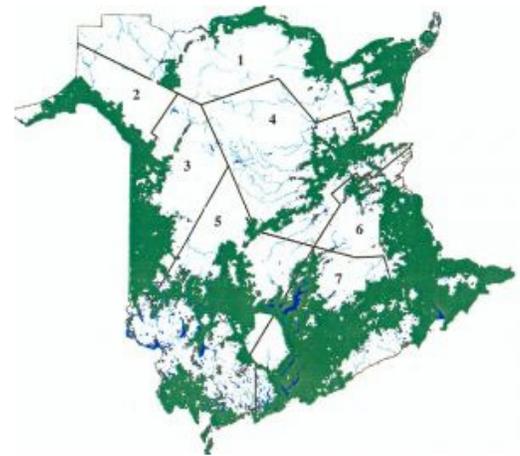
each of the unique areas/stands to help you begin working towards your objectives. I am starting to feel like Santa Claus by telling you that there is even more financial assistance through Marketing Boards for performing some of the treatments outlined in your management plan. Reforestation, pre-commercial thinning, selection harvesting, crop-tree release and commercial thinning are just a few of the treatments eligible for funding.

QDM and woodlot management go hand-in-hand. A management plan is a great tool to get you started in the right direction. If you don't know what you have to work with on your woodlot, then you really have no idea if what you have been doing over the years has been right or wrong, or even what you could do to improve your future management techniques. As you can see, there are many funding sources out there (and these are just a few of them) for you to take advantage of to help you meet your goals and objectives. My advice to you would be to contact your local Marketing Board, tell them what you would like to do and begin the process off right for your woodlots QDM program.

Below is a map showing the areas of each of the 7 different Marketing Boards. Locate roughly where your woodlot is on the map and call your local contact. Numbers are provided below. They will certainly be glad to help you out.

Jamie Floyd, RPF

Marketing Boards in NB



Board	Manager	Phone
#1-North Shore Forest Products	Alain Landry	548-8958
#2-Madawaska Forest Products	Claude Pelletier	739-9585
#3-Carleton-Victoria Forest Products	Tim Fox	392-5584
#4-Northumberland County F. P.	Kevin Forgrave	622-7733
#5-York Sunbury Charlotte F. P.	David Palmer	444-6644
#6-South East NB Forest Products	Marcel Maillet	532-1150
#7-Southern NB Forest Products	Pam Folkins	433-9860

LATE SEASON FOOD PLOTS “CONDITIONING YOUR DEER FOR WINTER”

By: Tom Byers

Late fall and early winter is a critical time for deer in NBNB. Does are bred for the most part, yet bucks are still running around looking for those last few receptive does, or doe fawns just coming into their first cycle. Bucks typically lose 20+% of their body weight along with a proportional amount of body fat. These reserves are meant to carry them through the tough winter months. Without good nutrition now, a number of those bucks will not live to see the spring if our winter is anywhere near as tough as it was last year.

If you've planned your food plot program around the stress periods for the white-tailed deer, then you should have some plots available for just this time of year. Late season annual food plots, both warm and cool season that provide high energy through the production of either starch or sugars, are just the ticket to put those much needed fat reserves back on deer. Many of our early fall hunting plots, made up of perennials, have long since lost their attractiveness and usefulness to deer. What the deer did not eat, the frost has killed and the snow has buried. So nothing is left to eat. Tall growing annuals planted back in the spring, or later planted brassicas, could be the saving grace for those deer that have less than ideal body condition at this time.

Let's take a look at some of the more useful crops for this time of year. Corn and soybeans are both warm season annuals which grow above the snow and have their product (kernels or bean) available to deer. Both of these crops need to be planted on larger acreages, (3+ acres) in order to survive the onslaught of either early season grazing or competition from other wildlife and still have food available to the deer. The other late season annual to consider is the brassica family made up of Rape, Kale, Turnips and Canola. This cool season annual will produce literally tonnes of tall growing late season forage high in starch and sugar. Deer will usually leave it alone early in the season when other higher preferred foods are available, since the leaves are high in starch and are quite bitter. Only after a few good frosts do these starches turn to sugar. The plant converts the starches to sugars in response to the cold temperatures to protect its leaves from freezing as sugars freeze at a lower temperature than starch.

The other benefit of these annual plantings is that when the snow is coming off in the spring, and deer are returning from wintering yards, these will be the first available foods to the deer before your perennials start

producing again. This gives your deer an early season boost when they may be at the lowest body condition of the year. If you are serious about filling the nutritional gaps in your deer's diet, you will have a large portion of your plots in tall growing annuals.

If you have any questions regarding Food Plots, or any matter dealing with Deer and Quality Deer Management, write to us at: QDMANB@nb.sympatico.ca, or write to me at byersfam@nb.sympatico.ca. We will find an answer for your questions.

Tom Byers

Education and Recruitment Continued

By: Richard Hooper

In the last Newsletter, we briefly discussed a variety of reasons for the 50% decline in hunter numbers over the past 20 years. As you may recall, I purposely refrained from merely expressing my thoughts on the reasons, but rather made a few suggestions and canvassed you the readers for yours. What do you in the hunting community feel is the reason many folks are getting out of the sport, and what can we do to recruit newcomers.

To be honest, I had only one formal on-paper submission. I suspect the lack of feedback does not mean that hunters don't care, but more of a confirmation to the notion that we all lead very busy lives, adults and kids alike. That in itself is unquestionably one of the reasons the hunting community is shrinking, among other things.

So as promised, those who responded would get their opinions and ideas printed. In this case, Chris Harned from Westfield (near Saint John) will get all of the ink. Below is what the man known as "Bam" had to say.

"...Reading your article on young hunters, it's not hard to see the decline. Today's age or era is much different than when I was a child, which being only 38 was not that long ago. Back then, hunting was more of a pass time with not much on TV, and Atari (computer games) was just coming out. Hunting and fishing was a common way to pass the time. Growing up and living in the country, there was not much else to do. It hooked me and still has me hooked today. Now today, there are 500+ channels on satellite TV, laptop computers and numerous other E-gadgets that have engulfed our youth. Many of them would rather to stay home and play games instead of going outside to enjoy our great outdoors.

Another reason is the parents. Now more than ever, there are a lot of single parents who just do not have the time to take our youth hunting. They are too busy keeping the chores of the house in order etc. Times today are different. Is that the reason for the decline? Maybe not, but I believe it is not helping.

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Education and Recruitment Continued

I believe there should be some sort of "adopt a young hunter week" where there is great preparation of marketing and advertisement all year long leading up to the selected week. Single parents that do not have time/background to take the youth hunting, or hunting parents who are too busy themselves could sign them up. Make available some good volunteer mentors who would be able to take these youth on several hunts of different species like deer, ducks, bear, partridge, or whatever. We need to grasp these young hunters early, and show them the fine sport of hunting.

I believe somewhat that our heritage is at stake. Someday these children will be our leaders. If they are not educated on the great outdoors, hunting may and will probably be lost. Lowering the age limit might help as well along with some other ideas..."

Thank you Chris for your comments and suggestions. For those of you who feel inspired to expand on Chris' comments or this overall issue of recruitment, please feel free to forward your comments directly to me. My email is the3dwoodlot@yahoo.ca.

Hunt Safe and be a Good Mentor.
Hoop

Editorial

By: Roland Cormier

One of the most important matters to me, is to see my hunting heritage preserved. That is the primary reason why I have volunteered to be an active member of QDMA, and the reason why I am writing this article.

Whitetail hunters love their sport for many different reasons. In my case, it is for just a few important ones. For starters, it is a sport that challenges me without being in competition with anyone else. My competition is that *Great Northlands Whitetail Deer*. It is a wild animal that has fascinated me and inspired me from a very young age. It is indeed quite a challenge to give fair chase to this amazing animal. I often marvel, that in order to survive, it prevails over our gray matter more times than not. I also love the sport because it causes me to spend time with nature, and provides an opportunity to take in the fresh air and admire nature's amazing capabilities. It is also for me a way of life, providing many opportunities for discussion with friends, relatives and acquaintances. It is my sport, which allows me to plan throughout the year.

Hunting has been very important to me throughout my life. My Dad was a dedicated hunter, who harvested more Deer than I could ever dream of bagging. He did it as a genuine sportsman, offering to many acquaintances, the company and guidance they probably would not otherwise have had. But for numerous reasons, he was not able to take me out as much as I would have liked. In his older years, I took him out as often as I could, and his stories were fascinating.

As much as Deer hunting was an important part of my family, I did not get the bug and the real enjoyment until I met a genuine friend. Thanks to him, I learned a great deal about nature and hunting. More importantly, he challenged me to become a dedicated and successful still hunter. You can imagine his delight when I bagged my first Deer. Without him, I would certainly not be writing these lines. I will be forever grateful for this great sportsman who took the time to plan and implement so many outings and missions with me. I was also fortunate to have a spouse that made it a requirement for her to help me plan each and every one of my outings over the past 35 years.

We should all be grateful, that others have made it easier for us to recognize our heritage, and pursue this challenge that has been a sport for generations. It is now our turn to offer to so many eager novices, the opportunity to know more about this amazing challenge. You will appreciate how exuberating it was for me when my daughter took her hunter safety course and subsequently obtained her firearms acquisition certificate. She has not harvested a Deer yet, but she enjoys the challenge of just getting a little closer to the whitetail in his domain. There are a lot more sons and daughters as well as friends and colleagues that would very much appreciate the opportunity to know more about this heritage of ours. We should be mindful of the need to bring out the hunter that resides within them.

We can make a difference for so many if we put our minds to it. It is probably the only way to object to those that make it their purpose to deprive us from our values and heritage. If each and everyone one of us do their part to mentor willing acquaintances to explore the outdoors and hunting, we will make a difference. And we will enjoy doing it.

As members of QDMA, we are joined in a common cause. We will succeed in preserving our heritage, making it better for generations to come, and making it better for the Whitetail Deer. I trust that you also want to leave my grandsons, your sons and daughters, neighbours and friends, a legacy that will grow forever. Join QDMA and keep renewing your membership. There are indeed a lot of people out there that are counting on you.



Membership In QDMA Canada

For more information on how to become a member of QDMA,

- Visit the web page of QDMA Canada at www.QDMACanada.com
- You may also contact a member of the Board of Directors of QDMANB that appears on page 2.
- You may also write to QDMANB:

By Email at

QDMANB@nb.sympatico.ca

Or by mail at

845 McLeod Ave suite 324
Fredericton, NB
E3B 9Y4

QDMA Web Sites

You can access information on Deer and Quality Deer Management by visiting the Web pages of the Quality Deer Management Association.

www.QDMA.com OR
www.QDMACanada.com

***QDMA is for all those that have an
interest in the white-tailed deer and
Quality Deer Management.***

What is QDMA?

The Quality Deer Management Association's (QDMA) mission is to promote sustainable, high quality white-tailed deer populations, wildlife habitats, and ethical hunting experiences through education, research, and management in partnership with hunters, landowners, natural resource professionals, and the public.

Objectives

- To serve as a collective and responsible voice for white-tailed deer hunters and managers.
- To improve the quality of deer herds and hunting experiences through sound deer management.
- To promote hunter education and participation through the conducting of meetings, seminars, and demonstrations, and through the production of educational materials such as books, videos, and the QDMA's journal, Quality Whitetails.
- To promote and financially support deer research and management projects relating to white-tailed deer management and/or recreational hunting.
- To enhance the public image of deer hunters and deer hunting by providing a code of ethics for members to follow.

What is QDM?

Quality Deer Management (QDM) is a management philosophy or practice that unites landowners, hunters, and managers in a common goal of producing biologically and socially balanced deer herds within existing environmental, social, and legal constraints.

The approach typically involves the protection of young bucks (yearlings and some 2.5 year-olds) if they are being over harvested, combined with an adequate harvest of female deer to maintain a healthy population in balance with existing habitat conditions and landowner desires.

This level of deer management involves the production of:

- Quality deer (bucks, does, and fawns),
- Quality habitat,
- Quality hunting experiences, and
- Quality hunters.

You can obtain more information by visiting the QDMA and QDMA Canada web pages.