2015 Deer Steward Course Instructors

Kip P. Adams, a native of Pennsylvania, received his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the Pennsylvania State University and his M.S. in Wildlife from the University of New Hampshire. He worked as a wildlife biologist for the Florida Game and Fish Commission for four years. In 1999, Kip took the position of deer and bear project leader for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. In 2002, Kip became the Northeast Regional Director for the Quality Deer Management Association and was promoted to Director of Education and Outreach for the Northern Region in 2006. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, a Certified Taxidermist and a resident of Knoxville, Pennsylvania.

Ryan Basinger, a native of Alabama, received a B.S. in Wildlife Science from Mississippi State University and an M.S. in Wildlife Science from The University of Tennessee. His research focused on the effects of various forest management techniques deer browse production, availability, preference, and nutrition for white-tailed deer, as well as nesting and brood-rearing habitat for wild turkeys. Ryan also has conducted extensive food plot research comparing production, nutrition, preference, and availability of various forages planted for deer. He is a certified wildlife biologist and is currently a wildlife consultant for Westervelt Wildlife Services, where he specializes in developing innovative habitat, food plot, and population management strategies for whitetails throughout the Southeast. He has published numerous articles and is a regular contributor to QDMA’s Quality Whitetails magazine.

R. Joseph Hamilton, a native of North Carolina, received his B.S. in Forest Resources and his M.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Georgia. Joe worked as a deer research biologist and as a district wildlife biologist for 19 years with the SCDNR. With DU and TNC from 1997 to 2006, Joe worked primarily on protection of private lands with conservation easements. In July, 2006, Joe began working with the Quality Deer Management Association as the Director of Education and Outreach for the Southern Region. His list of newspaper, magazine, and technical articles numbers in the hundreds. He has received numerous awards including the prestigious Deer Management Career Achievement Award in 2000 from The Wildlife Society. He is the founder of the QDMA and currently holds the title of Founder and Senior Advisor, is also a Certified Wildlife Biologist, and resides near Walterboro, South Carolina.

Dr. Craig A. Harper, a native of North Carolina, is a professor and the Extension Wildlife Specialist in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries at the University of Tennessee. Craig received his A.A.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management from Haywood Community College, B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Western Carolina University, M.S. in Biology from The University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and Ph.D. in Forest Resources from Clemson University. Between degrees, he worked as a wildlife technician with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in western North Carolina. He is a certified wildlife biologist and has published numerous articles, book chapters and manuals related to his work. He is a frequent contributor to QDMA's Quality Whitetails magazine and contributed multiple chapters to QDMA's Quality Food Plots book.

Erich D. Long is a native of the Buckeye state and received his degree from Hocking College, School of Natural Resources. There he went on to work for the Ohio Division of Wildlife and
has been employed there for 18 years as a Research and Management Technician. Along with working for the State of Ohio, Erich is the owner of Drumming Log Wildlife Management – Deer Management Consultants. Erich was awarded the Al Brothers Professional Deer Manager of the Year in 2009 and has also been awarded with the QDMA Deer Steward 3 award in 2010. Erich currently contributes in the ‘Age This” segment in the Quality Whitetails Magazine.

Dr. Karl V. Miller, a native of Pennsylvania, is a professor of wildlife ecology and management at the University of Georgia where he received his Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology. Karl’s research focuses on the physiology, habitat requirements and management of white-tailed deer and the impact of forest management practices on deer and other wildlife. He is co-editor of the books, “Quality Whitetails—The Why and How of Quality Deer Management” and “Quality Food Plots.” He also is co-author of “Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses.” He has published over 150 professional reports, publications or book chapters, and has presented more than 300 papers and seminars. He is a leading proponent of QDM and Charter Life Member of the QDMA.

Brian P. Murphy, a native of Texas and Oklahoma, received his B.S. in Range and Wildlife Management from Texas Tech University and his M.S. in Wildlife Biology from The University of Georgia. Prior to joining the QDMA, Brian served as Wildlife Research Coordinator for the University of Georgia and Deer Project Biologist for the Australian Government. Brian has conducted over 500 lectures on deer biology and management, published more than 100 popular and scientific articles, and conducted hundreds of interviews for television, radio and the print media. He has received numerous awards including the E. L. Cheatum Award from The University of Georgia and the National Conservation Award from the Australian Deer Association. Brian has served as Chief Executive Officer of the QDMA since 1997.

Matthew D. Ross, a native of upstate New York, received his B.S. in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and his M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of New Hampshire. He worked as a wildlife biologist and forester for a small natural resource consulting company in southeastern NH for four years after the completion of graduate school. In 2006, Matt became the New England/Canada regional director for the Quality Deer Management Association and was recognized as the Regional Director of the Year in 2007. More recently, Matt was named the QDMA’s Certification Programs Manager. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, a NH Licensed Forester, a founding member and the former vice-president of the First NH Branch of the QDMA, and a resident of Clifton Park, New York.