



## **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO CONTINUE OUR SUCCESS**

Dear Neighbor, Our deer population exploded about 10 years ago. After trying various tactics we brought on board Hamilton Archers a new group of environmentally conscious dedicated archery hunters who are local North Fork residents. Their success has been a boon to our environment. Over the last 4 years they have culled 18, 24, 23, 24 deer respectively for a total of 89 deer. Due to each doe producing two-three fawns we have several hundred fewer deer on Nassau Point. Please note most of the meat is donated to the Town of Southold to help feed the less fortunate.

These numbers are helping our goal to hopefully bring the environment back into equilibrium. It is crucial to keep the herd under population control as the health risks include not only Lyme disease, but Babesiosis, Rocky Mountain fever, Alpha Gal, Erlichiosis and others including Powassan virus which recently killed a man in New Jersey. New York has seen more Powassan cases than almost anywhere else

Other dangers the deer present include the environmental damage of fecal run-off and other pollution to our waterways from defoliation, destruction of our forests, loss of habitat to small animals and birds, not to mention the risks of collision on our roads. Thanks to overbrowsing by our deer, there has been little forest regeneration on Nassau Point in years. We cannot let up the cull for even one year as such a decision would be costly to our health and the environment.

Thus we once again have to ask you for a donation because none of the membership dues is used for this purpose. It costs money to support the archers. By their estimates, every time an Archer shoots an arrow, the cost is over \$100 because of the equipment necessary to safely hunt. Each arrow alone costs over \$50. They spend countless hours in their tree stands often in very cold and uncomfortable conditions.

We need every Nassau Point household to again step up and contribute – any amount will be appreciated, and if you can, send \$100, \$250, \$500, or even more. It is for the health of our families and the environment

PLEASE DON'T PUT IT OFF – WRITE YOUR CHECK NOW to  
“NPPOA-DEER FUND” and send it in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you in advance for your continued support

Al Martinez Fonts  
President, NPPOA Board

Arnold Blair  
Chair, Deer Committee

P.S. Attached is an email I received from John Rasweiller, a long time resident of Nassau Point. John was trained in Zoology with a PhD in Physiology from Cornell. He is renowned for his research and many publications including for the NIH. Because John has worked extensively with wild animals that are known to be reservoirs or vectors for serious zoonotic diseases transmissible to humans and/or livestock, he has also had to develop a familiarity with the diseases. Because of his scientific background and expertise, John has been appointed to the Town of Southold Deer Management Task Force and the Suffolk County Tick Control Advisory Committee. He also served as Chairman of the Town of Southold Tick Working Group that advised the Town Board on tick management strategies

Hi Arnold,

We are well, but very concerned about what the world is going through with COVID-19. Frightening times that are making a mess of many peoples' lives, even when they avoid contracting the disease.

My former neighbor, nearly died of **human monocytic ehrlichiosis** three or four years ago. He spent three weeks being treated for the disease in the ICU at Peconic Bay Medical Center and was advised by his doctors that they "nearly lost him". Other aspects of the story provide additional reason for concern and deserve to be related to our neighbors on Nassau Point:

- He had had his property sprayed three times for ticks in the months prior to contracting the disease. Actually, this is not surprising, as studies by Suffolk County Vector Control indicate that some acaricides (like the supposedly "less harmful" natural or essential oils) are of little benefit in tick control. Even the most effective acaricides do not achieve complete control. [This is based upon studies related to me and other members of Suffolk County's Tick Control Advisory Committee.] Given his age and habits at the time, there is a high likelihood that he contracted the disease on his own property, rather than elsewhere.
- After his release from the hospital, his family had a celebratory BBQ at his Nassau Point home. Several members of the family picked up ticks in their yard during the occasion.
- The principal natural reservoir for the responsible organism (*Ehrlichia chaffeensis*) is the white-tailed deer; white-footed mice play no role in the epidemiology of ehrlichiosis.
- *E. chaffeensis* is transmitted from the deer to humans by lone star ticks, probably now our most common tick species. Lone star ticks can carry out their entire life cycle on the deer. There is no necessary involvement of white-footed mice (one of the hosts for the Lyme disease organism) in hosting either *E. chaffeensis* or the ticks that transmit *E. chaffeensis* to humans. So, forget about putting out mouse deticking/Damminix tubes for protection against ehrlichiosis!
- My very knowledgeable friend, Dr. Ilia Rochlin of Suffolk County Vector Control, strongly suspects that human monocytic ehrlichiosis

is significantly more common on Eastern Long Island than has been reported.

Rodent deticking devices, which are expensive to deploy, cannot be relied upon to control even the black-legged ticks that transmit Lyme disease. Such devices will detick the mice which carry the Lyme disease organism (*Borrelia burgdorferi*); however, pine voles are also very common on Nassau Point, highly competent reservoirs for *B. burgdorferi*, and would probably seldom visit deticking devices.

Ilia and I also agree that one cannot rely upon even a supposedly "good" tick repellent (like Repel 40% DEET) for protection against lone star ticks. During June, I had one lone star tick attach on part of my leg that had been liberally treated with Repel 40, while another crossed a broad treated zone to attach higher up. Fortunately, in both cases, the ticks were killed by Sawyer Permethrin that had been applied to my trousers. One cannot rely solely upon the use of just a tick repellent!

Sorry for the complexity of this brief review, but this is the reality of what we face in attempting to deal with ticks on Nassau Point. Neither repellents nor acaricides seem capable of providing the necessary protection for us. Deer management is essential and will also help to preserve our over-browsed natural environment.

I continue to see interesting wildlife on our property. Last month a pair of turkey vultures briefly visited, apparently attracted by the odor of an abundance of dead menhaden on our beach. A great horned owl has also taken up residence in our woods.

With warmest regards,  
John