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Education:

SUNY Empire State College 1988 B.S. Wildlife Biology
SUNY Dutchess Community College 1973 A.A.S. Natural Resources Conservation

Professional Positions:

July 2009 – present
Manager, Field Research Facilities & Grounds

May 1984- July 2009
Manager, Field Research Facilities
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

July 1982 - May 1984
Natural Resources Manager
New York Botanical Garden, Mary Flagler Cary Arboretum

July 1976 - July 1982
Research Assistant - Wildlife
New York Botanical Garden, Mary Flagler Cary Arboretum

August 1973 - May 1975
Fish and Wildlife Technician, Environmental Aide
N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Research Interests and Activities:

My primary interest is in the efficient and effective management of white-tailed deer numbers using focused controlled hunting. The ultimate goal is to protect the structure and function of forested ecosystems and to minimize conflicts between deer and humans. Important issues in deer population management are the education of hunters and landowners as to the roles they play in deer population management. It is important for hunters to understand and embrace the notion that they are providing an important ecosystem service through annual herd reductions. With hunter numbers declining, it is very important that the hunting effort be focused on the female component of the deer herd. In the future, all hunters must look beyond the recreational aspect of hunting and truly understand and embrace the role they play as managers of a very important and often controversial animal. On the

other hand, landowners hold the key (literally) to accessing the deer resource. Landowners need to be better informed and convinced as to the important role they play in habitat and forest ecosystem protection. The future of successful deer population management will rely on strong bonds formed between highly skilled, compassionate and knowledgeable hunters coupled with enlightened landowners where both groups embrace the common goal of resource and habitat protection. The challenge for future deer managers is to cultivate and help forge this important and necessary cooperation.

Selected Publications:

Selders, A.W., J.B. McAninch, and R.J. Winchcombe. 1981. High-tensile wire fencing. Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service Tech. Bull. 11. 12pp.

McAninch, J.B., and R.J. Winchcombe. 1982. Deer damage control in orchards and vineyards in New York. NY Dept. of Agriculture and Markets Tech. Bull. 14pp.

McAninch, J.B., M.R. Ellingwood, and R.J. Winchcombe. 1982. Deer damage control in New York Agriculture. NY Dept. of Agriculture and Markets Tech. Bull. 12pp.

Ellingwood, M.R., J.B. McAninch, and R.J. Winchcombe. 1984. Directions in deer fencing. Proc. NYS Horticulture Society. Vol. 129.

Winchcombe, R.J. 1992. Minimizing deer damage to forest vegetation through aggressive deer population management. Proc. East. Wildl. Damage Control Conf. 5:182-186.

Winchcombe, R.J. 1993. Controlled access hunting for deer population management: a case study. Northeast Wildlife. 50:1-9.

Deer Management at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Mary Flagler Cary Arboretum. Cornell Cooperative Extension Wildlife Damage Newsletter, Vol. 2:1-2, Spring 1991.

Effective deer management is the responsibility of both landowners and hunters. OP-ED article, Poughkeepsie Journal, Poughkeepsie, NY, 24 November 1991:15A.

Man is most effective means of deer population control (letter to the editor), Millbrook Round Table, Millbrook, NY, 101(21):4, 27 May 1993.

Facts on deer hunting, Guest Column, Millbrook Round Table, Millbrook, NY, 150 (42):5, 21 Oct. 1993.

Pay a small tip and you'll help wildlife thrive. OP-ED article, Poughkeepsie Journal, Poughkeepsie, NY, 21 May 1995:9A.

Winter's whitetailed marauders. Guest column, Eco-notes, Taconic Newspapers, Millbrook, New York, CIV(11):A4 (3/14/96).

Winchcombe, R. J. and R. S. Ostfeld. 2001. Indexing Deer Numbers with Spotlighting: A Long-term Study of a Managed Deer Population. *Northeast Wildlife*. 56:31-38.

Winchcombe, R. J. and R. S. Ostfeld. 2001. Bowhunter Observations Versus Spotlighting as an Index to Deer Abundance. *Northeast Wildlife*. 56:39-48.

Ostfeld, RS, Canham, CD, Oggenfuss, K, Winchcombe, RJ, Keesing, F (2006) Climate, Deer, Rodents, and Acorns as Determinants of Variation in Lyme-Disease Risk. *PLOS Biol* 4(6): e145. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pbio.0040145

Winchcombe, R. J. 2008. Too Many Deer Harm Fragile Forest Ecology
Poughkeepsie Journal Ecofocus Article, Sept. 16, 2007

Winchcombe, R. J. (2010). Hunting for Balance. *The Wildlife Professional* 4 (3) Fall 2010