



White-Tail Deer Family

The forest is breathing with the vigor and life-force of the young. A shadow emerges from the woodland at an unnamed beaver pond near the Kennebec River West Outlet in Sapling Township. A doe white-tail deer approaches the pond and she is not alone. Her recently born, heavily spotted baby is tagging along.

The doe feeds on succulent vegetation at the water's edge. She is as vigilant as she will ever be during her lifetime; determined to protect her fawn from predators and teaching it the necessary survival skills to reach healthy maturity. The fawn watches mom intently, learning the land that is its home, and emulates her by grasping some vegetation. The fawn is still dependent on her mom's warm milk, but is learning valuable life lessons on the food types, and location, it will eventually require.

Thomas Mark Szelog

