



QDMA-NB NEWSLETTER

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This Newsletter is presented by the New Brunswick Branch of the
Quality Deer Management Association

President's message History in the making

By: Daniel Gautreau

Ahhh! September! We are officially entering the best time of the year. Days are increasingly shorter, early mornings and late evenings are cooler, leaves on trees are fully mature and are starting to change color. Something is in the air; something that awakens the hunter in all of us.

The hunter in me is especially excited about the up and coming season. This hunting season will be a historical one. For the first time in modern hunting history, deer hunters of New Brunswick will have the opportunity to hunt whitetail deer during the first three Sundays of the season. As a passionate deer hunter, I will take full advantage of this "extra time" and can assure you that I will be in the woods doing what I love. I'm sure if I was to ask every deer hunter I know, most of them will be doing the same thing. This new hunting opportunity is not insignificant and how we spend these hunting days will impact the future of hunting.

Modern society keeps us very busy and for most of us, opportunities to hunt are few and far between. We all know hunter numbers are down across North America, including here in New Brunswick, and it seems increasingly difficult to recruit new hunters. Many factors impact hunter recruitment, but one that has been adamantly utilized to argue for Sunday hunting is the lack of opportunity to expose first timer hunters. So for me, the question is not whether or not you will be hunting on Sundays this season, but rather who will you be hunting with?

As a QDMA-Canada member, I truly feel that each and every one of us has the responsibility to make the effort to expose new recruits to our way of life. In fact, one of QDMA's missions is to preserve the hunting heritage. This is not something that should be taken lightly, and we should not fool ourselves in thinking that we will make a hunter out of a youngster by exposing him or her

to hunting just once. It is a process of many days afield that are needed to expose youngsters to nature, so they may have countless positive experiences and grow to love hunting as much as we do. Bill Gray said it best in his article on mentoring young hunters in the June 2007 issue of the Quality Whitetails magazine: "As a hunter, it is our obligation to make the time necessary to shepherd at least one youngster who is not our own through the long journey required to stir and transform the soul into that of one who, as Leopold wrote, cannot live without wild things and wild places."

So what will history say about Sunday hunting in New Brunswick? Only time will tell, but if I could have my way, it would say that hunters took this opportunity and exposed new hunters to this wonderful way of life and was instrumental in helping hunter numbers increase in New Brunswick and preserve the hunting heritage.

Have a safe and wonderful hunting season.

Daniel Gautreau
President QDMANB

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Editor's Note

The QDMANB Newsletter is published three times per year, by the New Brunswick Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association. News bulletins are also be 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.

We appreciate the feedback received since the publication of our first newsletter in December 2007. The next issue of the QDMANB Newsletter will be published in December 2008. 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.

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
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QDMA Members

There are over 50,000 members of QDMA in
The United States and Canada.

The Impacts of the winter of 2007-2008

By: Rod Cumberland, CWB Provincial Deer Biologist

By now, most are thinking about the fall hunting season approaching and what their odds are of bagging a nice buck, or perhaps a doe in the areas where antlerless permits have not entirely dried up. Many are also looking forward to catching an extra few hours during the new “Sunday hunting”. I have remained relatively neutral on the whole Sunday hunting issue, as it meets two of the “loves” of my life head on – hunting for deer, and being a born-again believer. I’m not sure how this will play out in my life this fall, but during the course of discussions and debates on Sunday hunting – both in the legislature and on the street, I heard the comment many times that Sunday hunting, on top of the harsh winter of 2007-8 is going to decimate the New Brunswick deer herd.

In some ways I hope it is just the lack of appreciation for how the herd in New Brunswick is managed, and not sentiments that hunters think on such issues we’d simply stick our heads in the sand and hope for the best. However, those who know me, know that I’m all about laying the facts on the table, and attempting to educate hunters on the how’s and why’s of our deer management in NB. Any good, scientific and well-planned deer management program should be explainable and understandable to the average hunter, and able to withstand scrutiny from within and without.

First – we all need to appreciate that at the northern extent of white-tailed deer range, which is where we find ourselves in NB – winters definitely factor into our management significantly. In an average winter, we usually lose 7% of the herd in the south, 12% in central NB and about 16% in northern NB. This – for the most part – explains why harvests and deer herds are at the levels we find them in 2007-8. To effectively manage the herd then, we need to gain a very good estimate of how many deer were lost due to the winter conditions. Most provinces and states at this latitude gather these types of data including Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Quebec and Ontario. They collect data on winter weather, snowfall and conditions in deer yards.

Several years ago in NB, after gathering these data for over 20 years, we performed a “multiple regression”, (a fancy term for analysing the impacts of each weather factor to determine which one BEST predicts the impact of winter on our “Winter Severity”), on all these measures. We found, without fail, that the depth of

snow throughout the winter was the single best predictor of how severe the winter was.

The other step we took was to use the over 25 years of winter mortality data in Maine and apply it to our severity to determine what percent of the deer herd was lost due to the weather. Fortunately for us, Maine has collected similar winter severity data, but in addition, Maine warden staff also walk transect lines throughout deer yards all across Maine and always relate the severity of winter to the number of dead deer they find. Rather than re-inventing the wheel, we have simply adopted their relationship between Winter Severity and deer herd losses, and apply it to NB. Therefore, once I have my good predictor of how severe the winter was, I use Maine’s formula to also predict what percent of the herd we lost. I do this for every individual Wildlife Management Zone (each one has at least 2 WSI stations that gather Winter Severity data), and calculate what percent of the herd we lost due to the winter conditions.

Using this calculation in our New Brunswick deer model has resulted in growth rates that we actually measure on the ground – or in other words, the size of the herd we expect, as well as fall harvests we expect – are modelled very closely to reality with the winter losses this system predicts. If anything, the winter losses may actually overestimate losses in some years, which would translate to more conservative management which of course is beneficial to deer. I would rather under harvest the herd in one year as a result of our predicted winter losses, rather than over harvest, and actually cause a deer herd decline like we had in the late 1980’s.

Last winter was obviously a tough winter, and both our snow measurements and herd losses suggested losses between 8% on the Fundy Islands, to as high as 40% in some northern WMZ’s. While this sounds very dramatic, we have changed the age and sex structure of our herd enough since 2000 that our herd can absorb the losses to a tough winter, as long as we appropriately adjust antlerless permits the following fall. For 2007-8 specifically, we calculate winter loss in the north this past winter at approx. 34%; approx 24% in central NB and approx. 14% in southern NB. Provincial average would be around 20% (including the Islands of the Bay of Fundy).

However, as we look at the ACTUAL numerical impact to the deer population, remember that numbers fluctuate over the year - the herd is always changing. So how much was the actual impact to our deer herd? The deer population was estimated last fall prior to the deer season at approx 108,000 deer. After the fall harvest (10,570 plus poached/wounded deer) it was around 95,000.

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The Impacts of the winter of 2007-2008

After the winter loss there were approximately 73,000 deer (23%), but after the spring fawning we were back up to 117,000 deer (45,000 does producing 1 fawn per doe). We experience on average 35% fawn summer mortality, so our prediction is there will be approximately 98,000 deer across the province before the fall hunt again this year (applying adult and fawn summer mortality). Although we lost almost 1/5 of the herd due to the winter, the older females, and our doe: buck ratio of 2:1 across most of the province means that in real numbers, we'll only be down 10,000 deer from last fall's population level. THIS is the beauty of altering your buck to doe ratio in favour of older does in northern areas to facilitate herd growth. While we were able to rebound relatively well following that winter, it is also easy to see that if we had a few tough winters like this in a row, our herd would experience an exponential decline.

QDM is all about balancing deer numbers with habitats, maintaining healthy sex ratios (attempt 1:1) and passing on younger bucks. However, I have always said to QDMANB members - they need to remember that these levels are set considering that in most locations in North America there are TOO MANY DOES – hunters don't harvest them heavily enough to balance the herd. WE in NB are in a very different situation – given our additional winter loss. We need to keep our ratio at about 2:1 so that we maintain sufficient females that they can replenish winter losses. It remains a balancing act – because if winters were removed from NB, we'd want to drop this ratio to 1:1 as in other areas to ensure we don't have a population explosion and be in the same situation with too many deer for the habitat.

Hope this gives you a bit more insight into winter's impacts, and our deer management in NB.

Have a great 2008 season
 Rod Cumberland

Estimated population of Deer in NB

Fall 2007: 108,000
 Fall 2008: 98,000

Deer Hunters in NB

2006: 52599
 2007: 53723

Deer Harvest in NB

2006: 9570
 2007: 10570

Buck Dispersal

By: Tom Byers

Have you ever been watching a particular buck before the season, patterning his every movement and then, just when the season arrives, he seems to disappear? Is he still there somewhere or did he really leave? If your yearling buck has disappeared you may have lost him to dispersal. Dispersal is God's way of ensuring genetic diversity. A buck fawn will stay with his maternal doe throughout the first year of his life, but studies show that after that time most will disperse and establish their own home range, anywhere from 1 to 36 miles away from where he was born.

About 25% of all dispersal will occur in the spring when a buck reaches 12 months of age with the remaining 75% of bucks dispersing in the fall at 18 months of age. Up to 75% of all bucks will disperse by 18 months of age. It was once thought that dispersal was due to the position a buck held in the breeding hierarchy, and this was supported in the Chesapeake Farms study in Maryland conducted by Jonathan Shaw. However, further studies have found that it may not be the only reason and it may not even have the greatest influence. Another study in Pennsylvania by Dr. Chris Rosenberry & Eric Long showed that competition between similar aged bucks may have more influence than breeding hierarchy. A Georgia study by Stefan Holzenbein and Dr. Larry Marchinton found that aggression of the maternal doe seemed to be the predominant reason behind dispersal. What is agreed upon is that the reason for dispersal is not altogether clear, but that it does occur.

So once a buck starts dispersing, where will he stop? There does not seem to be a clear understanding of this but major obstacles such as highways or rivers are a factor. According to the Pennsylvania study, the better the cover, the less distance a buck went before establishing a new home range. The good news is that once he finds a new home range, the likelihood of that particular buck being around until his old age is good. The Jacobson study in Mississippi found that 60% of bucks captured at 2 years old or older died within 1 mile of their capture site and 100% of all bucks died within 3 miles of the site in the area they established as a home range, whether they dispersed to that area or not.

So what about those bucks that don't disperse? Is there a way to keep young bucks around your hunting area? Well there may be. The Georgia study by Stefan Holzenbein and Dr. Larry Marchinton monitored 34 buck fawns divided into two groups, 19 were left with their maternal doe and 15 were orphaned.

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Buck Dispersal

By 30 months of age, 87% of those bucks left with their maternal doe dispersed, but only 9% of those orphaned had dispersed. Of those that dispersed it was found that they died at twice the rate of those that did not disperse, usually due to hunter harvest, since they were not as familiar with their surroundings. This suggests that harvesting adult does with button bucks may increase the number of bucks that stay within your hunting area.

So how does this factor into your QDM program? It suggests that if you have a healthy population of deer with good habitat, you may want to target does with button fawns for harvest, which may keep those young bucks from wandering. That way, you can have your cake and eat it too. Good Hunting!

Tom Byers

***8th Annual National Convention of
 QDMA
 Celebrating our 20th year
 In Chattanooga, Tennessee***

By Rod Cumberland

I was very honored and privileged to be invited as a speaker to the 8th annual Convention of QDMA this past July. The annual convention has grown into a very huge event, drawing hunters from all across North America that are passionate about deer and deer management.

The format is quite different from other conventions you may have attended. As always, the focus of QDMA is to educate hunters, therefore, the first few days are devoted entirely to presentations by the nations leading deer researchers who present their results on deer behavior, deer management and habitat management. Thursday is host to the “Think Tank” where presenters reveal the latest results of their deer research, then form a panel that attendants can “bombard” with questions. This year’s think tank included Dr. Karl Miller – Georgia State University, Dr. Mickey Hellickson – Deer Biologist for the King Ranch, Texas, Dr. James Kroll (known to most as “Dr. Deer”) and Dr. Steve Demarais of Mississippi State University.

Presentations were very interesting and informative, and ended with a heartfelt plea by Dr. Miller to get out and recruit young hunters to our profession, and realize that the present “Big Buck” frenzy that has swept North America, if carried to the extreme, will undermine

wildlife management and hunting as we currently know and enjoy it. Ultimately, if everyone is fanatical about shooting that huge buck, we will eventually all be hunting private preserves intensively managed only for trophy bucks.

This removed the average hunter from the opportunity, and takes us down a path that will ultimately destroy our heritage, and remove us from an acceptable practice among the non-hunting public. Both his plea and that from Dr. Demarais was to manage our personal expectations to be realistic – for the future of hunting and our organization.

I was quite excited to kick off the research session on Friday to an energetic crowd of 400+ raring to go at 8:00 Friday morning. They were quite impressed with the size of our NB deer, the quality of our antlers, and the information on the best time of day to harvest a mature buck – based on data from NB hunters from 2,000 known-aged, known-time harvested bucks from our 2006 and 2007 deer harvests. Dr. Mark Connor of Maryland presented some very interesting data on buck movement patters from 13 bucks they have radio collared in that state. In a nutshell, he found that every buck is an individual, and some behave VERY differently from the norm. Encouragingly, much of his data corroborated the data I presented, as he also found that after dinnertime, buck movement dropped to almost nothing, and he too found that the moon had no impact on increased buck movement. In closing, he stressed that the majority of mature bucks make “excursions” – long range movements to different territory – that lasts for at least 24 hours at some time during the rut. Another tidbit I gathered was that during most of the daylight hours, most of his mature bucks spent their time in the woods, as opposed to fields and other openings. Kip Adams and Dave Morris spoke subsequently on QDM Co-ops and food plotting respectively. Dr. Craig Harper gave some down-to-earth advice on managing old fields, Bryan Kinkel updated the group on his rub research and Brian Murphy, QDM CEO, wrapped up the day with a 20 year overview of QDMA.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the unexpected course of events at the Awards Breakfast on Saturday morning. When they presented the award for the best new Branch of the Year Award, the QDMANB Branch was head and shoulders above the rest and was presented with a beautiful plaque to commemorate the award! Jim Steeves, our original founder and first president was on hand and able to accept the awards along with Steve Storie (QDMA Canada Board of Directors) and myself.

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8th Annual National Convention of QDMA

Private Woodlot Owner's Corner
Hardwood: Firewood and Food?

By: Jamie Floyd

What a high honor, and a very deserving award for the hard-working people we have within our Branch here in NB.

There were banquets every evening, and many silent auctions, draws and door prizes. Guided hunts to great locations all across the US and Canada were offered for bid by a very colorful auctioneer. Like everything else QDMA does, every event, from the research sessions, the banquets and the weekend deer Expo were done with care. Every detail is taken into consideration in order to make this a real quality experience.

The Deer Expo on Saturday and Sunday was geared towards the hunting public, and QDMA drew the likes of Bill Jordan (founder of RealTree Camo Co.), Brad Ferris (Primo's calls) and Lee and Tiffany Lakosky. Attendance for every event set all-time records, as over 1,200 registered for the convention, and the Expo burst the seams channeling over 15,000 hunters through the doors on Saturday and Sunday.

It was very encouraging to be in a crowd this large, yet be treated as you are one of the gang. For such a fledgling group (QDMANB) – "New Brunswick" was not a foreign label by the time we left for home. Between the presentation, our branch award, a donated hunt by Lindsay's Sporting Camps at the grand banquet, and our talking to many there in attendance, they know that QDM is active and prospering above the border. The weekend was brought appropriately to a close at the Inspirational breakfast Sunday morning where Dr. Miller spoke a moving message to the nearly 200 in attendance, speaking on integrity and the real meaning of life.

The convention was so well done that I think if possible, our branch should try and raise enough funding each year to be able to send one delegate from our branch to the national convention each year. Having outgrown the literally "massive" convention center in Chattanooga, next year's event is slated for Louisville, Kentucky at their newly built convention center that should hold the teeming number of delegates that are expected to exceed this year's numbers yet again.

It was definitely an honor to represent the department, our hunters, and our branch and our country at this function in 2008.

Rod Cumberland
 CWB Provincial Deer Biologist

It's that time of year again folks, fall is almost upon us. Is your firewood all cut, blocked and piled under cover? If not, you had better get at it. Last winter was a very cold and long winter and many people ran out early. Don't be one of them and have all the "ants" out there, who had enough, be able to call you the "grasshopper" because you played all summer and ran out.

If you do own your own woodlot and cut your winter's firewood from it, when should it be cut to get ready for the upcoming winter? The best time to do this is in the winter time. Why? In the winter, the tree is dormant and the cambium layer which transports the sap is inactive. This means that when you cut the tree down in the winter for firewood, it already is much drier and has very little moisture or sap inside it. This will speed up the drying time tremendously. Now cut the same tree in the spring, when it is not dormant, look out, the sap will run out of the cut log almost instantly. Drying wood filled with sap takes a very long time. If you're buying your wood from a firewood dealer, plan ahead and get it ordered early and tell them you would like to have some fresh wood cut in the winter.

How can cutting your own firewood on your woodlot, help out in the management of the local deer herd. The deer will thank you tremendously for providing them with some fresh browse at such a critical time of year for them. Ideally, if you could cut it in the Feb.-March area that would be the best time.

Heavy snow cover dominates our Acadian forest at this time of year and the deer are trying to find any browse at all, to provide themselves with some much needed energy and nutrients. The deer's fat reserves are begin to deplete and anything at all would be a help to them. Those large hardwood tops that you have left behind will provide a pile of browse for the deer that they normally would not have access to. That little bit of extra food could make the difference for the deer's survival and even the potential survival of next year offspring the females are carrying. Studies have shown that the females may abort the development of their young if the winter months are too difficult for to barely survive themselves.

Guess what? You also have already started creating browse for the next year as well. The hardwood that you cut the past winter will sprout like crazy the next season and provide them with "reachable" browse the next winter.

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Hardwood: Firewood and Food?

The sprouts will grow so fast because as we mentioned earlier, the sap for the entire trees spring development, is in the large root system of the trees cut-stump.

When the big tree is cut, the trees natural instinct is to reproduce and with all of the available spring sap, it will produce multiple new sprouts and then you can almost watch them grow because they grow so fast. Sprout heights can reach as high as 6 feet in one year, especially in the poplar. If you have a surplus amount of cedar, cut one of them down every now and again as well.

What species of hardwood should I cut or buy? As I mentioned above, the first and most important part is planning ahead and having dry firewood for the winter. The next stage is what species to get. If you are a woodlot owner, as I am, you will probably burn almost

anything, since you are always cleaning up windfalls, poor quality and short-lived species. This is a great way to keep you woodlot healthy and productive and not wasting anything that would otherwise be left in the woods to rot.

Here on page 7 is a helpful chart for you to look at and help decide on which species you should look for on your woodlot, or ask for, when buying. The main information you are looking for is the BTU (British Thermal Unit) for each species. The BTU rating is basically how much heat output or energy a species of wood will produce, if seasoned properly (ideally for one year or more). The denser or heavier the hardwood, the higher the BTU rating. Just think if you could get your hands on some Ironwood, locust or Apple firewood for the winter. It would be a warm winter indeed.

Jamie Floyd

Firewood Ratings and Information
U.S. Forest Products Laboratory

Species	Relative Heat	Easy to Burn	Easy to Split	Heavy Smoke	Throw Sparks	General Rating	Aroma	Weight of Seasoned Cord-lbs	Heat Produced per Cord M Btu
Hardwoods									
Black Ash	Med	Yes/Fair	Yes	No	No/Few	Excel	Minim	2,992	19.1
White Ash	High	Yes/Fair	Yes	No	No/Few	Excel	Minim	3,689	23.6
Red Oak	High	Yes/Poor	No	No	No/Few	Excel	Fair	3,757	24.0
White Oak	High	Yes	No	No	No	Excel	.	4,012	25.7
Beech	High	Yes/Poor	Yes	No	No/Few	Excel	Minim	3,757	24.0
White Birch	Med	Yes/Good	Yes	No	No/Mod	Excel	Minim	3,179	20.3
Grey Birch	Med	Yes/Good	Yes	No	No/Mod	Poor	Minim	3,179	20.3
Yellow Birch	High	Yes/Good	Yes	No	No/Mod	Excel	Minim	3,689	23.6
Red/Soft Maple	Med	Yes	No	No	No	Good	.	2,924	18.7
Sugar/Hard Maple	High	Poor	No	.	Few	Good	Good	3,757	24.0
Cherry	Med	Yes/Poor	Yes	No	No/Few	Good	Excel	3,120	20.0
Black Cherry	Med	Yes/Poor	Yes	No	No/Few	Good	Excel	2,880	19.9
Walnut	Med	Yes	Yes	No	No	Good	.	.	.
White Elm	Med	Med/Fair	No	Med	No/None	Fair	Fair	3,052	19.5
American Elm	Med	Med/Fair	No	Med	No/None	Fair	Fair	3,052	19.5
Aspen/Poplar	Low	Yes	Yes	Med	No	Fair	.	2,295	14.7
Basswood	Low	Yes	Yes	Med	No	Fair	.	2,108	13.5
Apple	High	Poor	.	.	Few	Med	Excel	4,140	26.5
Hemlock	Low	.	.	.	Many	Fair	Good	2,482	15.9
Black Locust	High	Poor	.	.	None	Good	Minim	3,890	26.8
Hornbeam/Ironwood	High	.	.	.	.	Excel	.	4,267	27.3
Butternut	Low	.	.	.	.	Poor	.	2,100	14.5

Hunting Basics for the Beginner

Part 2

Hunt where the Deer are and Learn to Pattern Deer

By: Russell Henry

This is not about how you can be successful and harvest your monster deer every year. We will not be giving you fail safe techniques. This is about covering the basics and how you can challenge yourself to find where the deer are. The most obvious issue facing new hunters is to find where the deer are at any time throughout the day and to position yourself at that spot. I can remember my father, who was a non hunter, telling me that it was all about being lucky and just being in the right place at the right time. That just kind of ticked me off at the time. However, he really only wanted to encourage and console me. He was partially right, since it is about being in the right place at the right time. But there really is no luck associated with that. Deer tend to be creatures of habit, and by knowing their habits, you can learn to predict their location and pattern their movements.

To begin developing this skill, you require some basic knowledge on deer biology, behavior and movement patterns. The whitetail requires food, water, shelter, some degree of security as well as bedding areas. The type, quality and quantity of these needs will change throughout the season. Patterning deer is challenging, but it can provide great rewards. Regardless of your hunting method or weapon of choice, I suggest that if you learn to know how to pattern deer, it will make you a much better hunter. I would hope that QDMANB may be able to offer to young hunters a seminar on this subject in the future.

I can relate with experience how not to be successful. Several years ago, I enjoyed walking in the woods looking at sign and managing to harvest a few deer. I trampled through the woods and had no idea where the deer were going. I would hear them snort and run off as I approached. I never inquired about why they were there. I very seldom noted what time of the day it was, what type of cover they were in, what they were feeding on, or what they were doing before I spooked them. I seldom noted their direction of travel in order to escape, or their behavior as they took off. I was never aware of the wind direction and did not spend much attention on the weather conditions at the time.

Those years were not as productive as they could have been where I missed out on numerous learning opportunities. I would suggest that you take the time to note these things, and keep a record over the season and over the years. You should eventually see a pattern develop. This information can help you refine your

hunting skills, and help you understand where deer might be in your area.

Bowhunters also need to develop and refine their skills to be successful. If you find a person that routinely harvests deer with a bow, especially if he or she does not use a tree stand, spend plenty of time chatting and observing his or her approach to hunting. I would also appreciate it very much if you would send me their name and phone number.

There are several reference books available to get you started. You may want to take a look at what's available at your local library or book store. You may also want to email or write the editor of this newsletter, if you wish to obtain more advice on the book that may best serve your particular needs. He might offer to loan you one from his own library if it's available. You can also visit the QDMA website at <http://www.qdma.com/>. It has several articles that may be very helpful to the new hunter.

Following are a few basic points to get you started on how to pattern deer.

- A deer's life revolves almost entirely around food. Up to 95 percent of a deer's active time is spent looking for food or feeding. When deer aren't eating, they usually are resting. Deer eat a variety of foods, including fruits and nuts. They focus on what's available and what tastes good to them.
- Even if deer are feeding almost entirely on agricultural crops, they usually remain in forested areas during the day and only venture into the fields toward evening and during the night. The best places to hunt these deer are along travel routes between feeding and bedding areas. Be able to recognize the common preferred food sources of deer in your area, know how to recognize deer travel routes and identify good deer bedding locations.
- On average through the year, deer bed down more than 16 hours a day, although they seldom remain bedded for more than two hours at a time. Deer bed in areas that provide both cover and comfort. A deer usually beds with its back to the wind, allowing it to see anything approaching from downwind and smell upwind danger. On hot, sunny days, deer tend to bed in shady areas. On cold and windy days, they'll find a place that's protected from the wind. They often rest just over the downwind edge of a ridge. They sometimes return to the same bedding areas and sometimes the same beds.
- Deer tend to be the most active around twilight and sunrise. However, deer may be active during other peaks in the day or night. I have seen deer at all times of the day. So spend all day hunting, taking time to relax and enjoy your surroundings.

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Hunting Basics for the Beginner Part 2

- You should be aware at all times of wind direction as we discussed in part 1 of this series in our April issue of our newsletter.
- You should also be continuously looking for sign of deer activity. Take care not to get stressed over the fact you may not see deer where you would expect to see them. Developing your skills will take time.
- Because they eat and rest in the same general areas, deer tend to travel the same routes between bedding and feeding areas. The trails they follow may often skirt open areas, parallel creeks and rivers, or follow the contours of hills. They may also travel along the boundaries where two different types of habitat meet, such as a wooded area and a field, or a hardwood stand and a softwood area. Other types of trails include escape trails, which deer use to quickly leave an area.
- Learn how to still hunt when you are out and about, by always keeping your eyes, ears and nose peeled. Walk slowly, and avoid brisk movements in order to reduce the possibility of being detected by deer.

To summarize, hunt where the deer are and develop your deer patterning expertise to find deer and enhance your hunting pleasure. Read about deer and observe their habits. There are lots of rewards, excitement and enjoyment that come from hunting. But one of the greatest rewards is predicting and then seeing deer when and where you predicted they would be. Deer hunting should be fun. Become the local expert in finding deer. Others will want to know how you do it. Challenge yourself, and above all, enjoy the experience of the great outdoors.

If you have a question for us, write to the editor at the email or postal address that appears on page two of this issue. We will do our best to find someone that can answer your question.

Russ Henry

Hunter Education

There are a number of opportunities for enlisting in Hunter Education programs in New Brunswick. You can obtain more information on: Hunter Education, Firearms Safety, Bow Hunter Education, Trapper Education, course schedules and other related topics.

Visit the Web page of the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources at the following internet address:

<http://www.gnb.ca/0078/HunterEd-e.asp>

Global Positioning System

By: Joseph LaBelle

Finding ones way in the woods has become a lot easier in the past 15 years with improvements in GPS systems. This has been of particular significance to hunters and other people who venture into the woods. Better hunter training and the navigation tool offered by GPS receivers have greatly reduced the number of people who get “turned around” while they are out hunting.

GPS, or global positioning system, has two basic components: a constellation of satellites orbiting the earth and the earth based, and most often, hand-held receiver. It is the hand-held receiver that is commonly called a GPS. The satellites orbiting the earth broadcast their identification and a timing signal. Earth-based receivers capture the signals from a number of satellites and calculate a location.

Although hand held receivers have been available for over 20 years, it has only been in recent years that they have become truly practical and useful for most people venturing into the woods.

The elimination of “selective availability” – a signal designed to down-grade position information for non-military users – and the advent of a new generation of signal processing chips in the GPS now provides an accuracy of position locations down to 3-5 meters.

Multi-channel receivers and improved antenna also allow the GPS to capture signals under even the densest forest canopies.

Most commercially available GPS receivers are sold by three companies: Garmin, Lorwance and Magellan. The most popular models for land-based navigation are manufactured by Garmin, but all major manufacturers offer units with the same basic capabilities and functions.

If you are in the market for a GPS receiver, you should be looking for a unit based on the newer SiRF chips set, which has improved signal processing and which will provide the best available coverage and position information. Mapping functions and color displays are now considered standard function.

The more popular GPS receivers have mapping functions that not only provide position information but can locate your position on a map. Basic maps are provided on most models, and more detailed maps are available as add-on options.

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Global Positioning System

Connecting the GPS to your computer allows you to down-load detailed maps of your area. For example, Garmin markets a product called Topo Canada that allows you to download information similar to regular topographic maps to your GPS. Other map products are available for road navigation and for cities. Marine charts are also available for most units.

A good, all-round GPS will cost between \$300 and \$400 dollars, and a good set of electronic maps covering Atlantic Canada will run about \$100. A set of long-lasting lithium batteries is more expensive than run-of-the-mill batteries, but their longer life and the fact they perform better in cold weather make them a good investment. Remember to always carry an extra set of batteries so you are not stranded in the woods when you run out of power.

Many popular computer programs (some bundled with your GPS) allow you to plan your trip on the computer, down-load the plan to the GPS and then retrieve information on waypoints and tracks you have recorded in the field. One of the more popular third-party computer programs that allows mapping on the computer to communicate with your GPS is OziExplorer.

Although a GPS can provide great navigation information that makes travelling in the remotest parts of New Brunswick's woods a simple matter, they do not navigate for you. Like all navigation tools, they require training and experience.

And like all electronics, they have their limitations: the satellites may not always be in the proper position to provide an accurate position. Solar activity has the potential to affect the signals reaching the GPS. Although infrequent, these disruptions do occur and traditional navigation skills are still required.

Murphy's Law says that if something can go wrong, it usually will and that includes GPSs and other electronic devices. Carrying maps of the local area and a good quality compass when venturing into the woods, and knowing how to use them, are still required skills for anyone venturing into New Brunswick forests.

Always keep safety in mind and enjoy.

Joseph LaBelle

***QDMA Hunter Recruitment
 and Education***
“Recruiting Youngsters”

By: Richard Hooper

Let's see, what can I write about for this edition for the QDMA Newsletter? If I had a loonie for every time I uttered these words over the last month, I'd have enough money for at least a new trail camera. Oddly, the more I thought about it, the more obvious it became, because for whatever reason, it seemed like every magazine I opened, every website I visited, and various people I talked with, it was surprising to see that the topic of getting newcomers interested into the hunting sports was the common theme. Voila!

So, what are the best approaches and incentives to capture the interest of today's youth? As I and numerous folks have written before, there's a lot of competition out there to grab a child's attention and interest, such as organized sports like soccer and hockey, youth groups like Cubs and Scouts, music lessons, computers and the list goes on. A few common themes over the last few weeks that seem to top the list for youth recruitment includes the following:

- 1) Lowering the age for youth hunters in line with other Provinces and States. For example, in Maine the age is ten.
- 2) Lowering the required age for Hunter Education and reducing the cost to youth.
- 3) Making Hunter Education more accessible to youngsters. By that, folks are suggesting holding these more often and offering them on weekends vs the evenings till 10:00 PM. Those are tough hours for a youngster, not to mention the added travel time home afterwards.
- 4) More Youth Hunts: special days set aside prior to the regular season to captivate the attention of youth with a good number of animal sightings before they either migrate or get gun shy (like the very successful Waterfowler Day).
- 5) Automatic Doe Tags for youth under 19.

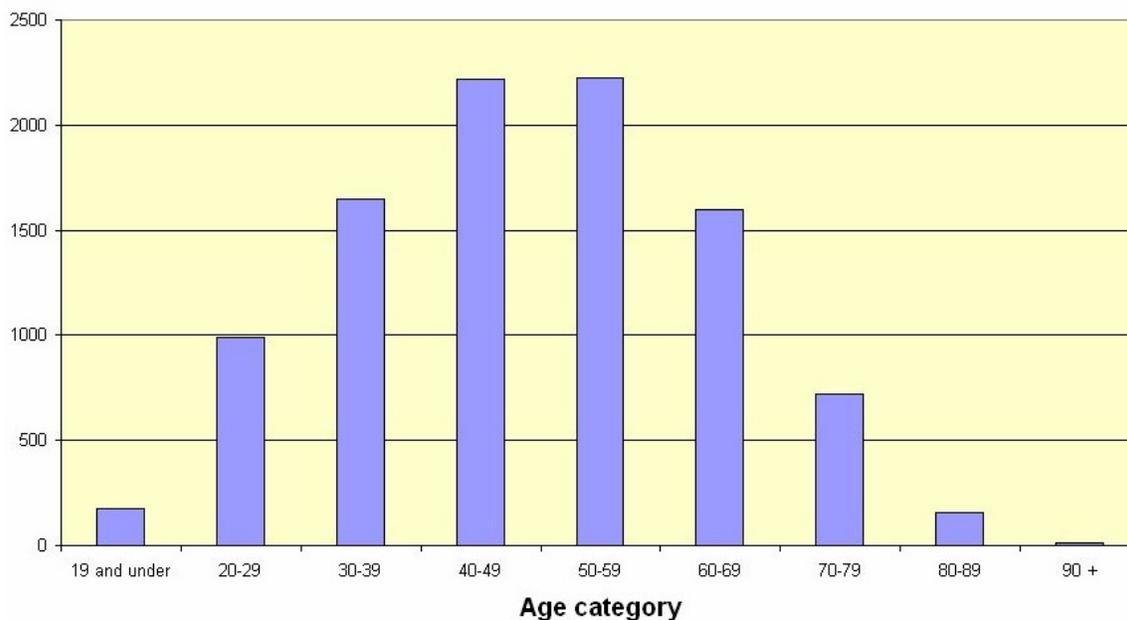
Again, these are just a smattering of the various suggestions out there. Is recruitment really important? Without question! As illustrated in the graph below on page 11 from DNR, we have as many 80-90 year old hunters as we do youth under 19. In fact, the overall bulk of our hunters fall between 30 and 69 years of age, and the most populated group are the folks in their 50's. It's easy to see where things are headed without some serious recruitment! **Continued on page 11**

QDMA Hunter Recruitment and Education "Recruiting Youngsters"

So rather than me droning on and telling you what I think, I propose something a little different for this edition of the Newsletter. I am requesting input from YOU the readers. How about telling us what YOU think? What can WE as a QDM organization and hunters in general should do to increase recruitment of youth hunters? Any and all ideas are welcome. You can expand on the ones listed above or throw in any new ideas not mentioned. This is "brainstorming" at its finest, albeit via email.

For the next Newsletter edition, I will select a variety of your responses and print them so we can all collectively

Age of NB Hunters - 2007 Hunter's survey (based on a survey of 9745 hunters)



Succession in New Brunswick and Quebec Part One

By: Roland Cormier

There has been much discussion recently on the erosion of deer hunters in New Brunswick. In an article that appeared in the December issue of our Newsletter, Richard Hooper discussed hunter erosion in our Province over the past twenty years. During that period, licenses sold dropped from 116,675 to 52,599. That represents a drop of 54.9% from 1986 to 2006. That could certainly be cause for concern if the tendency continues.

have input, read the ideas of others, and hopefully find some common themes so that we may target a recruiting approach for New Brunswick.

Please send your responses to both the following addresses.

Hooper.RD@Forces.gc.ca as well as the3dwoodlot@yahoo.ca

Enjoy the upcoming season!

Hunt Safe and Be A Good Mentor.

Hoop

In his article that appears above on pages 10 and 11, Richard invites readers to write in their suggestions on how we can encourage recruitment of youth into hunting.

With the view of contributing to the discussion, we decided to take a look at more statistics, and also examine what was happening in some neighbouring jurisdictions. After some initial research, we discovered that from 1997 to 2007, the number of deer licenses sold in Quebec increased by 29.8%. During the same period, New Brunswick had a decrease of 21.2%. Given this finding, we decided to take a closer look at what was happening with our neighbour to the north, and attempt to identify some of the reasons for the different results within the two jurisdictions. **Continued page 12**

Continued from page 11
Succession in New Brunswick and Quebec
Part One

In this article, we will discuss some of the statistics that are readily available on the internet, and the observations we have gathered from a number of persons in both Provinces.

The proportion of hunters

The population of Quebec is ten times that of New Brunswick. So we decided at the outset to look at the proportion of deer hunters in each Province. As we expected, New Brunswick has a greater proportion of whitetail enthusiasts than Quebec. In 2007, there were 7.14% of New Brunswickers that purchased a deer hunting license. The percentage in Quebec in the same year was only 2.26%.

NB on the increase

We should be encouraged, that statistics reveal that the number of licenses sold in NB over the past two years is on the increase, as shown on the table below.

Year	# of Licenses sold
2005	49,793
2006	52,599
2007	53,723

The above represents an increase of 7.9% from 05 to 07.

More Deer = More Hunters

New Brunswick experienced excellent deer harvest years throughout the eighties, reaching a peak of 31,205 in 1985. During that decade, the number of deer hunting licenses maintained itself at over 100,000. A substantial decline of the total harvest in 1990 corresponded to a decrease in the number of hunters. The table below shows the relationship between these two numbers for some selected years.

Relationship between the numbers of licenses sold and total deer harvest in NB

Year	Licenses sold	TT deer harvest
1987	115564	26752
1988	102050	19805
1989	102277	19719
1990	86836	11480
1995	78842	10944
2000	62126	8312
2001	55979	4314
2002	51779	6443
2003	50664	5733
2004	51133	6878
2005	49793	6881
2006	52599	9570
2007	53723	10570

With a total harvest of 10,570 in 2007, we have almost reached the total we had in 1990. I would like to think, that with continued sound "Quality Deer Management", we will continue to experience increases in deer harvest, as long as Mother Nature returns us a few mild winters. The numbers above clearly show that we have been able to increase the deer harvest by 145% since 2001, a period of six years. It should not be surprising that deer hunters are on the rise. I guess those who suggest, that the best way to encourage more hunters is to improve the abundance and quality of the deer herd, may be right!

Deer hunters and harvests in Quebec

Many WMZ in Quebec are experiencing record high deer densities. This has prompted authorities to take measures to increase the number of special permits, particularly in areas where deer density exceeds the carrying capacity. Not surprisingly, the number of deer hunters has increased as well, as may be seen from the following table.

Relationship between the numbers of licenses sold and total deer harvest in Quebec

Year	Licenses sold	TT Deer Harvest
1999	131325	46136
2000	137346	57346
2001	144074	53100
2002	151154	63605
2003	156229	65078
2004	162691	67692
2005	162208	65809
2006	169071	68907
2007	171684	74873

The firearm laws

One of the more frequently mentioned reasons for a decline in deer hunter interest in NB is the introduction of firearm safety regulations. There is no question that this may well have had an impact. I know a number of persons that did not want to bother with safety and hunter education and abandoned their firearms. But in most of the cases I know of, these persons were not dedicated whitetail enthusiasts. I would also submit, that peer pressure in our society has swayed people away from hunting and firearms.

The matter of bureaucracy related to the gun safety laws is also sometimes raised as an irritant that discourages people from pursuing the sport.

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Succession in NB and QC: Part One

Bow enthusiasm in Quebec

Persons consulted have conveyed to me three principal reasons for the increase in the number of hunters in Quebec over the past decade. The first, deer abundance, was discussed above. Interest in bow hunting has also been flagged as a significant reason. We checked a few statistics that are available on the web to see what we could learn. The table below summarizes our findings. For purposes of comparison, we have grouped together bow and crossbow, as well as carbine and shotgun in Quebec.

Harvest by Season in 2007

	QC	NB
Black Powder	14046 (18.8%)	N/A
Bow	9146 (12.2%)	158 (01.5%)
Firearm	51681 (69.0%)	10412 (98.5%)
Total	74873 (100.0%)	10570 (100.0%)

Proportionately, there appears to be substantially more bow hunting enthusiasts in Quebec than in NB. What was also related to me, is that among the younger generation, there are many hunters that prefer adapting to bows rather than to firearms, in part, due to the negative publicity surrounding firearms in that Province.

What is also revealing, is the surprisingly high number of harvests during the black powder season in Quebec. From my understanding of the black powder season in Quebec, which comes after the carbine season, harvests are limited to non antlered deer, in an effort to adjust the buck to doe ratio. I am not certain how much interest New Brunswick would generate in this area.

Measures for stimulating more hunting activity

Beginning with the 2003 hunting season, authorities in Quebec introduced two new measures for encouraging more people to engage in hunting. One of these measures allows young persons between 12 and 17, or a student between 18 and 24, (subject to certain requirements), to hunt under the hunting license of an adult person who accompanies him or her.

Another measure was to introduce a hunting initiation license. This initiative allows persons aged at least 18, to obtain various hunting licenses, once in their lifetime, in order to become initiated in this activity. The holder of this license must be accompanied by a resident of Quebec who is at least 25, and who has a regular license to hunt in the Province. It is not necessary for this person to obtain a firearms acquisition certificate.

These two measures combined have been suggested as the most positive initiatives to promote new entrants to our sport.

There were a number of other reasons relayed to us over the last few months that might explain the increase in hunters in Quebec and the erosion in New Brunswick. We will leave those other matters for a subsequent article. We will also watch with interest the opinion of our readers who will be forwarding their input to Richard Hooper.

Have a great 2008 hunting season
Roland

QDMANB Activities 2008-2009

Some of the activities planned over the next year, by QDMANB:

- Submission of at least one research project for the enhancement of our Deer herd in New Brunswick to both public and private sector sponsors and programs.
 - Participation at the Sussex Fish and Game Show with conferences sponsored by QDMANB. This event is being held September 12th to 14th.
 - QDMA symposium in February in Miramichi.
 - First Annual Banquet of QDMANB in March.
 - A field day in the spring of 2009.
 - Publication of three issues of our Newsletter
-

QDMANB Receives Award

At the 2008 annual convention held in Chattanooga, Tennessee at the end of July, the New Brunswick Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association received the New Branch of the Year Award.

More information

You can access more information on the white-tailed deer, Quality Deer Management and the Quality Deer Management Association by visiting the Web pages of QDMA and QDMACanada at:

www.QDMA.com and
www.QDMACanada.com

Or you can write to us:
By Email: QDMANB@nb.sympatico.ca
Or at:

845 McLeod Ave suite 324
Fredericton, NB
E3B 9Y4



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 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.