

You have an important role in the management and conservation of wildlife. Equally important is your safe use and handling of firearms, as well as your ethical and responsible behaviour as a hunter. Hunter education programs in Nova Scotia include instruction on a wide variety of topics.



HUNTER EDUCATION

FALL 2010

PAGE 1 OF 4

Along with knowledge and skill, we hope you continue to develop a positive attitude and code of conduct that instills appreciation of your role as a hunter and the role of hunting in wildlife management and conservation.

Inside this issue...

From the Hunter Education Coordinator's desk

... page 1

Online Course Registration

... page 2

New this Fall

... page 2

2009 Youth Exchange Program

... page 3

Wildlife Resources Cards Expiry Date Extended

... page 3

From the Hunter Education Coordinator's desk...

2010 is shaping up to be a very busy year! I have been working closely with the *Online Hunter Education Committee* and **HunterExam.com.**, on the development of the new online *Hunter Education Course*. Many details have yet to be determined, but I will keep you informed on our progress. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hoping to have the online course in place this fall.

Another priority has been working with the guide groups to develop the first guide training course student manual. This will allow students to review and prepare themselves prior to taking the *Nova Scotia Guide Course*. It will also bring the guide course delivery more in line with the other hunter education courses.

Attendance at the annual *Hunter Education Instructor* updates meeting was lower than usual. In an effort to save money, the central meeting was moved from Truro to Shubenacadie, which may have contributed to lower than average attendance.

Just a friendly reminder –

DNR policy states that instructors **must attend an update meeting** once every two years.

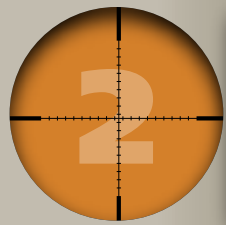
I would like to congratulate Donnie Taylor, Phil Nelson & Roy Nicholas (Phil & Roy are with BIANs) as recipients of the 2010 Hunter Education Instructor of the Year Award, and the 2010 Bowhunter Instructor of the Year Award, respectively. Donnie was presented with a new pair of field glasses and Phil & Roy each received a Grobmann knife, an annual trophy, and a keeper plaque.



Hunter Education Instructor of the Year Donnie Taylor of Fundy Fish and Game receives his award from DNR Hunter Education Coordinator Judy Clattenburg.

Please remember that I'm here to help you and that my door is always open. I look forward to another exciting year of working closely with you, and on behalf of myself and the department, thank you for your continued support.

Judy Clattenburg
Hunter Education Coordinator



Online Course Registration

Instructors should be encouraging clients to register online at www.hmcgroup.ca/education for the *Hunter Education, Bow and Furbarvester* courses. Online course registration shortens the time it takes for a student to receive their *Wildlife Resources Card*, and also reduces the repetitive entering of client information. It ensures clients are entered into the database which provides them with a temporary nine-digit client ID number. Each organization, *NSFAH, BIANIS* and *TANS* has access to the system which allows them to view applications and assign students to particular courses. So far, the system is working fairly well with a few kinks to work out.

In order to encourage online registration, the paper application has been removed from the *2010 Hunting and Furbarvesting Summary of Regulations* booklet. Those who prefer not to use the computer to register, can download an application form at www.gov.ns.ca/natr/hunt/facappl.asp

New this Fall

Eight deer management zones replaced by 12 new zones. This change was made in consultation with hunters and the public with the goal of providing greater deer hunting opportunities in areas where there are large deer populations, thus reducing the number of vehicle-deer collisions and other human-wildlife conflict.

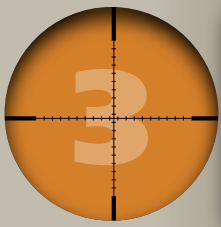
A transition project which will create a non-motorized moose hunt in the Pollets Cove-Aspy Fault Wilderness Area in Cape Breton. The hunt will be Sept. 20-25 and Oct. 11-16 and will be separate from the regular moose hunt. The departments of Natural Resources and Environment will use this trial to gauge hunter interest and evaluate hunting and hauling techniques before motorized vehicles are prohibited for moose hunting in the area in 2012. Only 20 licences, awarded through a special draw, are available for this hunt. Application details were announced in July. Hunters who applied for the general Nova Scotia moose draw could also enter the non-motorized hunt draw.

In an effort to attract more young people to the joys of hunting, youth 16 to 19 years-of-age will be allowed to hold a guide licence. They can serve as a guide when supervised by a licenced guide older than 19 years-of-age. Hunters 12 to 15 years-of-age will now be eligible to take guide courses.

Hunters with a disability will be permitted to hunt on their own, providing someone is available to help them retrieve game.

OTHER CHANGES WILL:

- double the bear snaring bag limit to two
- repeal the mandatory registration of bait sites for hunting bears, making it consistent with the regulations for snaring bear and hunting deer
- allow the use of camouflage orange garments while hunting (in addition to blaze orange)
- allow the use of crossbows in all hunting situations where conventional bows may be used, except the special open season for bowhunting deer.
- allow the use of .410 slugs for deer hunting and larger shot sizes (buckshot) for hunting big game, coyotes, furbearers and certain small game, as safe alternatives in higher populated areas where animals such as deer are creating problems.



HUNTER EDUCATION

2009 Youth Exchange Program

Last fall, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island participated in the 7th annual *Youth Exchange Program*. This program was designed to encourage youth to take part in hunting and fishing activities. Anyone between the ages of 12 and 17 who successfully completed a *Hunter Education Course* during the year is automatically entered for an opportunity to win. The winner receives an all expenses paid hunting or fishing trip for themselves and a parent/guardian to one of the other Atlantic Provinces.

The *Federation of Anglers and Hunters* is the lead organization on the program and works closely with DNR to ensure that the winners have a safe, successful and enjoyable trip.



Chris Gillis (right), Nova Scotia's Youth Exchange Program winner enjoyed hunting in Prince Edward Island with his brother Brad (centre) and PEI Minister of Environment, Energy & Forestry Hon. Richard E. Brown.

Nova Scotia's 2009 winner was Chris Gillis of Thorburn, Pictou County. Chris and his brother Brad spent two days in November on Prince Edward Island, hunting geese and birds while being hosted by Reid and Ann Lea of *Point View Outfitters*.

Prince Edward Island's winner was Jin Huang of Stratford. Jin was sponsored and hosted by Bill Meekins of *Jabs Guide Services and Outfitters* and spent his time hunting deer and bear.

Due to the generosity of additional sponsors, each boy received a backpack filled with hunting supplies including a Suunto compass, Grohmann knife, Leatherman knife, GPS unit, a Canadian Tire gift card and numerous ball caps and t-shirts.

As you can see by the pictures, both boys had a successful hunt and a great trip, but more importantly they have made memories that will last a lifetime. Let's continue to keep the hunting and fishing tradition alive and well.

The *Youth Exchange Program* is a non profit program which relies completely on donations. Acknowledgement and thanks to the Hunter Education Instructors who support this program by annually donating \$1.75 for each student taught during the year. You can donate to the *Youth Exchange Program* by contacting:

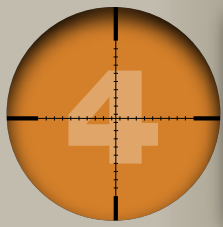
Darlene Caldwell

P.O. Box 305, Windsor
Hants Co., N.S. B0N 2T0

Please ensure that donations are clearly marked "*Youth Exchange Program*".



Jim Huang (left) of Stratford PE had a successful hunting trip to Nova Scotia with his sponsor and guide Bill Meekins.



HUNTER EDUCATION

Wildlife Resources Cards Expiry Date Extended

Please be advised that no *Wildlife Resources Cards* are required to be renewed at this time. As of February 25th, 2010, DNR suspended the requirement to renew *Wildlife Resources Cards* while the department evaluates how best to deliver future licencing, permitting and harvest reporting programs to our clients. DNR will communicate any revisions to the renewal process before December 2012.

If your card expiry date...

... is between December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2012, you are not required to renew your card until at least December 2012.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

If you currently hold a *Wildlife Resources Card* which shows an expiry date earlier than December 31, 2012, it will remain valid up to December 31, 2012. You are not required to renew at this time and no renewal cards are being produced.

There will be no interruption in services when using your *Wildlife Resources Card* for purchasing licences, entering deer or moose draws, or any other transactions which require a valid Wildlife Resources Card. Simply retain your current card and carry it with you while engaged in hunting and/or trapping activities.

WHAT IF I ALREADY RENEWED MY WILDLIFE RESOURCES CARD?

If you submitted a request to renew your *Wildlife Resources Card* prior to February 25th, 2010, a new card has already been sent to you. It will be valid for five years (December 2015) and will be accepted by DNR for the full five year period regardless of any future changes affecting the *Wildlife Resources Card*.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, or need to update your contact information, please contact your local DNR office or email DNR-WRCADMIN@gov.ns.ca

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