

## OFAH Zone F Spring Newsletter

April 2019

Greetings OFAH Zone F Members,

Last fall an alarm was raised when Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was discovered on a deer farm in Quebec in an area that was less than 15 km from Ontario near Hawkesbury and adjacent to WMU 65.

A public information meeting about CWD, sponsored by OFAH Zone F and QDMA, was held in Embrun on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Six MNRF survey stations were established to receive sample deer heads from hunters in WMU 65. Over 300 samples were obtained. OFAH, along with OFAH Zone F, provided “hats for heads” to thank the hunters for participating in the CWD survey. MNRF should have the results from the sampling in the next few weeks. To date, the good news is that the results are all negative as to presence of CWD in WMU 65.

A Deer Hunt Survey sponsored by OFAH Zone F and QDMA was conducted again this year. To date there have been very few responses. There is still time to get those survey forms to Len Dickinson. The data is passed on to MNRF through the Eastern Ontario Deer Advisory Committee. Next year reporting to MNRF on deer harvesting activities will be mandatory. Failure to report could result in the loss of deer hunting privileges the following year.

No doubt you are learning about the new licencing system that has been initiated by MNRF. You can go to [www.ofah.org/issues/mnrf-licensing-system-changes/](http://www.ofah.org/issues/mnrf-licensing-system-changes/) for more information.

To enhance walleye recruitment in FMZ 18, OFAH Zone F is encouraging clubs seeking a new conservation project for their club to consider establishing a “Walleye Watch” program on a lake or stream near you. Walleye Watch instructions and simple forms are available from Joff Cote, MNRF Fisheries Biologist, Kemptville District. If through the efforts and results of Walleye Watch, it is determined that the spawning shoals have silted up over time, OFAH Zone F is considering purchasing a water pump, hoses, etc. that could be used by OFAH Zone F affiliated clubs and lake and cottage associations in FMZ 18. Please let us know if we can assist your club or association to get started. The Walleye Watch form is also loaded on our OFAH Zone F website in the Angler’s Haven tab.

We also encourage you to send in any funding requests that you may have for your next conservation project prior to one of our next zone meetings. Projects that qualify for funding include fisheries habitat improvement, stream restoration, tree planting, boat launch improvement, stream rehabilitation, fish stocking and fish hatcheries, youth fishing, and hunter education. To qualify for future funding, we do require that you provide a brief report on the conclusion of your conservation project. The Request For Funding form can be found on our Zone F website. There is an attached brief reporting form available for you to fill in, or you are most welcome to attend a zone meeting to make a verbal report on your conservation project.

Conservation projects supported by OFAH Zone F in 2018 include the following: Kemptville Winter Woodlot Conference; OFAH Conference Silent Auction Items; Hunter Education Conference Silent Auction Item; Wild For Hope Fund Raising Event; 3,000 FMZ 18 Fish Measuring Tapes; Eastern Ontario Youth Hunt Collaborative; OFAH Youth Hunter Education Program; Perth Kids’ Fishing Derby; House of Lazarus Youth Hunter Education Program; OFAH Zone F Deer Hunt Survey; Lower Beverley Lake Kids’ Fish Derby; OFAH Zone J West Nile Research Project; Vocal Ottawa Lyme Disease Educational Materials; Cornwall Lunger Club Spawning Bed Rehabilitation Project; An Evening with OFAH Wildlife Biologist on “Deer Behaviour in a Heavily Hunted Area” in North Gower on

September 20<sup>th</sup>; Finch Chapter Delta Waterfowl Youth Hunt Program; Grenville Fish & Game Club Kids' program and Conservation Property Project; Osgoode Township Fish, Game, and Conservation Club's Kids' Fish Derby; OFAH and MNRF "Hats for Heads" CWD Monitoring Project and Hall Rental in Embrun on Oct. 28th; Safari Club International Wilderness School Scholarship for Sarah Sproule; Lanark County Stewardship Council's Invasive Species Project; West Carleton Kids' Winter Ice Fishing Derby.

The OFAH Zone F website which is managed and maintained by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Merrill Elliott is an excellent source of information. It can be viewed at [www.ofah.org/zonef/](http://www.ofah.org/zonef/). Merrill does a great job providing the latest news and information on happenings around the zone, the latest EBR postings, and what's new in fishing and hunting.

The OFAH Zone F members and Clubs have access to Plot Mules to use to prepare food plots. Just show your OFAH membership card to one of the Plot Mule Hosts listed below. Plan to use a trailer to haul it. There is no charge. If the plot mule becomes damaged during usage, please report any damage you are unable to repair yourself to the host, so that proper repairs can be made before its next use.

Current Plot Mule Hosts:

- Darrel Campbell    Kingston Area    613-770-5990
- Len Dickinson    Lanark Area    613-257-7181
- Jack McNamee    Brockville Area    613-345-0726
- Glen Runions    Cornwall Area    613-931-1493
- Bob Yearwood    Cloyne Area    613-336-2311

Future meetings for 2019 are held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Perth with the following dates:

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30 am with lunch provided. Our guest speaker for this meeting will be Mario Bertrand , who happens to be a turkey hunting guide, and he will demonstrate to you the fine art of wild turkey calling. He will also answer any questions that you might have on wild turkey hunting.

Thursday, August 29th, starting at 6:30 pm with a light supper provided.

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, our AGM, starting at 9:30 am with lunch provided.

All OFAH members are welcome to attend.

Finally, it is with great pleasure for me to inform you that Wendell Crosbie, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair of OFAH Zone F, has won the prestigious Jack O'Dette Conservation Leadership Award. It was presented to him for his outstanding contribution to conservation over many years at the OFAH Annual Conference which was held in Mississauga on March 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>.

In closing, we would like to wish your club a successful 2019 with your club activities. If there is any way that we can help make that happen, please contact us.

Yours in conservation

**Ed Giffin, Chair**

**613-542-6393**