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August 2007

President's Message (Allen Smith, ADHA President)

It's late August and the temperature has finally dropped down to the 90's. With all the recent heat it doesn't seem like deer season is nearing. With archery season about a month away its time to be thinking about it and doing a few things to prepare. Hunters that are successful year in and year out earn their success by starting early and being prepared. In fact, many hunters stay focused year round, and are constantly working on food plots, maintaining gear, shooting guns and bows, and spending as much time as possible in the woods. Success is all about planning and executing those plans. A successful deer hunter knows he must have his gear in top shape and be familiar with it. He knows he'll have to spend a great deal of time scouting to find where the deer are. He also knows that he'll have to adjust as their patterns change when the season actually arrives. Successful deer hunting requires a great deal of planning, dedication and effort.

The Arkansas Deer Hunters

Alliance requires a similar dedication and effort. We work year round to assure the organization is on top of everything related to deer and deer hunting. Back when most people were out riding jet skis and sunning, we were writing our state Senators to deter some bills that could have caused severe problems for hunters and AG&FC funding. We worked Youth Events at Yellville and Pine Bluff where we reached hundreds of youth. At Pine Bluff, we taught several seminars including one on tree stand safety. We've been involved with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in our effort to stay on top of the proposed Deer Management Plan. We recently sent a poll to our members to get a better idea of what issues are important to you. We've been busy since last season ended.

Our calendar has been full all year long, and we have much more planned for the future. Check out the discussion board for all that we have planned. The Arkansas Deer Hunters Alliance puts forth a year round effort. Although deer hunting seasons come

and go, issues that effect deer hunting will never end. As a member of ADHA you should consider what you can do to become a year round active member. Its gratifying knowing you're making a difference in something you really like. It doesn't matter whether you give a little or a lot of your time, any help you offer will be greatly appreciated. We will tailor something to fit your desires and abilities. Our Officers and Directors are deer hunters too. Throughout the upcoming season, our ADHA activities will slow down a bit, while we all focus on hunting. Then as the season ends, we'll get back to steadily working sports shows, youth events, and all the other things we do.

As the season approaches, we want every hunter to have a safe, enjoyable and successful season. Please make safety your number one priority. Hunting accidents are on a steady rise, but most can usually be avoided. In particular, tree stand accidents are fast becoming the number one cause of injury and death

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Are you the Deer Hunters Biggest Threat?

(Lee Lane, ADHA Treasurer)

I have a question for you. What would you consider to be the biggest threat to the deer hunters way of life? Do you think it's the anti-hunting animal rights activists like PETA? The gun control shouting liberal Democrats? Have you ever considered that you yourself might be one of the biggest threats to our sport? I'll lay it on the line for you. If you're not doing something to help the cause, then you are possibly part of the problem. This might make some of you mad. But I'm perfectly willing to accept the fact that you might be willing to call me some vile names after this first paragraph. But lets face it. If you are not active politically in the hunting sport that you are so passionate about, to help secure the future of the sport, then you might be part of the problem. I'm sorry but that's the way I see it. I have hunting buddies I love dearly and they love hunting more than breathing, but ask them what they have done to give back to the sport. Uh, I buy a license, and I went to a AGFC meeting once. Did you have something you didn't like about the season? Uh yes. Did you speak to them about it? Uh no. Have you ever thought about taking a kid hunting? Yes. Have you done it? No.

Folks, let me tell you that that kind of response is as common as fried deer steak in every camp around the state. And it absolutely kills me. Why don't good hunters who love a sport neglect getting involved in the management of the deer, the rules and regulations of our sport, the organizations that are out there that fight the battle in the trenches, even if it's not to just get word out about upcoming attacks from anti's or maybe a rule change that might effect their hunting that year. Or what about all the kids that never get exposed to hunting and our hunting numbers are dropping every year. Georgia alone dropped 30,000 hunters in one year. Arkansas has dropped in the last two years and I heard it was more like five years, I don't know. But the question is, what have you done to help? I know hunting takes a back seat to normal living and everyday worldly problems. Guy and gals, I know what you are talking about as family will always come first, and normal everyday living is tough sometimes. Some feel they can't do anything, some say others are fighting the cause for me. Well my reply is no and no. You can do something about it. How about talking about the sport of deer hunting to your non-hunting friends, tell them about how great the fellowship of it is, no computers, no TV, no telephones. Tell

them how you are helping control the population of the deer herd and therefore helping in controlling of disease and famine. Folks, there are a thousand ways one can help. Don't be ashamed you are a deer hunter because a majority of the population doesn't hunt. Be proud and speak up.

I was sitting in a group of people once and was asked what I did for fun. I rose up and said I deer hunt. One lady off to the side let out a gasp, oh no, you kill poor little helpless deer and you think that's fun she asked? Yes ma'm I sure do, every year and every chance I get. She said, don't you have pity on the deer? Yes I sure do. How's that, if you kill them, she spoke now with more firmness? Well if hunters didn't kill the excess deer then the deer would die from starvation and probably some to disease. How do you know that, she piped up? Well, first we have history and biology that tells us that can happen but let me give an example. Look at Africa where there are millions of humans dying right now because of starvation and disease from over population because they don't have the food to carry the capacity of people over there and since they have huge populations gathered around in small camps, disease spreads far quicker and therefore they start dying from disease as well. Have you not seen the TV commercials asking for donations for the starving people of Africa? Well if you have, then you know now why hunters kill deer. I said, you think a deer can go down to the super market and order up a bushel of lush green vegetation to take back and feed its family? NO, they can't. The land will only hold so many deer and anything over that, they start fighting over food and before long, there is no food. After that they are feeding in your front yards and people are getting killed because they run into your car on the way home from work. Its not a pretty sight. But do you see

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my point I asked? She replied, since you put it like that, I guess I can see where hunters do perform a service to the deer. I said yes ma'm. But ma'm let me say there is no one in this room, that loves the deer more than I do. I respect the deer with all my heart and I only kill what the state law says I can kill and therefore I feel I do my part in helping with population control. If I and others didn't, then we would see thousands of deer die from starvation. If hunting deer was stopped today, I give it five years letting the population build and food will run out and each year many would die and disease may kill them all. She said your pretty passionate about your deer hunting. I said I sure am. She said, my husband died and since he died I have never let one person hunt on my land. She said I may change my mind now. I said that's great.

But I relate that story because it happened to me and it's a small thing in the overall scheme of things but us hunters need to be skilled in defending our sport. I don't claim that I am skilled. I just happened to feel the need to defend my sport that night and it seemed to work with this lady. Several others within the room stopped their conversations to listen to ours. I felt alienated for a second but folks listened and afterwards they were all nodding their heads in agreement. So I feel it was a worthy cause to stand up and defend my sport. Or should I say population control measures.

I think many non-hunters get hung up on the word sport, meaning it's just for fun. My point is we serve a mission in hunting. Yes, I know we sideline that sometimes in our thinking but we are a population control method and that's it. Do I enjoy it and do I love it as a sport? Heck yes! But it has a biological reason also. Most folks don't realize or understand what it would mean if hunting was banned. I hope we never have to make anyone realize it that way after its banned either.

And I come back to my point - SPEAK UP! Don't let the non-hunters like I had in that room that night sway the other people in the room. Granted, she was a non-hunter, but she also had many other non-hunters in the room that could gone away thinking deer hunting was bad and it hurts the poor little deer. Well I hope I stopped that to a point at least with this small group. It took some thinking and a story to relate that fit well, to come out of my head. But it happened and it worked. Now I don't expect them to start hunting the next day, and not knocking women, but most women are non-hunters and there's a lot of them that love to vote

every year. So think about the next vote to ban some hunting method that might hit your state ballot, like in California recently.

But there are several ways to get involved besides just speaking. Go to the AGFC meetings, call your game officials and let them know you are interested in your area game and the areas regulations. Arkansas is blessed with many opportunities to hunt, and its a pro-hunting state but let's not let our guard down for you never know when PETA may target Arkansas. The ADHA will strive to protect your privilege to hunt and foster the sport for generations to come. I know you are active in the sport or you wouldn't be reading this article, but promote your sport at every opportunity, and promote the ADHA. It needs you.

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among hunters. We hope that every hunter will give safety some thought before going afield. Once the season gets started, get on the ADHA discussion board and tell us about your hunts and post up some pictures. On behalf of all the ADHA Officers, Directors and Assistants, we hope everyone will have a safe, enjoyable and prosperous hunting season.

Membership Dues

Please note the following increase in dues effective January 1, 2008:

Annual dues — \$15.00

Family dues — \$25.00

Charter dues — \$150.00

ADHA Annual Meeting

We conducted the ADHA 2007 annual meeting at Gander Mountain on August 4, 2007. We had about 22 people in attendance. Several important issues were discussed. It was announced that we now have over 620 members. We discussed the recent ADHA poll and determined we had a little over 50 responses at that time. We are currently in the process of tabulating the results and will publish them once completed. We decided to upgrade the discussion board which has already occurred. We are also looking into changing the newsletter format and type of printing which we are continuing to look into. We decided to raise the cost of membership to \$15.00 for an Individual, \$25.00 for a Family and \$150.00 for a Charter Membership, all to go into effect on January 1, 2008. In addition we agreed to a membership recruitment incentive plan. When an existing member successfully recruits or refers 10 new members, that member will receive his or her choice of an ADHA T-shirt or hat. When an existing member successfully recruits or refers 25 new members, that member will receive a Charter Membership. If that member is already a Charter Member, he or she may transfer the new Charter Membership to another person of his or her choice. Renewal of a member does not count as a New Member unless the member has been expired for 3 or more months. During lunch, Cory Gray - Deer Program Coordinator for the AG&FC gave a slide show presentation of deer harvest reports, and an update concerning the current status of the new Deer Management Plan. Lucy Moreland - Chief of Education for the AG&FC gave an oral presentation of the proposed Youth Camp. She ex-

plained her vision of the program outline, concerns, and issues and timelines that need to be worked out. She wants ADHA to work in partnership with the AG&FC to get the program established and help with the program itself. We conducted nominations and voting to install new Officers, Directors and Assistants.

The results are as follows:

Vice President: Glenn Berry (unopposed) was re-elected.

Treasurer: Lee Lane (unopposed) relinquished his Assistant Position and was elected.

Region 1 Director: Darryl Speakes (unopposed) was elected.

Region 3 Assistant Director: Ronnie Shelton (unopposed) was elected.

Region 4 Director: John Mashburn (unopposed) was re-elected.

Region 4 Assistant Director: Sam Hutto (unopposed) was elected.

Region 5 Director: Freddie Hill (unopposed) was elected.

Region 5 Assistant Director: Vickie Harrison (unopposed) was elected.

In addition, we have since elected Kent Holmes as an Assistant in Region 5.

Please welcome all of these Officers and Directors to their positions, and be sure and discuss any deer and deer hunting issues with them. Contact information for all Officers, Directors and Assistants can be found on our website.

ADHA Elk Hunt

The 2007 ADHA Elk Hunt drawing was conducted at the Jasper Elk Festival on June 30, 2007. Mr. Damon Tillman of Farmington, Arkansas won the hunt.

We have since learned that ADHA will continue the Elk Hunt promotion for next year as well. We will conduct that drawing at the 11th Annual Arkansas Elk Festival in Jasper, during June, 2008.

Region 2 Director's Message

Hello to all ADHA members and especially those in Region 2. I am Jeff Vaughn, I live in Lepanto and I am the regional director for this area. If you have any issues we need to look into or something is of interest to you please give me a call at 870-974-2090. Region 2 is here in Northeast Arkansas and if you live here you know we have limited areas to hunt, so we are thankful for all the public land we do have.

Everyone is currently preparing for the upcoming hunting season and I just wanted to take a second to let everyone know what is going on in this area. The first of February of each year we have the ADHA booth at the Jonesboro Sports Show. Should you wish to help please contact us. We also try to have a dinner or two along the way but haven't had one in a while - so if you have a town you would like to see a dinner at please contact us about this as well. We are also working on doing a fall food plot in the St. Francis Sunken Lands WMA. It will be in cooperation with the A.G.&F.C. and planted by the ADHA. If you would like to assist with this or have some seed or something you would like to donate, please give me a call.

There are several other things going on now with the public meetings and deer summit meetings around the state. We are looking for good results from these.

To find out more about what is going on in

this region please give me a call, or go to our website (www.ardeer.org) and click on the "ADHA Message Board" button and come chat with us on our forum.

Remember you can contact me at 870-974-2090 or email me at jvaughn@ardeer.org.

Thanks, Jeff

Region 2 Director

ADHA Cookbook

The Arkansas Deer Hunters Alliance is in the process of assembling an ADHA cookbook. Don Mullis, Region 1 Assistant, is coordinating and producing the book. The cookbook will contain a variety of main dishes, side dishes and desserts. If you have any recipes, please get them to us. They need to be e-mailed to keep us from having to re-type them. Please include your name so that we can acknowledge your contribution with your name in the book. We are striving to have it completed by the first of the year.

The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission's Deer Management Plan Revision - Goals and Objectives is posted on the website :

http://www.agfc.com/hunting/deer/deerplan_revision/public_scoping.aspx

Arkansas Deer Hunters Alliance

The ADHA was founded in June of 2004, by dedicated hunters who became concerned with the increasing issues within deer hunting and used their own money to launch the organization on a shoestring budget with lots of determination. It is a non-profit organization founded to advance the interests of deer management and deer hunting in the state of Arkansas. The founders felt hunters also needed a unified voice for deer and deer hunting within the state in order to protect deer hunting traditions for future generations.

Their first effort was to start a grassroots membership drive to the hunters across the state, so the concerns and needs of deer hunters could be represented on all hunting legislation at the state and local government levels. In the next few years, officers of the ADHA lobbied at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission meetings, attended local area meetings and worked with the Arkansas Game and Fish whenever there was a threat to hunting or when an issue arose which would affect hunting.

Some of the first issue's the ADHA lobbied for, were to institute bow season and baiting back to its original season lengths. This was backed up with biological data, showing that the cut was not significant or detrimental to the herd. After two years of lobbying and the assistance of the Arkansas Bow Hunters Association, the commission placed the season back to its original length. Other early note worthy issues that were lobbied, was a moving ATV shooting regulation, and the institution of pistols to be allowed as a method of hunting deer in certain zones, to which was banned previously.

The founders also recognized the importance of keeping deer hunters informed so

they published a newsletter during the second year and also created a website and message board for members to discuss issues and business. At the touch of a button, members can gain access to information across the state concerning a wide variety of issue's, concerns, and current hunting conditions.

The ADHA holds an annual meeting each year, along with regional dinners and hunts throughout the year. It also has held several family type events around the state in conjunction with the AGFC to promote the deer hunting sport. Seminars have been held to give the hunters education from hunting tactics to game related management issue within the state. The ADHA has been active in the habitat improvement of WMA's with food plots as well.

The ADHA is steadily growing, and hunters are starting to see the importance of being unified. It's been a short span of three years since the first steps were taken to form the organization, and the future is bright. As with any newly formed organization, the success relies on its strength of member's dedication and determination.

The founders believed that Communication, Information, Education, and Representation, would be the corner stones of the organization. Couple that with a strong membership dedication, and a willingness to not accept set backs and you have the organization called the Arkansas Deer Hunters Alliance.

Arkansas Deer Hunter Alliance Founding Members - Lee Lane, Jeff Vaughn, Steve Stovall, Clyde Day, Chris Davis, John Mashburn, Rodney Johnson, Troy Greeno, Paul Riddle, Mark Corbin, Paul Jones, Bob Robertson, Edward Mulholland, Freddie Beavers, Darrell Speaks, Tony Harris, Pete Clark, Pat Gooch.

AGFC/ADHA Summer Youth Camp 2008

The ADHA and AGFC are in the preliminary stages of putting together a Summer Youth Camp. We are looking at holding a 3 day camp for 25 kids for the 2008 summer with at least one parent. Participants hopefully will achieve their hunter education card. The camp location we are looking at will be the Crooked Creek Center at Yelleville, AR.

Mentors will have to take a two day class from AGFC in how to instruct on the subjects we elect to teach. Subjects will consist of the hunter education book with other subjects about deer management, deer hunting, safety with hunting and operation of **f i r e a r m s a n d b o w s .**

Participants will be staying in tents and camp cooking. Crooked Creek offers us an indoor class room along with a nice outside pavilion.

Anyone wishing to help in the project should contact one of the officers or directors. We will need mentors which will need the two day class, and volunteers to help with daily assistance.

We are looking at March to take the two day class for mentors. Date on the camp is to be set at a later time.

ADHA Officers & Directors

President - Allen Smith, Little Rock

Cell - 501-607-4383 Email - asmith@ardeer.org

Vice-President - Glenn Berry

Cell - 501-849-2886 Email - gberry@ardeer.org

Secretary - Barry Comer, Jacksonville - bcomer@ardeer.org

Treasurer - Lee Lane, Jonesboro - leelane@ardeer.org

Region 1 - Darrell Speakes

Cell - 870-761-2626

email - dspeakes@ardeer.org

Assistants:

Brendan Baldrige - Paragould - brendanb@ardeer.org

Don Mullis - Evening Shade - 501-412-8776

Region 2 - Jeff Vaughn - Lepanto

Cell - 870-974-2090

Email - jvaughn@ardeer.org

Assistants:

Clyde Day - Blytheville - Email - cday@ardeer.org

Steven Stovall - Lepanto - Email - [sstovall@ardeer.org](mailto:ssovall@ardeer.org)

Brent Thomason - Email - bthomason@ardeer.org

Region 3 - Pete Clark - Malvern - Cell - 501-337-3704

Email - pclark@ardeer.org

Assistants:

Ronnie Shelton - rshelton@ardeer.org

Region 4 - John Mashburn-Searcy

Cell - 501-279-767 E-mail - jwmashburn@ardeer.org

Assistants: Sam Hutto - shutto@ardeer.org

Region 5 - Freddie Hill - Cell - 870-285-1570

Email - fhill@ardeer.org

Assistants: - Vickie Harrison - 870-814-4597

Kent Holmes - 870-918-2314

Region 6 (Southeast) - Marty Mitchell, Pine Bluff

Cell 870-692-6999 Email - mmitchell@ardeer.org

Assistant - Bo Brewer - bbrewer@ardeer.org

Region 7 (Northwest) - Alan Beard, Little Flock

Cell - 479-366-2394 Email - alanbeard@ardeer.org

Assistants - Rodney Johnson - rjohnson@ardeer.org

Tony Ramey - tramey@ardeer.org

Del Ramsey - 870-741-5019 dramsey@ardeer.org

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