

2009 Carroll County Students Take Part in Second Annual Deer Camera Survey.

Century High School students have taken a leading role in this year's Deer Camera Survey at Piney Run Park. The study like last year was offered to all high schools in Carroll County. Kim Moyer's Century High students expanded their class room to include Piney Run Park. Their field trip started in the nature Center with a presentation by E.W. Grimes, Maryland State Chapter Director and Bachman Valley Branch President. The first part of QDMA's "Living with Whitetail Deer" Educational DVD program, was viewed and discussed. The remainder of the "Living with Whitetail Deer" program will be conducted back at the school. Even with snow and cold temperatures the student's enthusiasm to get in the whitetail's woods was amazing. The trip to the camera location gave the students an opportunity to look at deer tracks, browse and deer pellets. With tracks and pellet easy to see we talked about the use of Pellet Count Survey technique. The camera survey requires a seven day pre-baiting period which gives the students the hands-on opportunity to install the camera and place the corn for bait. This pre-bait time would prove useful this year. After the per-bait seven days the survey continues for fourteen more days for data collection.

With the window of opportunity for the schools to participate with this study very small and limited, we had an unfortunate act of a camera being stolen and timely data taken. We were able to fill the gap with data from the per-bait days. Any information about this person(s) would be appreciated.



Because this is an ongoing study by students I'm not revealing any numbers from this year's program. However, season to season trends are in fact more valuable and useful than any one year. Last year over 1400 pictures were taken and this year over 1800 was taken. Fifteen (15) unique bucks (antlered and shed) were counted last year and this year only six (6) and this is used in determining the population factor.

Other data includes fawns (less than one year old), button bucks and adult doe. The overall population numbers showed about 11% decline from last year's study and to add to this, Carroll County's total harvest numbers went up 9%. I will provide the park with a full report later this year.

The camera survey technique we are using was developed and refined by Mississippi State University and researchers Dr. Stephen Demarais, William McKinley and Dr. Harry Jacobson. Research has shown that these camera surveys provide sufficient, reliable data to make sound deer management decisions. The text these students are using came from Quality Whitetails journal published by QDMA. The journal provides articles by Jason Snively on infrared triggered camera placement and Do-it-Yourself Deer Survey. The primary focus of QDMA along with the Maryland State Chapter and Bachman Valley Branch will always be on education, research and on-the-ground whitetail deer management.



This educational study would not have been possible without the support of Alan Warner of Warner Feed in Lineboro for the baiting corn and the QDMA member which supplied the cameras. The Maryland State Chapter and The Bachman Valley Branch would also like to thank Kelly Vogelpohl, Naturalist and the staff at Piney Run Park, the teacher from Century High, Kim Moyer along with her students. Their hands-on desire to expand their knowledge of whitetail deer while exploring community deer management and biodiversity issues is what will continue to keep this program so successful for years to come.



Respectfully,
E.W. Grimes, Director
Maryland State Chapter of QDMA

