



## Involve Your Youth The Mentality of Inclusion

A common misconception among QDMA Branches is that they must host separate events for adults and youth.

Not so, as *inclusion* will foster the next generation of QDMA members and deer stewards. After all, when you first experienced hunting, chances are there wasn't a special day for you to hunt. You were probably "just one of the guys" that day at deer camp, and that's exactly what you wanted.

For example, in June, the Pennsylvania Advisory Council assisted with the Wildlife Leadership Academy's PA Bucktails Field School where 24 youth were exposed to a course similar to QDMA's Deer Steward put on by an extremely knowledgeable and passionate staff and volunteers. The

concentration of the curriculum was in no way diluted from the topics typically heard in QDMA education. Also worth not-

ing, many past students continue to be active in QDMA Branches throughout the state.

Later in the month, New York's Greater Rochester Southern Tier Branch held an educational day at Neil and Craig Dougherty's NorthCountry Whitetails property. While there was one youth-focused activity, a shed hunt, the Rack Pack members got to participate and ask questions with parents and mentors during seminars and property

tours. "Crushing their Brush" with a dozer is a few years off for most of them, but they were visibly excited with the idea.



## Hunting Property Collaboration With Plum Creek

QDMA and long-time corporate sponsor Plum Creek are proud to announce a new collaboration with a generous gift of a three-year lease to a 500-acre property, which includes a three-bedroom house and fishing pond.

The mission of the joint venture, the first of its kind in QDMA's history, will be to maximize the educational and recreational value of the property for deserving youth, disabled, military, first-time and minority hunters in a safe, professional manner that enhances public awareness and credibility of QDMA and Plum Creek.

The property, located outside of Greenwood, South Carolina, will also be used for QDMA Branch events, and the Lakelands Branch will manage it with support from QDMA and Plum Creek.



QDMA's CEO Brian Murphy (right) and Youth Education and Outreach Manager Hank Forester (left) meet with Plum Creek's Glenn E. Johnson to sign paperwork on the three-year lease.



## New Members To Receive Grunt Call

The membership package for new Rack Pack members has been updated (as of September 1) and will now include a grunt call!

## Four Point Award Presented at 2013 National Convention

Hunter Pruitt of Georgia and Ally Wright of Florida were named the recipients of the inaugural Rack Pack Four-Point Award at the 2013 QDMA National Convention. The award was created to recognize outstanding service and leadership to youth in the spirit of the QDMA mission, future generations and our hunting heritage. The four points of the award include spirit, service, leadership and commitment.

Hunter is a Deer Steward Level I and II graduate who spoke at QDMA's 2012 National Leadership Summit. Now, a rising sophomore at the University of Georgia, Hunter is an experienced hunter and manager who practices Quality Deer Management, and he has an article in this issue of *Quality Whitetails* (see pages 56-59).

Ally is the youngest person to ever complete the Deer Steward Level I course. The now 9-year-old who is in the third grade took her first deer last season. Ally helps manage property with her parents practicing QDM principles, and she writes a blog on the Rack Pack website titled "Ally's Way."



For more information on the Rack Pack and to get involved contact Hank Forester, QDMA's Youth Education and Outreach Manager. You can reach Hank at [hforester@qdma.com](mailto:hforester@qdma.com) or by calling (800) 209-3337. The Rack Pack can also be found on [Facebook.com/RackPack](https://www.facebook.com/RackPack) and [@RackPackQDMA](https://twitter.com/RackPackQDMA)