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From The President's Desk

I just returned from a meeting of the Canadian Wildlife Federation Board of Directors in Ottawa.

In addition to conducting the business of CWF these meetings provide us with the opportunity to meet with hunting & angling organizations from across Canada to discuss common concerns and plan co-ordinated responses to national issues.

While we were meeting an invitation to attend a meeting of the National Hunting & Angling Advisory Panel (HAAP) was received. In discussion we all agreed that the invitation provided too short notice, the meeting was planned for hunting season and HAAP was not offering any financial support. There was agreement that our responses to the invitation should reflect these concerns. I passed this along to our representative on the panel, Tony Rodgers, who responded accordingly. As a result HAAP is rescheduling the meeting.

Another issue we discussed was the discussion paper distributed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on the issue of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CFIA created a CWD task force to assess options. The task force was composed of CFIA, Provincial Representatives (Alberta, Sask. & Manitoba) and Game Farming Representatives. There was no representation of hunting organizations.

The task force started with the assumption that CWD cannot be eradicated so their mandate was to

identify "control" programs 1) that options developed are for a federal disease control program to control CWD in the Canadian farmed/captive cervid population; 2) the programs developed must be within the existing regulatory framework (i.e. no changes required to current acts or regulations); and 3) the cost, to the CFIA, of the final disease control program chosen could not be higher than the status quo.



The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation made a presentation suggesting that we should reject the paper and call for the elimination of game farming. They offered to co-ordinate a response on behalf of all the hunting & angling organizations. The NSFAH policy calls for the elimination of game farming. There was agreement by all present and SWF will be writing to CFIA to convey this position. CWF will write separately to express their position that game farming should be eliminated.

Following the CWF meeting I attended a reception on Parliament hill hosted by Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters to provide an opportunity for Parliamentarians to meet representatives of Hunting & Angling organizations from across Canada and to try some wild game snacks.

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Preparing Resolutions for the Federation AGM

“Resolutions are to be returned to the Federation no later than December 15, 2013.”

This is the time of year that affiliate clubs should be considering what resolutions they would like to see the Federation consider for policy at the 2014 AGM. Using the following guidelines when preparing your resolution will greatly improve the chances of acceptance.

Guidelines for preparation of resolutions for presentation to the NSFAH AGM:

*Review existing Federation Policy to ensure your suggestion is not already included in our policy manual. The Policy manuals are available on our web site, in the members' area.

*Limit the Resolution to a single topic or idea. Resolutions that try to encompass more than one topic or idea are very confusing and generally quite difficult to deal with.

* Fully explain the problem, or reason for the resolution in the “Whereas” sections. Use as many of these sections as necessary to explain the problem, but try not to overuse them.

*When preparing the Resolution, ensure that you have fairly evaluated other related interests in the topic. Ensure that you feel the Resolution has a reasonable chance of acceptance. “Pie-in-the-sky” resolutions while usually supported by very noble ideals, only serve to waste time and do little to promote the club or the Federation as responsible organizations.

*Ensure you have investigated the problem behind the Resolution fully. On occasion, Resolutions have been presented regarding a supposed problem which later turned out not to exist.

Nova Scotia Wildlife Habitat Conservation Fund

NOVA SCOTIA HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

**Nova Scotia DNR
Wildlife Division
136 Exhibition Street
Kentville, Nova Scotia
B4N 4E5
Phone: (902) 679-6091
Fax: (902) 679-6176
Email: habfund@gov.ns.ca**

The Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund was established under the Nova Scotia Wildlife Act to assist the funding of programs for the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats. The \$5.00 Wildlife Habitat Stamp is the primary funding mechanism for the fund. The Fund is organized under four objectives: Enhancement, Acquisition, Research, and Education. Each objective has a set of Priority Activities.

To be considered, the application must include all information and materials in the manner specified in the [Proposal Submission Application Guide and Form](#).

The Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund looks forward to receiving your submission. In partnership, we can conserve wildlife habitat across Nova Scotia.

The submission date for applications is December 15th.

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I had discussions with Gerald Keddy, Robert Chisholm, Greg Kerr, Candice Bergen, Jim Flaherty several staff members and senators. One of the issues discussed was the Firearm Regulation that requires that all seized firearms must be destroyed. I raised the issue that we had requested that firearms seized for hunting infractions be turned over to the hunting

organizations across Canada as fund raising items. The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation has made the same request as have several other federations across Canada. There was an expression of support for this position and we will be following up with our MP's.

**Wilf Woods
President
NSFAH**

Hunters Helping Farmers

Crop damage and livestock losses by wildlife are a very serious occurrence every year and farmers can be out money and patience trying to deal with it.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters is developing a "registry" of hunters who would be interested in filling their bag limit at the farm of someone who is experiencing these problems with nuisance wildlife. This is not an extra opportunity; it would be filling your tag under normal hunting laws of Nova Scotia. The idea is, while working with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, we would gather the names of potential hunters from our members and then get those

hunters together with farmers experiencing problems. This is an introduction service only.

There are a number of difference species that cause problems but we would like to start the program with deer and coyotes to help us get this off the ground.

Member hunters interested in helping can send their intentions to tonyrodgers@eastlink.ca

Please include your name, phone numbers, your location in the province and how far your willing to travel.



U.S. Sees Surge in Women Hunters Since 2006

The number of American women spending time hunting has spiked 25 percent between 2006 and 2011.

According to Census Bureau statistics cited by National Geographic, while men still make up the majority of the 13.7 million hunters in the United States, 11 percent are women.

Many states, the magazine reports, are now hosting workshops, titled "Becoming An Outdoors-Woman" (BOW), which instruct participants in archery, shotgun and rifle shooting.

"There is definitely a high demand. We have over 3,000 women on our mailing list, and workshops fill up quickly," Patricia Handy, information and education program manager at the Department of Natural Resources in Maryland, told National Geographic.

Minnesota has followed the national trend; the state granted 72,000 hunting licenses to women last year, up from 50,000 in 2000, CBS Minnesota reports.

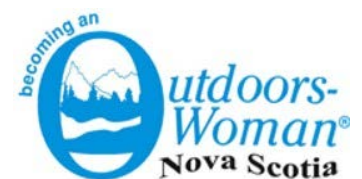
According to the station, the spike in women hunters also has led retailers to market smaller firearms and outdoor gear specifically to women.

One male hunter, Fred Williams, speaking to NPR, says, "women tend to be actually better hunters because they tend to be a bit more patient, and oftentimes are a much better shot, because they tend to be a bit more focused."

In Wyoming, Marilyn Kite, the state's first female state Supreme Court justice, helped come up with the idea of the Women's Antelope Hunt.

"We've found it to be just great recreation, lots of fun, and the camaraderie of it is why you do it, really," Kite told NPR. "But we also really like the meat."

2014 Winter Becoming an Outdoors-Woman® Workshop
February 21 – 23, 2014
The Gaelic College, St Ann's, Cape Breton



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO!](#)

Death by Moonlight? Not Always True

Is moonlight dangerous? It depends on what you are, according to a study published online recently in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*.

“Ecologists have long viewed the darkness of a moonless night as a protective blanket for nocturnal prey species,” said Laura Prugh, a wildlife biologist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

In the dark, creatures of the night can go about their business in relative safety from lurking predators. Moonlight, according to this logic, helps predators find their prey and is risky if you are a prey species trying not to get eaten.

That’s not always so, says Prugh, a researcher with the UAF Institute of Arctic Biology, and colleague Christopher Golden of Harvard University. “The theory that moonlight increases predation risk ignores the fact that prey animals also have eyes, and they often use them to detect predators,” said Prugh.

If moonlight helps predators to find prey, it could also help prey species to detect approaching predators. To find out if moonlit nights are dangerous, Prugh and Golden compiled the effects of moonlight reported in existing studies of 58 nocturnal mammal species.

If moonlight is dangerous for prey species, they expected predators to be more active on moonlit nights and prey species to be less active.

The researchers found that species ranged widely in their affinity for moonlight, from the moon-loving or lunar-philic lemurs of Madagascar to the lunar-phobic kangaroo rats in the southwestern United States.

And, responses to moonlight were related to the sensory systems of species rather than their positions in the food chain.

Prey animals that use vision as their main sensory system, such as primates, were generally more active on bright nights. Prey species that rely mainly on senses like smell or echolocation, such as many rodents and bats, were generally less active. And contrary to expectations, predators such as African lions were less active on moonlit nights.



“Moonlight is indeed risky for some prey species, but only those that use vision as a backup system rather than their first line of defense,” said Prugh. “Our synthesis shows that moonlight can benefit visually oriented prey.” And as for those lurking predators, the moon may often hurt rather than help their chances of catching prey.

This study is the first to examine moonlight effects across a diverse assemblage of species. Nearly half of all mammals are nocturnal, experiencing lunar cycles that cause light levels to change by three orders of magnitude every month.

“Our results suggest that moonlight alters predator-prey relations in more complex ways than previously thought,” said Prugh, who added that she hopes this study will stimulate further research.

“Do lunar cycles affect population growth rates? How do artificial lights affect the hunting success and vulnerability of nocturnal species? These are important questions that we do not currently have answers to,” Prugh said.

4 Tips and Tricks to Increase Your Odds Hunting Whitetails

Millions of hunters all over North America eagerly await hunting season to apply deer hunting tips and tricks they have learned over the years. They are all excited to see who can shoot the biggest deer, or who can kill the deer with the largest rack. The following paragraphs will provide you with some basic tips and tricks associated with hunting deer.

Firstly, many seasoned hunters will suggest that you do not bath or apply cologne or deodorant before hunting for deer. The deer have a keen sense of smell, and are deterred by our normal hygiene products. This is why you see so many men unshaven when they go deer hunting. They do not want to decrease their chances of shooting a deer by using hygiene products to shave. This also applies to laundry soaps. I like to hang my cloths outside on the line for a week or so depending on the weather. Then I keep my hunting cloths in an old cooler with pine boughs and cut up apples.

Second, in order to increase your chances of shooting a deer, you need to avoid other hunters. It only makes sense. Deer do their best to avoid hunters. Areas overpopulated with hunters do not tend to have very many deer. You will very seldom see big whitetail deer where there is a lot of hunting pressure

Thirdly, another way to increase your chances of getting the deer you want is to change your deer stand or blind location periodically. Having multiple stand/blind locations will definitely be to your benefit. A whitetail will spook if they sense that you're hanging out in one area too long.

It only takes a big whitetail one time to spook them out of an area. Also, multiple stands allows you more options to hunt according to the wind direction.

Tip: Deer will travel according to the thermals. As the air warms up throughout the day your scent will rise uphill. Multiple stands will give you the opportunity to take advantage of positioning yourself in the best possible advantage points.

Finally, if you want to increase your chances of shooting a deer, you should hunt as long as possible, especially during the phases of the rut. Most deer are shot either at dawn or at dusk, however, during the rut the bucks are moving all the time. Also, most hunters have a hard time sitting for long periods of time. So....between 9:00 am and 11:00am these guys will be starting to move around. Consequently... if there are any deer in the area they will get pushed.

If you are still setting in your stand your odds of getting a deer greatly increase. I would say most of the deer I have shot have been between 11:00 am and 1:30 pm. I don't know how many times I've gotten down from my stand only to spook deer walking in to me. If I had only sat for 15 more minutes I might have had a shot. Can you relate?

Any way keep this in mind the next time you want to quit early, even fifteen minutes early, you may miss the shot you've been waiting on all day. Just remember to be patient, though. Patience is a virtue when it comes to deer hunting.

Submitted by:
A Deer Hunter



Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

C/O Tony Rodgers
Post Office Box 654
Halifax, NS
B3J 2T3

PHONE:
902-477-8898

FAX:
902-444-3883

E-MAIL:
tonyrodgers@eastlink.ca

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.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.nsfah.ca

Tips for Late Season Pheasant Hunting

Pheasant hunting requires some advance preparation. First, you'll need to do a little preseason scouting; it will pay big dividends later. Drive around in early morning or late afternoon watching for birds on the roadsides. When you find a promising area, talk to the landowners and ask for permission to hunt once the season begins.

Make sure you are properly outfitted. General-purpose pheasant-hunting garb consists of a blaze-orange hunting jacket with a good-sized game pouch, brush pants and a blaze-orange cap that makes it easy for your companions to see you in tall cover. Comfortable boots that provide good ankle support are a must for long-distance walking.

Learn to take your time on the shot. When a gaudy rooster bursts from cover with a boisterous cackle, even veteran hunters lose their composure. If you make the mistake of rushing your shot, the bird will fly away unscathed. If you do manage to hit the bird at close range, there won't be much left of it.

Statistics show that more than 3 times as many pheasants are taken in the first half of the season as in the last. That's because most hunters want to get the "dumb" young birds. Hunting pressure is normally heaviest on opening weekend and tapers off steadily through the season.

Once the young birds are "educated," hunting becomes much tougher, but the competition for hunting spots decreases greatly. For this reason, many experienced hunters prefer the late season.

Because the birds' behavior changes so much over the season, your success will improve greatly if you learn to tailor your hunting tactics accordingly. Many veteran pheasant hunters would rather hunt in late season than fight the early-season crowds. Although the birds "wise up" in a hurry, you can still have good success in late season if you proceed as follows:

- Look for wetlands and other very dense cover areas. As the season progresses, birds seek heavier and heavier cover.
- Try to find offbeat spots, such as a small clump of trees and brush in the middle of a section.
- Check any road ditches with dense cover, such as cattails or horsetail. Ditches give the birds easy access to the gravel needed to grind food in their gizzard.
- Work grassy ditches, sloughs or other brushy cover adjacent to newly harvested crop fields. If you watch as a cornfield is being picked, for instance, you'll often see birds flying into these areas.
- For long-range shots often required in late season, use a modified or full-choke shotgun with high brass, size 4, 5 or 6 shot.

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