

Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership 2009 HUNTER NEWS AND INFORMATION

The Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership is made up of non-profit and public organizations. We use science and land management strategies to protect the sensitive natural systems, wildlife habitat, and other important resources of the Shawangunks. Partners use field research to collaboratively manage large areas of land, provide environmental education, and assist local communities working to preserve open space.

Partnership members include the Cragmoor Association, Friends of the Shawangunks, Mohonk Preserve, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Museum, New York State Natural Heritage Program, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Open Space Institute, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

Deer Management on the Shawangunk Ridge

In an effort to improve the way we manage white-tailed deer, the Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership would like to work more closely with the hunters of Mohonk Preserve, Minnewaska State Park Preserve, and Sam's Point Preserve.

Last year, the Partnership received a federally-funded State Wildlife Grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to restore forest habitat. A key part of this program is to encourage hunting in those areas at highest risk of excessive deer browsing. The program has three key parts.

Deer Impact Assessments

With the help of volunteers, we are mapping deer impacts throughout the Northern Shawangunks. This information helps us identify areas of high priority for deer management. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Ethan Pierce, Deer Management Program Coordinator, at 845-255-5969 or epierce@mohonkpreserve.org.

Deer Observation Logs

Deer observation logs maintained by hunters are used to track deer population changes across the land. Your observations help us determine where better deer management is needed. Please help out this season by completing an observation log. You will receive a log form with instructions when you obtain your hunting permit.

Pre-season Meetings

Holding meetings before the hunting season begins helps improve communication between hunters and land managers. Among other things, we discuss deer take goals for the season and how to better distribute hunter effort.

Come to the Fall Meeting

We will be holding several information meetings this fall for all hunters who come to Sam's Point Preserve, Minnewaska State Park Preserve, and Mohonk Preserve. This will be an opportunity to get to know each other and start a good working relationship. Learn the important role of today's hunters from the Quality Deer Management Association and see how you can help restore and protect wildlife habitat. We look forward to hearing your ideas and hope to see you there.

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Meeting Dates

Thursday, October 1st, 2009
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Sam's Point Preserve Visitor Center
400 Sam's Point Road
Cragmoor, NY 12420

Saturday, October 3rd, 2009
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center
3197 Route 44/55
Gardiner, NY 12525

Wednesday, October 14th, 2009
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Minnewaska State Park Preserve Yurt
Park Main Entrance, Route 44/55
Kerhonkson, NY 12446

Saturday, November 21st, 2009
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center
3197 Route 44/55
Gardiner, NY 12525

Please RSVP to Ethan Pierce at 845-255-5969 or epierce@mohonkpreserve.org.

Hunter Transport

Hunter drop off and pick up will be available on a first come, first serve basis for certain interior areas of Sam's Point Preserve and Mohonk Preserve. This service will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning October 20th and ending December 22nd. **Pre-registration required.** For more information and to sign up, contact Ethan Pierce at 845-255-5969 or epierce@mohonkpreserve.org.

Deer Management Assistance Program Permits (DMAPs)

The Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership is applying for antlerless deer permits through the New York State DEC Deer Management Assistance Program. These permits allow hunters to better assist in our management efforts. If you're interested in obtaining one of these permits, please contact the person listed below who is in the area where you hunt:

Mohonk Preserve
Hank Alicandri
845-255-0919
halicandri@mohonkpreserve.org

Sam's Point Preserve
Gabe Chapin
845-647-7989 Ext. 103
gchapin@tnc.org

Checking Your Deer

Please help us gather important information such as age, sex, and weight of your deer to help ensure the future success of our hunting program.

Check Station

A check station at the Mohonk Preserve Spring Farm Barn on Upper 27 Knolls Road in High Falls will be in operation from morning to dusk, November 21st to November 29th.

Mail-In Kits

You may also check your deer by using a mail-in kit available at Mohonk Preserve's Spring Farm Barn, the Minnewaska State Park Preserve office, or the Sam's Point Preserve Visitor Center. Instructions are included with the kits.

Thank you for your participation. Be safe and good luck!