



NSFAH Journal



December 2012

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- and a whole lot more!



To receive a copy of the NSFAH monthly E-Newsletter simply fill out the contact form at the Federation website, include your name and email address...it really is that simple!

Our Hunting Heritage – Pay it Forward

It's the holiday season and we all focus on family and the joy of sharing with our daughters, sons, wives, brothers, sisters etc.

We want all of our family members to enjoy the season and all the pleasures it brings. We want everybody to create family memories of the good times we have together that provide the basis of stories told and retold for years and years to come, even beyond our own lifetime.

Well it just happens that the majority of hunting season occurs just before the holiday season and it got me to thinking of the great tradition of shared hunting memories. The joy of sharing a successful hunt with a family member or a close friend. I was reminded of this joy by stories from two NSFAH executive members that shared with their sons a first harvest this year. Mike Pollard, past President and current Secretary of NSFAH was sitting beside his son Aaron when he bagged his first deer and Ian Avery, Second Vice President, videoed his son's first Newfoundland moose. What a gift !!!!



17 pt bull, Sandy Pond, NFLD

I've hunted a long time but never had anyone with me when I bagged an animal until my buddy Bob Cross, former President of NSFAH, stood by my side and tried (unsuccessfully) to calm me when I shot a young bull moose in the Cape Breton Highlands. A couple of years later my good friend Rodney sat beside me as I shot bucks three years in a row, and he was as excited as if he had pulled the trigger. These are memories that I will take to my grave, vividly etched in my memory in exquisite detail.



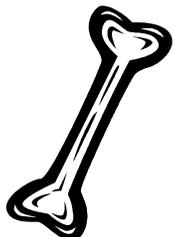
Our hunting heritage is a precious gift from our forefathers, to be nurtured and passed along to the next generation. If you are looking for the ideal Christmas gift for a young relative, or family friend, consider giving them the gift of hunting, the connection to nature that hunters share and the opportunity to create mutual memories that will outlast all of us are the gifts that give forever.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Wilf Woods
President, NSFAH

Bones

Most of us have seen the TV program "Bones" where crimes are solved in one hour by specialists who read the signs on the skeletal remains of the victim, draw conclusions and the police are happy.



Well there are people in Nova Scotia who do that type of work and many other associated humanitarian projects and are world renowned in the field of anthropology.

Over the years they have been trying to build up a collection of animal bones in their laboratory to help them compare with bones that may be discovered in the woods, as we all know from newspaper accounts, by hunters of course.

When bones are found these remains must be examined to determine if they are human or not.

By having samples of animal bones on hand that determination may be made easier.

Over the years, while hunting and fishing, I found a fair number of bones in the woods just by observing my surroundings and I kept them to use in hunter education classes that I taught. Recently I made a donation of a number of animal skulls, teeth, back bones, ribs and other parts to that bone collection.

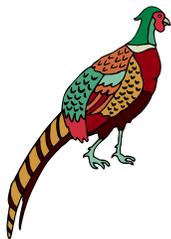
If anybody reading this has a similar collection and would like to part with some or all of the collection please contact me and I'll put you in touch with those interested.

Tony Rodgers tonyrodders@eastlink.ca
Executive Director
NSFAH

Late Season Pheasants

Now that it's later in the pheasant season and the birds are getting harder to find, there are a few things that can make your chances a lot better for bagging a bird. Here are a few tips for bagging late-season birds:

1. Scout right: Pheasant hunting is challenging enough when you know where the birds are, but scouting birds is one thing most hunters don't do. They think they can go into any marsh or corn field and there will just be pheasants waiting to fly. That's not necessarily true. Pheasants are most active around dawn and dusk, leaving their roosts to feed during the day and coming back to their roosts in the evening. The best way to scout pheasants is to get up early and watch a marsh or grassy field that has some sort of food source surrounding it. You will be able to watch the pheasants fly out of their roosts and see where they are feeding. At dusk you can see where birds fly back into their roosts.



Dawn and dusk are also the time when pheasants typically make the most noise and are most active. If you are hunting without a dog this is a great tactic for getting close to these birds.

2. Be quiet: I have seen and heard way too many people thinking that pheasants don't get spooked by loud hunters and the slamming of car doors. These are the people who don't shoot many pheasants. When you pull up to your hunting spot and someone slams a car door or tailgate, you have just alerted all the roosters in the area that hunters are around. These birds will have already flushed or run before you even make it out of the driveway, especially if you are hunting heavily pressured areas like public land. Being as quiet as you can while walking is also important. If you are making a lot of noise, the birds hear you long before you get to them, and chances are they are already gone.

....Continued on page 6

Federation Update

On Nov 30th NSFAH had their scheduled meeting with staff of the Wildlife Division of DNR to discuss ongoing and emerging issues.

One of the key highlights was the invitation to representatives of the National Wild Turkey Federation to attend and discuss issues related to the introduction of wild Turkey into NS. The outcome was the establishment of a communication link between NWTF and DNR where the Director of the Wildlife Division agreed to be the primary point of contact and to put NWTF into contact with the key players in the NS Department of Agriculture and the Federation of Agriculture.

We discussed the moose hunt in Zone 5 and agreed that it's too early to have results of this year's hunt. We agreed that the results would be available by the time of our AGM in March for review.

We discussed the Wildlife Habitat Fund and we tabled our concerns that the funding process is too complicated for

most of our clubs that are volunteer based and driven. We discussed the possibility of the Federation submitting a blanket application for small projects which would see funding flow through the Federation to the clubs in an effort to simplify and streamline the application process and reporting requirements as set by The Fund. DNR was interested in seeing what exactly we were proposing, so the Federation will make a comprehensive proposal incorporating the range of small projects our clubs wish to undertake. The intention being that funding would flow to the Federation thus to the club without the comprehensive paperwork now required. The project would still have to comply with the intent of the fund and reporting out on results would be detailed.

We discussed the outstanding Regulatory Amendments and were advised that they are still being processed through Legal Services with the hope that they will be proclaimed as law by 31 March, 2013.

Wilf Woods
President NFAH



Duck Breast Wrapped With Bacon

The inspiration for this dish was to take duck, an ingredient found in traditional French cuisine, and to find a way to prepare and interpret it using other common Canadian ingredients, in a manner that is simpler, less time consuming and just as flavorful. After layering the duck with apples, shallots and spices, it is wrapped in bacon, in some way similar to how a filet mignon is prepared.

You will need the following:

- 6 duck breasts, skinless, boneless
- 3 shallots, thinly sliced
- 1-1/2 peeled cored Granny Smith apple, sliced into thin wedges
- 18 slices back bacon
- 3 tsp chopped fresh thyme
- 3tbsp (45 ml) cognac or dry red wine
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 pinch pepper

Preparation:

Carefully slice each duck breast twice along the long edge to create two superimposed pockets. Layer within each duck breast pocket apple slices, shallots and thyme. Sprinkle duck breast with salt and pepper and rub all over (both top and bottom). Wrap each duck breast with three slices of Canadian bacon along the short end. Preheat oven to 350F. Heat skillet with olive oil over medium-high heat. Lay down duck breasts, and fry each side for about 3 to 5 minutes each until golden colour is achieved. Add cognac to the skillet and cover for 30 seconds. Remove lid to allow the alcohol to evaporate. Drain out all the excess fat. Transfer the duck breasts to oven and cook for 10 minutes or until the duck is medium rare. Serve with your choice of veg! Enjoy!



Scoring Your Whitetail Buck

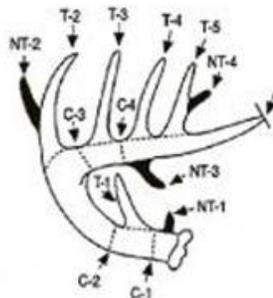
1. INSIDE SPREAD of Main Beams:

Measure the inside spread of the main antler beams at the widest place. This measurement should be at a right angle to the longitudinal axis of the skull, and parallel to its horizontal axis.



2. CIRCUMFERENCE of Main Beam:

Measure the circumference of each main antler beam at the four places indicated below. Circumferences must be taken at a right angle to the longitudinal axis of the antler at the smallest place between typical tines, disregarding the non-typical tines.

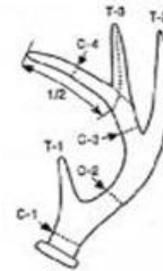


C-1. Between the burr and T-1. Measure the circumference of the main antler beam at the smallest place between the burr and the typical brow tine, or "eye-guard" (T-1). If T-1 is absent, measure at the smallest place between the burr and the second typical tine (T-2), which will make this measurement the same as C-2.

C-2. Between T-1 and T-2. Measure the circumference of the main antler beam at the smallest place between the typical brow tine (T-1) and second typical tine (T-2). If T-1 is absent, measure at the smallest place between the burr and T-2, which will make this measurement the same as C-1.

C-3. Between T-2 and T-3. Measure the circumference of the main antler beam at the smallest place between the the second typical tine (T-2) and third typical tine (T-3). If T-3 is absent, measure at the smallest place between the center of the base of T-2 and the beam tip, which will make this measurement the same as C-4.

C-4. Between T-3 and T-4. Measure the circumference of the main antler beam at the smallest place between the third typical tine (T-3) and fourth typical tine (T-4). If T-4 is absent, measure halfway between the center of the base of T-3 and the beam tip. If T-1 (typical brow tine) is absent, measure both C-1 and C-2 at the same place. This will be at the smallest place between the burr and T-2.



If T-4 (fourth typical tine) is absent, measure C-4 halfway between the center of the base of T-3 and the beam tip. If an antler has only two points-- T-1 and the beam tip, measure C-2, C-3 and C-4 at the same place. This will be halfway between the center of the base of T-1 and the beam tip. If an antler has only two points-- T-2 plus the beam tip, measure C-1 and C-2 at the same place between the burr and T-2, and measure C-3 and C-4 at the same place, which will be halfway between T-2 and the beam tip. If an antler is a simple spike (no tines at all), measure all four circumferences at the same place. This will be halfway between the base of the burr (not the top of the burr) and the beam tip.

3. LENGTH of Main Beam:

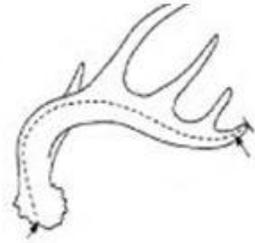
First, it is necessary to determine the

Have fun with this do-it-yourself guide for scoring your trophy from this year's hunt.

Check out Boone & Crockett for official scoring rules or contact The Nova Scotia Big Game Society.

Scoring continued.....

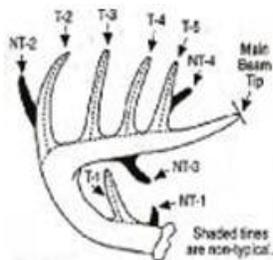
main beams and their tips. The main beams are usually easy to identify in white-tailed deer, because they will end at the rear most points;



however, some non-typical antlers may have more than one projection at the end of the beam. If so, choose the one that appears to be the logical beam tip because of its contour, size and location. Measure the length of each main antler beam from the bottom edge of the burr (or coronet) to the tip. If a beam tip is broken so that its far point is not on the line of measurement, it should be carded off. The measurement follows the center of the antler's outer curve and is essentially parallel to the longitudinal blood grooves. Begin the measurement where the center-line of the outer curve intersects the bottom edge of the burr. This will be on the side of the head and behind the eye, not in front on the forehead.

4. LENGTH OF TYPICAL TINES:

Even though in this method all tines are measured and included in the score it still is necessary to identify the typical tines, because the beam circumferences must be measured between typical tines, disregarding any non-typical tines that may be present.

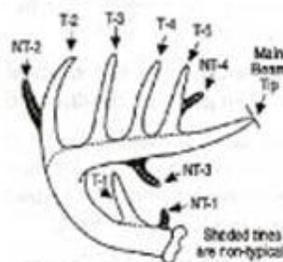


Measure the length of each valid typical tine on each antler. If a tine is broken so

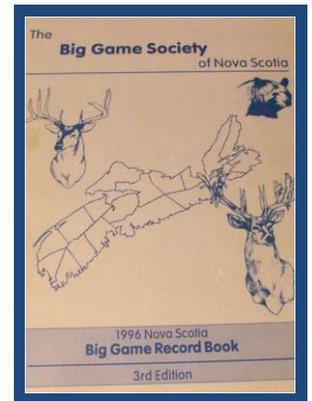
that its far point is not on the line of measurement, it should be carded off. A valid tine must be at least 1 inch long, and no wider than its length. A typical tine is one that grows in the typical location and manner. Be sure not to measure the tip of the main beam as a tine. While the beam tip is always a typical point, it is not a tine, and its length is already included in the length of the main beam. Each typical tine on white-tailed deer antlers has a specific identification number: T-1, T-2, T-3, etc., as illustrated. Record its length on the proper line on the entry form. Any typical tines that are missing are to be identified by a zero. There is no set limit to the number of typical tines that can grow on a white-tailed deer antler however, it is unlikely to exceed six or seven. To be considered typical, a tine must grow in a typical manner and location, and form the typical pattern for that species. A typical brow tine (T-1), if present, must grow upward from the top of the beam and not from the side or bottom of the beam, or from the burr. The other typical tines must grow upward from the beam in typical fashion, not from the side or bottom of the beam, or from another tine. In white-tailed deer, only one tine (not both) of a double brow tine may be treated as typical (normally the longer one), the other being non-typical. However, both tines of a double tine growing elsewhere on the main beam can be typical in some cases.

5. LENGTH OF NON-TYPICAL TINES

Measure the length of each valid non-typical tine on each antler.



If a tine is broken so that its far point is not on the line of measurement, it should be carded off. A valid tine must be at least one inch long, and no wider than its length. Non-typical tines are those that do not qualify as typical.



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The NSFah Journal is published monthly, except during hunting season. If you or your club has an article to submit, send along before the 25th of each month to ensure your information is inserted.

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See us at:
www.nsfah.ca

Late Season continued.....

Making as little noise as possible keeps the birds guessing at what is coming and will make them hold longer so you can get a closer shot.

3. Vary your hunting patterns: This is the most successful strategy that I have ever come across for hunting pheasants and it makes complete sense. If you enter the hunting area from the same place every single time you go there, or if every hunter enters the area from the same spot, the birds are going to start to understand that. I have found that if you are hunting the same area twice or are on public land where you know most of the hunters enter at the same place, you will shoot more birds if you change up your routine. The roosters in these areas become accustomed to hunters coming from the same direction so as soon as they hear people walking or the dogs running, they take off to their usual escape routes. If you come in from a different direction, you may be able to block the rooster's escape route and get a shot. This is especially helpful when you have hunted an area a few times and know where the escape routes are or where birds typically flush.

In these situations you can come in from those directions and confuse the birds so they don't flush before you get to them.

4. Find water: Every animal needs water to survive and this includes birds. Whenever I am trying out a new pheasant hunting area, the first thing I do is look for some sort of water source. Whether it's an old creek bottom or a small pond, I almost always kick a rooster or two out of it. During the day is a great time to hunt pheasants near their water source, especially if it is warm. Once the birds have come back to their cover after feeding in the morning they will go to their water source to drink. Hunters can capitalize on this if they walk along the edges of creeks and ponds.

5. Think outside the box: This may sound like a strange tip for pheasant hunting but it is what I have found to be the best tip for later in the season. The pheasants that have survived all the hunting have grown smarter, which means they're more challenging to kill. These pheasants have encountered the same type of pressure all year long from hunters going after them in the same way, so you need to try something different. Good luck!

Written by Paul Cashman

The Trading Post

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Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters Affiliate Club Listing

*All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia
Archery Association of Nova Scotia
Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia
Bowhunters Instructors Association of Nova Scotia
Bras D'or Wildlife Association*

*Cape Breton Wildlife Association
Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia
Delta Waterfowl Association
Digby East Fish & Game Association
Halifax Wildlife Association*

*Hants West Wildlife Association
Kings County Fish & Game Association
Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers
Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation Development Association*

*Lunenburg County Wildlife Association
Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters
Nova Scotia Guides Association
Nova Scotia Houndsmen Association
Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association*

*Mic Mac Rod & Gun Club
Port Morien Wildlife Association
Queens County Fish and Game Association
Bluenose Longbeards Chapter, NWTF
Shelburne County Fish & Game Association*

*South Shore Wildlife Association
The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia
Traditional Archers Association of Nova Scotia
Trappers Association of Nova Scotia
West Pictou Wildlife Association*