



**Quality Deer Management Association**  
**Michigan Chapter**  
**April 18, 2007**  
**Press Release**

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**QDMA Group Honors Spinazzola with Lifetime Achievement Award**

Ed Spinazzola, a charter member of Michigan's state chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), was honored on April 14 when he received the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in promoting sound deer management in Michigan.

"Ed Spinazzola is the face of deer management and food plots in Michigan, and he's done more than anyone in the state to keep those topics on the front page," said QDMA state chapter president Leon E. Hank in presenting Spinazzola with the award following a QDMA sponsored deer management seminar in Gladwin, Michigan.

Spinazzola is credited with starting the quality deer management movement in Michigan with only a handful of members. He has been a guiding force for QDM in Michigan, which now includes 12 branches, almost 4,000 members, and dozens of voluntary QDM cooperatives across the state. Spinazzola also serves on the National Board of Directors of the QDMA which now has over 40,000 members.

For years, he championed efforts to reduce the harvest of young bucks with the slogan, "let him go, so he can grow." He has educated thousands of hunters about the value of protecting yearling bucks and the benefits of having a more natural, older buck age class, along with the need to protect button bucks and manage deer populations by harvesting adult does.

The QDMA State Chapter board of directors credited Spinazzola for his generous support of QDM functions and his constant efforts over the last ten years to educate deer hunters about deer management and habitat management techniques, especially food plot development.

"Ed has written dozens, if not hundreds of articles for every major outdoor publication in Michigan on food plots, wildlife habitat management and deer management principles," Hank said. "He's also given hundreds of presentations to thousands of Michigan deer hunters and he's traveled across the entire state from the Keweenaw to Monroe to teach hunters what he knows about deer and food plots."

Spinazzola is the author of two books, "*Wildlife Food Plots Easy as 1-2-3*" and "*the Ultimate Deer Food Plot Book*."

This is only the second time Michigan's state chapter of the QDMA has given out a Lifetime Achievement Award. The other recipient of the award was John Ozoga of Munising, Michigan.

Hank recognized Spinazzola for his unselfish efforts to expand the knowledge of Michigan hunters about deer management and food plots. “Ed has donated all his profits from his books to QDMA so we can bring more educational events to Michigan’s deer hunters. He is a friend to deer hunters everywhere.”

Spinazzola also designed a marketing plan to sell food plot seed to hunters in a \$20 package that covers one acre. “His efforts have allowed hundreds of hunters to plant a deer food plot at a nominal cost,” Hank said.

Spinazzola and his wife of 51 years, Pat, live in Shelby Township and they maintain a farm and hunting camp in the Gladwin area.

QDMA also gave its Outstanding Service Award to former Regional Director Perry Russo. The organization thanked Russo for helping to establish the state chapter and for his years serving as the first full-time QDMA employee in the state.

The deer management seminar, which was sponsored by the Mid-Michigan Branch of QDMA, brought in speakers like QDMA executive director Brian Murphy from Georgia and other speakers from Pennsylvania and Michigan to cover topics like the future of deer hunting, current research in deer management, and land and habitat management techniques. DNR Wildlife Director Bill Moritz also spoke to over 200 deer hunters about the DNR’s recent survey on hunter preferences for deer management methods.

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