



NSFAH Journal



December 2013

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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!

From The President's Desk

Well another year of "Big Game" hunting is drawing to a close. There will be stories of the ones that got away that challenge your imagination and pictures of those that didn't that inspire awe. Hunters will sit around camp and retell of their adventures, and the wonders of nature they witnessed this season, long into the winter and on to spring. They will share trail cam pictures and tell of how long and hard they hunted, the game they harvested and exactly how they did it.

This shared experience is one of the greatest joys of the hunting community in which we all participate with great enthusiasm, however when it comes to actually reporting this information to the biologists at DNR we fall far short of an acceptable return rate.

We expect the biologists at DNR to make good decisions on management of the wildlife resources of Nova Scotia, yet some hunters withhold some of the information they need to make good decisions. We are legally obligated to return the report cards included in the summary of regulations issued with our licences (or complete them on line at http://novascotia.ca/natr/hunt/your_harvest.asp) yet some hunters do not report as required. Reasons range from forgetfulness and indifference, to a general distrust of the government and the use they will make of the information.

As responsible hunter we must demonstrate that we are true conservationists.

Participation in the game management system, by providing information on hunting activities and success, is an important factor for maintaining our credibility. It is easy to criticize DNR for poor wildlife management decisions; however we cannot make things better if we don't participate in the process.



As this portion of the hunting season draws to a close please review the reporting requirements in the Summary of Regulations, or on line at the above noted link, and file a report at the appropriate time. Who knows with a little more effort on our part we may see better wildlife management and improved hunting opportunities.

We will continue to work with DNR to make the reporting system as easy and convenient for hunters as possible and to ensure the information collected is utilized to maximize the benefits for wildlife populations and hunters, alike.

Wilf Woods
President
NSFAH

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

Preparing Resolutions for the Federation AGM

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 16th.

Johnson Insurance

We are so excited to announce a great new offer for NSFAH members from our preferred home and auto insurance provider, Johnson.

Johnson takes pride in giving customers the personalized service they deserve. So when you call the friendly representatives at Johnson for your

home and/or auto insurance quote, you'll automatically be entered into a draw for a personalized prize. New car? Dream vacation? Home entertainment? Pick as many prizes as you want up to \$50,000. It's entirely up to you!

[Click here for more details.](#)

JOHNSON 



Possible World Record Black Bear

A Pennsylvania man reportedly bagged the largest recorded black bear of the 2013 hunting season when he successfully took it down with two shots fired from his deceased father's rifle.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission said the bear shot by Daniel Beavers weighed 772 pounds, The Scranton Times-Tribune reported.

Beavers took his father's .30-06 rifle instead of his usual 12-gauge shotgun and said the bear is a tribute to his late father, the newspaper reported.

"We worked together every day in the woods at the family logging business," Beavers told the newspaper.

"I don't know why I decided to take his gun. I guess I was thinking about him," Beavers said of his father.



Beavers reportedly had been watching the bear, marked by an unusual white v on its chest, for four to five years.

[The Boone and Crockett Club](#) is currently determining whether the size of the bear's skull is a world record, according to The Scranton Times-Tribune.



Late Season Bucks

Target Draws and Valleys on cold, windy days.

Heavy winds rob deer of body heat and make it harder for them to detect danger. So when it gets gusty in the late season, deer gravitate to natural windbreaks, such as a protected draw or small, stream-creased valley. Rather than freeze in a treestand, smart hunters, go after them. Here's what they look for:

Draws

Focus on straight leeward draws that run perpendicular off a ridgeline or high ground. Compared to small bowls and twisting draws, the wind is more predictable in linear draws, funneling straight over the ridge from the windswept side. If the wind isn't horrible, the first area with some cover may hold a buck. If it's blowing hard, drop midway down. Bucks will rely on their noses to scent danger from above and face down the draw.

This is perfect for a side-hill approach—you're not walking directly into their line of vision and your scent is also blowing down away from them. Bucks will bed on the downwind side of tree trunks or logs and in small dips to avoid the wind.

Small Valleys

A similar approach works when deer drop down into valleys running parallel to ridgelines, especially if the wind is strong. Bucks will hole up low, often near a creek or ditch. Usually the cover is good, with browse, forbs, and fruit near water. Small valleys are also a favored spot for picking up late-cycling does. Ease along the valley bottom, following the creek. Bucks will watch the downwind direction across the stream. That leaves you the perfect crosswind route to slip along the water's edge. The narrower the valley, the better, as heavy winds will blow right over it.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has announced the opening of the application period for the second year (2014-2015) of the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program (RFCPP).

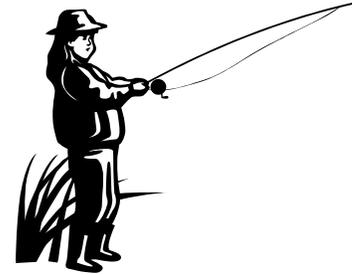
The program aims to bring like-minded partners and their resources together with the common long-term goal of enhancing the sustainability and ongoing productivity of Canada's recreational fisheries. This goal would be achieved by supporting recreational fishing and angling groups, as well as conservation organizations, to undertake projects aimed at restoring recreational fisheries in Canada.

Approximately \$4 million remains available under the RFCPP for year two (2014-15) projects; projects to be funded will be determined through a competitive process. The program's Application Guidelines provide information on program eligibility and requirements, as well as step-by-step instructions on how to complete the Application Form. The Guidelines and Forms are found on the RFCPP Website or by [clicking here](#). Application Forms and submitting documents must be submitted by December 18, 2013.

Following the application deadline, each proposal will be screened for eligibility and completeness. Those that pass the screening will be evaluated against national criteria, including the expected longevity of project results; clarity, thoroughness and soundness of the proposed work plan and budget; number of partners; evidence of leveraging; value for money; and expected performance results.

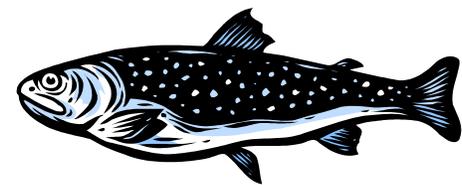
Activities that directly restore recreational fisheries habitat are eligible for funding under the RFCPP. For example, the program can fund projects that restore spawning shoals or that remove barriers that impede natural flows and access to habitat.

The program does not fund: hatcheries, stocking programs, education programs or regulatory partnerships.



The RFCPP focuses primarily on funding small and medium size funding requests (i.e., in the \$20,000 to \$100,000 range) but has a maximum contribution amount of \$250,000 per project. All proposed projects must have a completion date no later than March 31, 2015.

In recognition of the importance of partnerships to successfully restore recreational fisheries habitat, the RFCPP's partnership approach to project implementation requires that at least 50% of total project funding be provided by a source, or sources, other than the federal, provincial, territorial and/or municipal governments.



Fisheries and Oceans Canada is committed to conserving and protecting Canada's fisheries. We invite you to partner with us through the RFCPP so that we can work together to achieve our common goal.

Please do not hesitate to contact Denise McCullough at :

RFCPP-PPCPR.Matitime@DFO-MPO.GC.CA

for more information on the RFCPP or should you require any assistance in completing the Application Form.

Rabbit Hunting Basics

The end of deer season doesn't have to spell the end of your hunting year. For those who aren't already enjoying it, rabbit hunting is fun, challenging and a great way to extend your season.

Canada is home to cottontails, jackrabbits and snowshoe and Arctic hares, and while each is distinctly adapted to its habitat, there are many similarities in how you hunt them. Most widespread is the snowshoe-or varying hare-which is found in every province and territory. (I realize the snowshoe is, in fact, a true hare and not a rabbit, but I trust you'll forgive me for using the common name.)

Throughout their range, snowshoes can be found just about anywhere there's sufficient cover and food, although forested areas are their preferred habitat.

To find areas with a lot of rabbits, cruise back roads at dawn or dusk, as they'll often venture to roadsides in search of food. A walk through suitable cover in winter will also quickly reveal their whereabouts, since rabbits are creatures of habit and the snow along their chosen routes will be well packed with footprints.

I prefer to hunt edge habitats, including brush piles, field edges, old burns, fencerows, slough margins and cut lines. These locations typically offer an abundance of food, while at the same time providing reasonable shooting opportunities. Hunting thicker cover can certainly turn up plenty of rabbits, but they often disappear so quickly that quality shots are limited.

The trick to successful rabbit hunting is to move upwind very slowly in areas where you're seeing a lot of sign. At times, rabbits will break from cover as you approach, but more often they'll sit tight, scampering out just as you pass or letting you walk right by. It pays to watch behind you, too, as rabbits will often scoot out from their hideouts after you've gone by, or circle back to cover after they've been flushed.

A stop-and-go technique, similar to still-hunting deer, can be very productive for the solo hunter. Simply stop every few feet and turn in a full circle, taking special care to look beneath shrubs and branches. Often you'll catch the twitch of an ear or the two dark spots of a rabbit's eyes as it hunkers down. Seeing a rabbit before it sees you considerably increases your chances of success.

If you do spot a rabbit, lift your gun slowly, as rapid movements often cause them to dart away. And don't be shy about kicking a piece of cover that might conceal a rabbit. You'll be surprised at how often one comes leaping out.

When hunting in pairs or small groups, use tactics similar to upland bird hunting. Walk on opposite sides of cover, with one hunter holding post while the other walks forward, alternating as you move along. If you come across ideal rabbit cover, such as an old brush pile, post one hunter along the most likely escape route while the other attempts to flush any rabbits that might be hiding. (For safety's sake, I strongly recommend that everyone wear blaze orange.)

As for guns and loads, a 12- or 20-gauge with an improved-cylinder choke, loaded with #6 or #7 1/2 shot, is ideal. Though I have limited experience hunting rabbits with dogs, those who do use dogs tell me they use a modified or full choke and switch to #4 or #5 shot, as shooting distances tend to be farther.

Whatever the case, rabbit season ensures one thing: the opportunity to enjoy even more days of the year out there, in the field.

Another pro:

Rabbit hunting, particularly for cottontails and snowshoes, offers ideal opportunities to let youngsters or novices enjoy a fun, low-stress hunt. Unlike big-game hunting, there's no need to worry about remaining absolutely quiet, and there's bound to be plenty of shooting opportunities—a combination sure to please eager young guns.



Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

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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.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.nsfah.ca

Attitudes Towards Deer Hunting Change for the Better

You know attitudes toward deer hunting are changing when northern Virginia suburbanites offer to bring lunch to hunters in the woods. That was the experience of Doug Fisher, quoted in [this story from the Washington Post](#), as he participated in a bow hunt in a Fairfax County park close to Washington, D.C.

As deer continue to encroach on suburbia, anti-hunters turn pro-hunting. All it takes is a car-deer collision, a case of Lyme disease or just deer wiping out a garden as the Post story explains. While traditional deer management is effective in rural areas – Maryland has reduced its herd from 300,000 to 225,000 over the past ten years the number of deer in the suburbs has remained stable.

Suburban residents in some towns are begging someone to come shoot their deer.

"I'd also urge you to consider expanding [the deer culling operation in Cabin John Park] south of Democracy Blvd," one

resident wrote in an online comment to Montgomery County, Maryland, the very liberal county where the park is located. "My back yard offers a high elevation with a clear and safe shooting backdrop. If you'd ever like to use my back yard to cull the deer herd, please just give me a call."

While in many cases those shooters are police officers or specially trained sharpshooters who can cull deer safely in parks near large populations of people, as in Rock Creek and Cabin John parks, in many other cases the change in attitude has opened more land to sport hunting. In Virginia, for instance, Fairfax County officials have increased opportunities for bow and shotgun hunts in the D.C. suburb.

Animal advocates are proposing expensive contraception and sterilization programs but in the meantime, deer numbers will be managed with bullets and broadheads and increasing public support.



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