



- SPECIAL -

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July 2007

This is a special issue of our normal quarterly newsletter to inform our members of the annual meeting to be held at Gander Mountain, North Little Rock, on August 4, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everyone is invited and we would like to see a large turnout of ADHA members. We will be discussing some important items during this meeting in addition to electing Region Directors and Assistants. Hopefully there will also be someone to step up to take over the Treasurer's position.

***** NOTE *** NOTE *** NOTE *** NOTE *** NOTE *** NOTE *** NOTE *****

ADHA is currently working with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission on a possible youth event at Grandview Prairie Education Center near Hope, Arkansas. Our involvement is tentative since it is in the discussion stage. However, it is planned to coincide with National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 22, 2007. Please contact an Officer or Director, or visit the ADHA Discussion Board for more information or to participate as a volunteer.

Summer Time is Upon Us!

Summer time has hit Arkansas once again and that means hunting season is just around the corner. It's hard for some folks to imagine a hunter thinking about deer hunting this time of year but to be honest this is the time of year we should think the most about deer hunting. One might ask what is there to think about deer hunting? Well, there are a lot of things to think about deer hunting. The thoughts are limitless when it comes to preparing for an upcoming deer season. One must hang and check

stands, complete cabin projects, practice shooting your bow and gun, clear shooting lane's, make new food plots, buy new hunting gear, submit applications for permit hunts, in addition to many more.

It's the time of year to really prepare for the upcoming season and not feel rushed to get stuff completed. Many times hunters drag out their rifles or bows to knock the dust off and shoot a few rounds and then head toward the stand to find out the squirrel's have chewed half the seat off and a nice

wasp nest has been constructed under the seat with fifteen red wasp sitting on red alert and ready for attack. One must always check the tools of our sport, from sighting in a gun to checking proper working conditions of stands.

Stands are very important not only in hunting but for your safety while in them. There are hundreds of stands on the market, and one should not even think about comparing all the stands on the market today, but know there are

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well designed stands and not so well designed stands. It doesn't matter which type you prefer over the other, from hanging stands, to climbing, to ladder stands, they all can be dangerous if not used properly and annually checked for damage.

Over the years there have been several hunters who fall while climbing into stands or trying to hang stands and it can happen in the blink of an eye. Fortunately most of us will never have the misfortune of falling from a stand, but be aware that the most vulnerable time is when trying to hang a stand. One is usually off balance while attempting to reach around a tree which can be extremely dangerous.

One must be committed to wearing a safety belt all the way through the hunting season. Everyone is encouraged to wear one. If not for yourself do it for your family.

Another aspect of hunting to think about in the off season is food plots. This year could be a real stressful year for the deer with the lack of mast crops in the northern regions of the state. Our late spring frost really took its toll of the acorn production as well as native fruits and berries.

Research as to what would be the best food plot seed to give the deer in your area some nutritious forage for the fall through the late season. If you don't have the equipment to put in large plots or have the acreage to make large plots, small plots can help as well. There are several ways one can create a small plot in your hunting area. Everyone is encouraged to think about putting in some plots if you haven't ever done one, for the deer are going to need it this year for sure.

The ADHA currently has over 600 mem-

bers. Many don't have internet or the ones that do seldom come by or post on our discussion board. The board is designed to give our members quick communications with all its members across the state. Please, we encourage all members to utilize the board and you can find it at www.ardeer.org.

The ADHA has a booth at several events throughout the year and we encourage all members to take part in these events. We need the help, and the sport needs the help, so we can do our part in passing down a wonderful sport that we all love.

But we are curious as to what can the ADHA do for its membership to promote a better active interest. Tell us what we are doing right and tell us what we are doing wrong. Give us your ideas and recommendations. How can we better serve our membership? We want the ADHA to continue growing and increase the quality of our sport and organization. Please feel free to make comments and ask questions?

The ADHA would like to send a special thank you for the following members who helped on the events for this year.

Yelleville: Youth Day

Tony Ramey (Event Coordinator) and wife Rhonda and her Mom

Jeff Vaughn, wife Angela and son Dalton

Allen Smith

Alan Beaird

Chris Smith

Barry Comer

Don Mullis and wife Sally

Marty Mitchell, wife Leah and daughter

Monica

Cory Gray (AGFC)

Chance Wood (AGFC)

Marilyn Doran (AGFC)

Arkansas Deer Hunters Alliance (ADHA)

Deer Management Information Poll

The Arkansas Deer Hunters Alliance values every member and their opinions. We've developed the following poll in order to accomplish two primary objectives: 1) ADHA wants to better understand our member's concerns and recommendations related deer management and hunting. 2) ADHA wants to provide a mechanism to voice our collective concerns and recommendations to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. This poll was independently prepared by ADHA and was not solicited, approved or otherwise sanctioned by the AG&FC. The results of this poll will be forwarded to the AG&FC, and hopefully will be taken into consideration. Several workshops have already been conducted across the state by Dynamic Solutions, the advisory consultant that is working for the AG&FC. This poll is based on many of the key issues that resulted from those meetings. If any question is objectionable or discriminatory in any way, you are not obligated to answer or reply. It is your option to choose whether or not to provide your name and contact information in the space provided below. In any case, your personal information will be kept confidential, and will not be sold or distributed outside of ADHA without your consent. Please indicate your choice of answers by circling the letter that precedes the answer that you choose. In some instances, where prompted to do so, you may circle more than one answer per question. If you are undecided, leave the answer(s) unmarked. You may also write additional comments or clarifications where indicated and on a separate paper if needed.

(Optional)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Email address: _____

1. What deer zone and county do you currently reside in?

2. What deer zones and counties do you usually hunt in? (list all zones and counties starting with your "most hunted" zone and county, and ending with your "least hunted" zone and county). _____

3. Do you hunt (circle all that apply):

- a. Public Lands (not a WMA)
- b. Public Lands – Wildlife Management Areas
- c. Private Lands - Owned.
- d. Private Lands – Leased.

4. Which age group best describes yourself (circle one):

- a. under 16
- b. 16 to 21
- c. 22 to 30
- d. 30 to 40
- e. 40 to 50
- f. 50 to 65
- g. 66 and over

5. How many years have you hunted deer in Arkansas?
____ Years.

6. Approximately how many days did you deer hunt last deer season? _____ Days.

7. Do you have Disabled Accessibility needs in order to deer hunt? (circle one)

- a. Yes.
- b. No.
- c. Your comments: _____

8. Which of the following weapons do you use to hunt deer with (circle all that apply):

- a. Archery (includes crossbow)
- b. Muzzleloader
- c. Modern Gun (rifle or shotgun)
- d. Handgun

9. What criteria should the AG&FC utilize to establish a Deer Management Plan, and for establishing its rules and regulations including seasons and bag limits? (Circle all that apply).

- a. Biological Data and trends.
- b. Recommendations from AG&FC biologists.
- c. Recommendations from Independent Biologists.
- d. Recommendations from public input and opinion.
- e. Decisions of AG&FC Commissioners.
- f. Your comments: _____

10. Would your ideal form of management provide for: (circle one)

- a. Quantity
- b. Quality
- c. A combination of quantity and quality.
- d. Other: _____

11. What are your views concerning antler restrictions? (circle one)

- a. Maintain the 3-point rule as it currently exists.
- b. Enact a 4-point rule.
- c. Enact a slot limit rule (4 pts. or less and 7 pts or greater)
- d. Enact rules based on antler measurements.
- e. First buck would be hunter's choice. Any additional deer would be restricted by antler restrictions (if this is your choice, circle another choice above that would apply to additional bucks).
- f. Some form of alternating some of the above options perhaps every three years.
- g. Eliminate antler restrictions altogether.
- h. Your comments: _____

12. Do you think the current Zone Quota Doe Permit is a good method for controlling doe populations and providing hunter opportunity? (circle one)

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Your comments: _____

13. Do you think the current deer management zones in Arkansas should be changed? (circle one).

- a. The deer management zones should be reduced in size.
- b. The deer management zones should be kept about the same size, but reconfigured to more closely follow the various different habitats and ecosystems.
- c. The deer management zones should be reduced in size and reconfigured to more closely follow the various different habitats and ecosystems.
- d. The deer management zones are currently adequate and should not be changed.
- e. Your comments: _____

14. Do you think the bag limit for bucks should be (circle one):

- a. One per season. (note the current zone for which this answer would apply).
 - b. Two per season. (note the current zone for which this answer would apply).
 - c. Three per season (note the current zone for which this answer would apply).
 - d. Based purely on biological and record data for each given zone.
 - e. Other: _____
- Zones for which the above answer applies: _____

15. Do you think the season dates and durations are: (use last season for reference; circle one for each weapon type that applies to you).

Archery:

- a. About right.
- b. Too long.
- c. Too short.

Muzzleloading:

- a. About right.
- b. Too long.
- c. Too short.

Modern Gun:

- a. About right.
- b. Too long.
- c. Too short.

16. What are your views concerning hunting deer with dogs? (circle one).

- a. Regulations and restrictions concerning hunting with dogs should remain the same.
- b. Regulations and restrictions should allow greater opportunity for hunting with dogs.
- c. Regulations and restrictions should allow less opportunity for hunting with dogs.
- d. Hunting with dogs should be eliminated entirely.
- e. Your comments: _____

17. Which bag limit requirement should apply to the youth of Arkansas? (circle one)

- a. First deer should be a deer of choice (buck or doe).
- b. First deer should be a deer of choice, but restricted to bucks only in a bucks only zone.
- c. Same requirements as an adult hunter..
- d. Your comments: _____

18. Would you support funding more hunting and access opportunities for Disabled Hunters: (circle one)

- a. Yes.
- b. No.
- c. Your comments: _____

19. Do you think Wildlife Enforcement is: (circle one)

- a. Currently adequate (no change is needed).
- b. Needs to be reduced.
- c. Needs to be expanded.
- d. Your comments: _____

20. What are the most critical areas of enforcement that need attention (circle all that apply):

- a. Response time.
- b. Controlling and apprehending poachers.
- c. Increase in penalties / fines to deter poachers.
- d. An easier to read and understand Rules and Regulations booklet.
- e. More and better education of the public concerning enforcement issues.
- f. Add more Wildlife Officers to the current staff.
- g. Other: _____

21. How important is Education to you. This does not necessarily apply to current Hunter Education requirements. This applies to more advanced education concerning deer management, biology, habitat, food plots, Chronic Wasting Disease and other advanced issues that could help deer and deer hunters. (circle one)

- a. Not important.
- b. Somewhat important.
- c. Important.
- d. Very Important.
- e. Your comments: _____

22. How would you rate communication efforts between the AG&FC and public and vice versa: (circle one)

- a. Very good.
- b. Good.
- c. Average.
- d. Below average.
- e. Poor.
- f. Your comments: _____

23. What can ADHA do to better serve the needs of it's membership? _____

24. Would you be interested in serving as an officer, director or assistant director of ADHA?

- a. Yes.
- b. No.
- c. Other: _____

25. Would you be willing to volunteer to help ADHA in any of the following areas? (circle all that you are interested in)

- a. Attending to the ADHA booth at various shows and events.
- b. Teaching seminars or giving lectures.
- c. Serving on a planning and coordination committee.
- d. Assist with making telephone calls to ADHA members.

26. Do you have access to the internet and e-mail?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Other: _____

Please use this space to add any additional comments that we have not covered. Attach a separate piece of paper if needed.

ADHA thanks you for participating in this poll. Please return the completed poll, no later than September 15, 2007 to ADHA / Secretary, 512 Caddo Trail, Jacksonville, AR 72076-8988 or email to bcomer@ardeer.org.

Please note that there is a stamped envelope addressed to the ADHA for you to return this survey. Your assistance in this is greatly appreciated. Thank you for participating.

FROM:

ADHA

PO BOX 2175

JONESBORO, AR 72402

Place

Postage

Here

TO: _____

"Uniting all Arkansas Deer Hunter's"