



NSFAH Journal

November 2011

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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!

The Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund

In discussion with hunters & trappers across the Province there is no topic that invokes the reaction that this fund and the projects funded does. A fair number of hunters don't know what the fund is or how it operates and those that know about the fund and its project funding history question why it's using "their" money to study bats. Why, they ask, don't we see more projects of interest to the hunting and trapping communities?

My standard response is to say that the Board that decides on funding can only consider projects that are submitted, so if you have an idea for a project research the funding process and send it in. The deadline for application is December 15, 2011. The following information may be useful in preparing your project proposal.

This fund was established under the Wildlife Act and is funded by Hunters & Trappers through the purchase of the Wildlife Habitat Stamp (\$3.15) when you purchase hunting or trapping licenses. The Board of Directors that manages the fund is composed of five (5) voting and one non-voting members. One employee of DNR sits as the non-voting Chair of the Board. Three (3) voting members are appointed by the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters. One voting member is appointed by Nature Nova Scotia and one voting member is appointed by an academic association.

The FUND's goal is to conserve wildlife habitats throughout the Province. The FUND's objectives include: the enhancement of wildlife habitats, acquisition of land, research pertaining to wildlife habitats, and education on wildlife habitats.

(See the priority activities for each of these objectives at:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/habfund/priority.asp>)

Review your project to ensure you emphasize which these objectives and priorities your project will address.

In general the fund *does not* support:

>habitat inventories

>tree planting programs

>fisheries management program

>Projects which are provincial or federal management responsibility

>capital costs such as buildings, engineering works or vehicles

As you develop your project from concept to application ensure you are familiar with the conditions for awarding grants located at:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/habfund/conditions.asp>

The application form is available in several formats at:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/habfund/submission.asp>

I hope this information is useful and that we will see an increase in the number and quality of project proposals from our affiliate clubs and other hunting and trapping enthusiasts.

Wilf Woods (Woody)

President

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

End to the Long Gun Registry

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters is elated with the introduction of Bill C-19, tabled in the House of Commons earlier today by Federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews to rid the country of the infamous long gun registry.

"This bill is the keeping of a promise made by the Conservative government to scrap the long gun registry, which has been subject to massive cost overruns, repeated breeches of security, chronic inaccuracies and a failure to fulfill its mandate of reducing gun crime and enhancing public safety", said Tony Rodgers, Executive Director.

"Prime Minister Harper has consistently pledged to rid us of this costly albatross, which has cost Canadian taxpayers almost \$2 billion dollars.

Supporters of the system have repeatedly stated that it works but have consistently failed to provide anything more than empty rhetoric to support that contention".

The legislation is the fourth bill introduced in the last two years that addresses the need to abolish the controversial, badly flawed and costly long gun registry, and mimics private members legislation introduced in

2009 by Candice Hoepfner, M.P., which narrowly lost when some NDP and Liberal members flipped their vote at the last minute despite having previously supported the legislation.

The creation of the long gun registry under Bill C-68 by a previous Liberal government has focused on legal, licensed, law abiding firearms owners, instead of targeting criminals and prohibited offenders who threaten the public safety, and ignores the reality that criminals don't register firearms. As a result, the NSFAH, provincial and

territorial wildlife federations, national and provincial wildlife and outdoor organizations, law abiding firearms owners, hunters, farmers, recreational sport shooters, and many rank and file law enforcement officers have consistently urged the government to scrap the system.

The former Auditor General of Canada concluded that the system represents one of the biggest messes ever created by a government, and made it clear during previous testimony at Committee that the Canadian Firearms Centre had been unable to demonstrate how the registry has helped to minimize risks to public safety by providing fact based evidence to show that the system has helped to reduce deaths, injuries and threats to the public from the criminal use of firearms. Given the large body of evidence that clearly indicates that the long gun registry doesn't work, and more particularly, that it has failed miserably as a public safety tool, the government has correctly determined that it is time to end this exercise in futility and look for other more effective means of addressing gun crime.

With over 6,500 members, subscribers and supporters, and 25 member clubs, the NSFAH is the largest non-profit conservation based organization in Nova Scotia, and the voice of anglers and hunters.

For additional information on the long gun registry contact:

Tony Rodgers
Executive Director
 Nova Scotia Federation of
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 902-477-8898

"the government has correctly determined that it's time to end this exercise in futility and look for other, more effective means of addressing gun crime"



Broken Rivers

Once upon a river there were emerald-faceted pools. Their depths flashed gold and silver with the flitting movements of Atlantic salmon and sea trout. Stream banks were sheltered with towering trees. Massive root systems armored the fertile soils against the ravages of ice and high waters like great fingers holding the earth. Huge trunks and limbs offered cool shade while casting off a shower of leaves, needles and insects. They became important nutrients to the groundwater and direct food for life in the river. As older trees on the banks died and eventually toppled into the stream, their hulks became imbedded in gravel. Sparkling high water plunged over them, reshaping the bottom, maintaining pools and providing shelter for insects, fish and other animals.

Wide and shallow, hot, polluted and with low water levels, many Atlantic rivers today have been transformed into sewers to the sea. Victims of our ignorance and greed, they've gradually been degraded to mere drainage ditches. Efforts to deal with this major ecological disaster have proven grossly inadequate. Acclimatized to only the last chapter of a 300 year horror story, the average person today has never read the book and considers such rivers normal. There are solutions. Hope lies in restoring and rehabilitating our waterways.



St Mary's River, Nova Scotia – A widened, hot, low water river.
Photo by Bob Bancroft



Photo by Bob Bancroft

Several hundred years of land "development" commenced with the arrival of white settlers along eastern North American shores. Most land clearing was done with meager thought to how rivers function. Land clearers ignored the role played by large living tree roots in holding riverbanks intact. They also neglected to note the subtle importance of the river's winding or meandering habit, which serves to slow and absorb the energy of the water's downstream flow. Consider the earth's gravitational pull as felt by downhill skiers. Descending a hill in a straight path generates maximum speed. On the other hand, winding back and forth across and down the slope, a skier's trip becomes longer, and speed is reduced. Rivers and streams, for reasons of geology, hydrology and other natural forces, usually adopt this meandering, slower way, with a "pool - shallow riffle - and turn" sequence repeated until an interruption - such as a rock outcrop - rearranges the pattern. Turns actually function as energy absorbers.

For the full story click here:

<http://www.nsfah.ca/news/view.php?id=119>

Story by Bob Bancroft
Wildlife Biologist

"many Atlantic rivers today have been transformed into sewers to the sea."

Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters



"The Trail Camera Photo Contest is open to all hunters in Nova Scotia"

To celebrate the opening of the 2011 General Open Season for Deer, we at the NSACH are holding our first annual Trail Camera Photo Contest.

To learn more about this fun new contest, just go to the main nsach.ca website, and hit the big oval button.

The NSACH 1st Annual Trail Camera Photo Contest
Win a Trail Camera
(click for more details)

The rules are simple and we have a few great prizes to give away once the contest closes on December 03, so get your batteries replaced and send along some photos!

The NSACH will be hosting 4 regional meetings in the New Year, with lots of great information to pass along.

Our tentative schedule is as follows:

January 2012-Quarterly Meeting, last Saturday in the month.

April 2012-Annual General Meeting, last Saturday in the month.

August 2012-Quarterly Meeting, last Saturday in the month.

December 2012-Quarterly Meeting, second Sunday in the month.

Our primary meeting location will be the Shubenacadie Training Facilities.

The theme for our Meet & Greet on January 28, 2012 will be **Predators and Coyotes**. Check out our website for more details. Space is limited for our Coyote meet and Greet, so sign up today.

Guests are always welcome at our meetings, so please consider attending today. As always, we can be reached by email at nsach@eastlink.ca, or you can contact us through our website at www.nsach.ca.

Hnatiuks Supper and Awards Banquet



\$15.00 at the door

As a way to show their appreciation to all Hnatiuks customers, there will be a Supper and Silent Auction on December 10, 2011, out at the Stewiacke Fire Hall.

Proceeds from the silent auction will go to The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters.

The doors open at 6:00PM, for refreshments, with the dinner beginning at 7:00PM.

After dinner sit back and enjoy the awards presentation for Hnatiuks Big Buck Contest.

If you can help out during the silent auction, contact Woody or Tony as soon as possible.

Customer APPRECIATION Night
And Our FIRST ANNUAL Year End
Supper & Awards Night

Saturday, December 10th, 2011
Stewiacke Fire Hall

6:00 pm - Doors open for drinks
7:00 pm - Supper Buffet is served! Moose and/or Turkey served with potatoes, carrots and dressing
8:00 pm - Award presentations for the winners of
Hnatiuk's Big Buck Contest!!

We are paying for half the cost of your evening!
You pay only \$15.00

Silent Auction in support of Federation of Anglers and Hunters

Door Prizes!
Including a Ruger 10/22!!

Meet the Reps! WOW!
Perfect opportunity to ask them your questions!

Contact us for more details! 902.883.8890

Field Dressing Guide – Whitetail Deer

4 Easy Steps

Field dressing whitetail deer is a relatively easy task. The only items you will need are a sharp knife and a stomach that is not easily upset. For those that do not like the feel of warm blood or internal body parts, it's recommended you wear a pair of surgical gloves. Listed below are some very basic steps to aid you in completing the field dressing process.

1. Lay the deer in a belly up position. Start your cut at the anus or below the breast bone. Be sure to only cut through the skin. Cut the full length of the carcass from the anus to the breast bone. Be careful not to cut the stomach.



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2. Using a knife, saw, or axe; split through the pelvic bone and the breast bone.



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3. Reaching up into the chest cavity grab hold of the windpipe and cut it loose. Roll the deer onto its side and cut and pull away all internal organs. Always be careful when handling the stomach and bladder. If you puncture the stomach be prepared to deal with the smell that follows.



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4. Wipe the body cavity clean. If water is available, use it to aid in cleaning the cavity. If it is a warm day, place a bag of ice into the chest cavity to help keep the meat cool.



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Once you have the cavity cleaned out, hang the deer in a shady area or garage to drain and cool the cavity. In most cases, aging and curing the meat is not necessary, so get it to a butcher without delay.

Enjoy your harvest!

Trail Advisory – Washout Conditions

East River, St Marys West Side on the Trans Canada Trail South of Leitch Lake has been washed out and is now impassable. Please contact your nearest DNR office for updates on washout conditions and trail closures.

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

NSFAH Board of Directors Meeting

The Board meets 4 times a year;

1. During the AGM
2. The second Saturday in June.
3. The second Saturday in Sept.
4. The second Saturday in Dec.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on December 10, 2011.

Directors are notified of the agenda and location individually.

**Report Fires, Poaching or Emergency Wildlife Situations
1-800-565-2224**

Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources would like to advise that if you currently hold a Wildlife Resources Card which shows an expiry date between December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2012, it will remain valid up to December 31, 2012.

You are not required to purchase a renewal Wildlife Resources Card at this time and no renewal cards are being produced.

Retain your current Wildlife Resources Card and carry it with you while engaged in hunting and/or trapping activities in the province.

The Department will communicate any revisions to the renewal process before the new December 2012 expiry.

Additional information is available **online at:**



<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/wresourcescard.asp>

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact your local DNR office.

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters Affiliate Club Listing

1. All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia
2. Archery Association of Nova Scotia
3. Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia
4. Bowhunters Instructors Association of Nova Scotia
5. Bras D'or Wildlife Association
6. Cape Breton Wildlife Association
7. Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia
8. Delta Waterfowl Association
9. Digby East Fish & Game Association
10. Halifax Wildlife Association
11. Hants West Wildlife Association
12. Kings County Fish & Game Association
13. Lunenburg County Wildlife Association
14. Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters
15. Nova Scotia Guides Association
16. Nova Scotia Houndsmen Association
17. Port Morien Wildlife Association
18. Queens County Fish and Game Association
19. Shelburne County Fish & Game Association
20. South Shore Wildlife Association
21. The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia
22. Traditional Archers Association of Nova Scotia
23. Trappers Association of Nova Scotia
24. West Pictou Wildlife Association
25. Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association