

Vermont Sporting Journal

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Eric Lozier
7 point
164 pounds

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Get Outside, Make Art and Enjoy Wildlife

An art contest sponsored by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department invites you to get outside and help celebrate 100 years of Wildlife Management Area (WMA) conservation with an art contest commemorating Vermont's legacy of wildlife-based recreation and healthy lands and waters.

In 1920, Sandbar Wildlife Management Area in Milton became Vermont's first area conserved specifically for the benefit of fish and wildlife. Over the course of the past 100 years, Vermont has conserved 100 WMAs, protecting more than 130,000 acres of important habitat for fish, wildlife and plants, as well as providing opportunities for wildlife-based recreation. This great milestone of conserving 100 WMAs in 100 years is the result of dedicated conservationists who provide financial support for land conservation including hunters, anglers, bird watchers, and many others.

"More than ever, this is a great time to get outside and enjoy Vermont's wild areas and wildlife," said Director of Wildlife Mark Scott. "Please join us in celebrating Vermont's legacy of wildlife-based recreation and healthy lands and waters by creating a work of art about one or all of Vermont's Wildlife Management Areas."

Competition will be held in five age groups from August through October 9. Entries may include media such as paintings, drawings, collages, photographs, poetry, audio, video, or anything else that can be shared digitally. Prizes will include \$300 for the first, second and third place winners provided by the Vermont Federation of Sportsman's Clubs, with additional monetary prizes from other sporting organizations, a Vermont WMA guide, Wetland-Woodland-Wildland book, Green Mountain Conservation Camp discounts, and lunch with a scientist. Winners will be announced on November 13.

Anyone who would like to enter can learn more about WMA Art Contest rules and Vermont's WMAs by going to Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) or this link: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/wma-art-contest>. ■

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Be Aware of Bears in Bear Country

A recent incident involving bears in Wilmington should bring to the attention of those who rent out or manage property rentals in bear country that it is important to provide information about bears to renters so they can take the necessary measures to avoid encounters with bears, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. It also serves as a reminder to the rest of us that garbage should be properly managed in general to avoid human-wildlife conflicts.

On Sunday afternoon, August 16, the Wilmington Police Department received a call from the owner of an Air B&B in Wilmington, who re-

ported that a bear was inside the property and a renter was forced to lock herself in a bedroom.

Wilmington Police Officers were first on scene and reported seeing a sow and two cubs leaving the residence and taking off into the woods. The adult female occupant of the residence was escorted to the safety of a nearby car.

Upon the arrival of the local State Game Warden, the house was cleared and secured after the female occupant reported that she believed there was still a bear in the basement of the property. The warden checked and there were no more bears in the residence.

Investigation revealed the bears had entered the property through an open slide door on a second level deck. Nothing was disturbed or damaged inside the house, but there were two bags of garbage in the

kitchen. A torn bag of garbage was found nearby in the woods which indicated one or more bears likely had access to garbage prior to this incident. Food residue on a gas grill was subsequently burned off to remove odor that might attract bears.

Fish & Wildlife says a bear also recently entered three unoccupied houses and a fourth home in Warren occupied by an 80-year old woman who safely exited the house.

“While the occurrence of bears entering residences in Vermont continues to be rare, it does happen periodically,” said State Game Warden Richard Watkin. “This event highlights the importance of taking measures to avoid these incidents from becoming more frequent. As a general precaution, garbage should not be accessible to bears. Unsecured bags of trash should either be housed in a secure building or structure or kept in a bear-proof garbage receptacle until they can be removed. Garbage can be detected by bears from great distances.”

Vermont Fish & Wildlife provides helpful information about living in bear country on its website (www.vt-fishandwildlife.com). ■



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The Trapline

By Randy Barrows

Well I hope it's been warm enough for all of you. Its hard to think trapping when its 99 degrees out with a 70% humidity, day after day after day. I am totally sick of it and can't wait for the first frost. My normal days consist of peeking out and working for a few until the sweat starts to pour and then duck inside to sit in the air conditioned room. It works but you do not get a lot accomplished.

I usually take the month of August to go through all of my traps and give them a once over and fix what needs fixing and replace what needs replacing. But due to the nasty C thing going around I got all of that done in May of this year. The last couple of nights the humidity has dropped and when that happens it's like a trigger in trappers. The phone has started to light up for supplies. The other most important part of prepping for the year is getting permission to trap. Lucky for me I have trapped the same properties for many years so this part comes easy. Little things like tossing a couple loads of hay for the farmer, maybe a fresh baked pie or cookies will usually get your foot in the door. Try to stop by on a rainy day when folks are less busy. I give every landowner an index card with my name, address, vehicle description so if there are issues you can be easily contacted. And do not forget at the end of the season a fresh feed of venison will keep your foot in the door.

Those waiting for a Trapper Ed class will have to wait a little longer. Vermont Fish and Wildlife have loosened up quite a bit but the restrictions are still quite prohibitive. In order for me to hold a class I have to sanitize every item I will be teaching with be-

fore class, between every interaction with every student, every chair, table, pencil, pen, doorknob and well you get the idea. My normal certification class runs eight to ten hours. So with all of this extra B.S. I could see it running two days. Not to mention making sure everyone stays six feet apart and I could not imagine wearing a mask for that period of time. I feel so bad for the 30 plus folks waiting for a class but I know they understand. The promise I do make is when this crap passes they will get the class of their lives. If one should get the itch before this all happens I am a phone call away and always willing to chat or meet one on one.

My wife Diane comments often of my uncanny ability to predict the future. Back in the first of 2020 I heard the great state of Vermont was going make a law saying you can no longer dump food scraps in the landfill. I jumped for joy when I heard this news, not because of the law would save our environment but because of the fact that a large majority of the folks would not adhere to the rule. Being afraid of the trash police finding food in the trash they would simply dump it out in the back forty. My prediction was my phone would be busy as I do nuisance trapping for the state of Vermont. I am here to tell you I was spot on. If you are a licensed trapper and are looking for a little extra income now is the time to call fish and wildlife and sign up. Its not the most pleasant job in the world (skunks) but

I make enough money every year to pay for hunting trips to five different states!!!!While on the new laws, how about no Plastic bags???? A recent trip to the supermarket I bought grapes in a plastic bag, potatoes in a plastic bag, soda in plastic bottles, brown sugar in a plastic bag, potato chips in a plastic bag, meat wrapped in plastic, cheese wrapped in plastic and on and on. Glad we got rid of the damn plastic bags. End of Rant

So when all seems doom and gloom just remember the great outdoors is a good place to be. It's a great time of year to go for a hike and check out new beaver ponds in your area , to count the lodges and figure out how many beaver you want to trap. Walk the fields and see what is out and about. Tracks tell a whole story that you miss when you are not there. Check out the otter slides on river banks and muskrat huts and cuttings in swamps. I just got a kayak and that saved me a lot of steps. It's amazing how quietly you can put the sneak on wildlife in one.

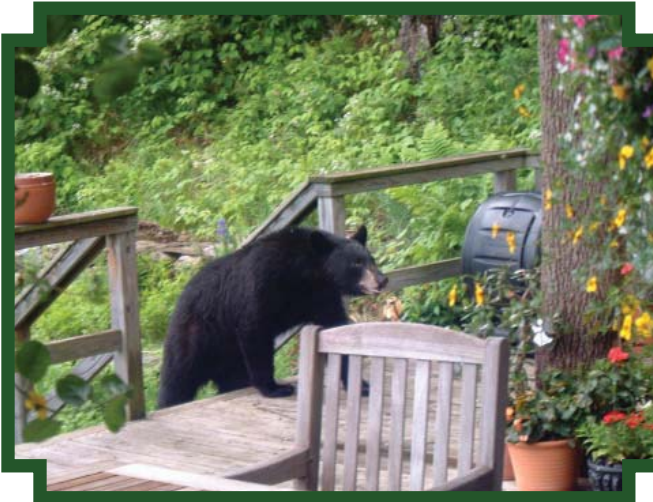
Stay cool, keep your waders patched and lures in the shed. Bring a kid every time you go!!! ■



Composting with Bears in Mind

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says many people are having problems with bears looking for food near their homes, and with the new food scrap ban now in effect the department is providing tips for people who are composting at home so they can avoid attracting hungry bears.

“We have been receiving lots of reports of bears on decks, tearing down bird feeders, wrecking beehives, killing chickens, and getting into trash, compost and garbage containers,” said bear biologist Forrest Hammond. “Some folks will be new at composting food waste at home, so we are offering some guidance on how to do that without providing additional attractants for the bears.”



“First though, to deter bears, bird feeders need to be taken away until we have a foot or more of snow in December. Then, make sure anything else that might smell like food is picked up. And keep your trash container secured inside a sturdy building and don’t put it outside until the morning of pickup. Beehives, chicken coops and compost bins can be protected with electric fencing.”

The best way to avoid attracting bears is to take food scraps to one of the drop-off stations. You can locate them by contacting your local solid waste management district or town at www.802recycles.com Or, ask your trash hauler if they pick up food scraps for composting.

Composting at home while minimizing the chances of attracting bears can best be done with these tips:

- Use three parts of brown material for one part of green material. Browns can be dried leaf and yard debris, wood chips, which often can be delivered to your house free

by a local tree service company, or shredded paper. Greens include kitchen scraps, vegetables and small amounts of fruits. Adding lots of brown material minimizes smells and speeds up composting.

- No meat or bones. They do not break down quickly and are strong wildlife attractants.

The new food scrap ban does allow people who compost at home to dispose of meat and bones in the trash, even after July 1, so they can be kept in a freezer until trash day.

- Give your compost oxygen by frequently mixing it or turning it over if it is in a container. This reduces odors and speeds up composting.
- Does your compost smell? If so, turning it, adding more brown material and adding a layer of wood

shavings or sawdust to the top should solve the issue.

- Compost in a hard, durable container with a lid that will be challenging for a bear to open. Some types of tumblers are bear-proof.
- Electric fencing, with food scent added to the wires, around your compost will discourage even persistent bears.
- If you are currently having a bear issue, delay starting your new compost pile until the bear issue resolves. Until then, keep food scraps in the freezer or bring them to a collection site.

To learn more about properly composting food waste, go to the Department of Environmental Conservation’s website at www.VTrecycles.com.

The public is encouraged to contact their local warden if they are having a bear issue. You can find out who your local warden is at <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WardenLookup.aspx>. You may also submit a black bear incident report at <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WildlifeBearReport.aspx>. Contacting your warden or submitting a black bear incident report helps wildlife officials keep track of bear issues around the state and may help shape future regulations regarding black bears.

Composting without attracting wildlife takes careful planning. For information about living with bears and to report bear damage, visit Fish & Wildlife’s website www.vtfishandwildlife.com. ■

Vermont Game Wardens & Vermont State Police Rescue Lost Forager

A Vermont Game Warden K9 played a crucial role in the successful rescue of a lost mushroom forager Monday on Stratton Mountain.

The effort was a joint operation by the Vermont Warden Service, Vermont State Police and the Winhall Police Department. Claudine Michaud, 74, went foraging for mushrooms at 12:10 p.m., at the end of Shepardson Road, while her husband, who uses a wheelchair, waited in their vehicle. After about 30 minutes, Michaud lost her bearings, felt lost and contacted 911.

The Vermont Warden Service, Vermont State Police and the Winhall Police Department were dispatched to begin the search. Realizing that the conditions at the site were favorable for scent tracking, the search party deployed a game warden tracking dog, K9 officer Ramsey, to assist in locating the missing woman. Ramsey and his handler identified several circling tracks believed to be Michaud's irregular path while picking mushrooms. The search team split up following the various tracks and Michaud was soon found in good health, good spirits and very appreciative of being located and reunited with her husband.



Vermont Warden Sergeant Keith Gallant reflected on the significance of utilizing Ramsey in this operation: “A properly trained tracking dog can play a vital role in promptly locating missing persons, provided their scent trail has not been disturbed. Sending a dog into the search early often results in the search finishing early. We’re grateful to have found Ms. Michaud so quickly with the support of Ramsey, using the resources of state and local authorities as efficiently as possible.”

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the Vermont Warden Service want to remind Vermonters to recreate safely, always leave a trip itinerary with someone at home, know your personal limitations and be mindful of changing trail conditions and weather forecasts. ■

See cover photo: Vermont State Game Wardens often utilize their trained tracking dogs to quickly locate missing persons, shell casings, and for other purposes.

24th Annual Rabies Bait Drop Kicking Off

Baited rabies vaccine to be distributed the week of August 1

The annual Rabies Bait Drop, a week-long, cooperative effort between the State of Vermont and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services to stop the spread of the rabies, starts on August 1.

Rabies vaccine — in the form of a sweet-smelling oral bait that is attractive to raccoons and skunks — will be dropped in rural areas of Vermont from low-flying aircraft and placed by hand in residential centers. Approximately 450,000 quarter-sized blister packs containing rabies vaccine will be distributed in nearly 100 Vermont communities across nine counties. A switch allows pilots to control where the baits fall, in order to avoid roadways, homes and other places where people are most likely to be.

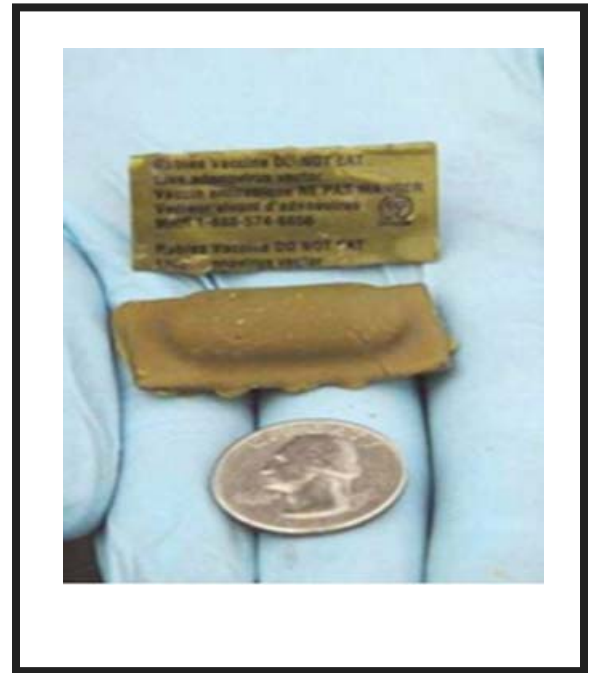
Vermont Public Health Veterinarian Natalie Kwit said the bait packs are not poisonous, and people or animals can't get rabies from the bait. "The rabies bait packs are not harmful to people, pets or wildlife," said Dr. Kwit, "but it's important to leave the

packs undisturbed so that they can be eaten by wild animals."

If a bait must be moved, use gloves or a plastic bag in case the blister pack is damaged. If your pet eats a bait, or if a child brings one home, let officials know by calling the Vermont Rabies Hotline at 1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437) or call the toll-free number printed on the bait.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease of the brain that infects mammals. It is most often seen in raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats, but unvaccinated pets and livestock can also get rabies.

The virus is spread primarily through the bite of an infected animal. If left untreated, rabies is almost always fatal in humans and animals. However, treatment with the rabies vaccine is nearly 100% effective when given soon after a person is bitten by a rabid animal.



So far this year, five animals in Vermont have tested positive for rabies, three of which have been raccoons.

According to wildlife officials, rabid animals often show a change in their normal behavior, but you cannot tell whether an animal has rabies simply by looking at it. People should not touch or pick up wild animals or strays — even baby animals. ■

If you suspect an animal may have rabies, call the Rabies Hotline:

1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437) or 1-802-223-8697

Learn more about rabies in Vermont at healthvermont.gov/rabies.

Watch a video of an aerial bait drop (West Virginia):

<https://youtu.be/hGbnICU5-V8?list=PL46328461CF9E31E4>

Fall Turkey Hunting

Most people that turkey hunt are avid spring gobbler chasers, but a small but passionate number of people also find great enjoyment in the fall turkey season (where legal). Choosing to spring turkey hunt is a no brainer in my opinion but fall turkey hunting has a ton of competition. In the fall your hunting choices are virtually limitless; deer, bear, waterfowl, small game, other big game species, and the fall turkey season is often overlooked but it can be as fun and as addicting as the spring hunt.

Throughout many states, including New England and the Northeast, there are many options for fall turkey hunting. Generally, in the fall any turkey is legal but in spring the focus is on the male bird. While legal in some states, the bearded hen is typically passed up in the spring due to nesting and reproduction concerns but come fall she would be considered fair game by most fall hunters. There are a few fall hunters that harvest a bird while hunting other species, more by chance than on purpose, but there are a select few that target the fall bird with as much vim and vigor as a dedicate spring turkey hunter would. The hours of the hunt are usually different as well. A lot of the Northeast states still have a noon or early afternoon stop time in the spring but fall hunting typically gives you an all-day experience. Please be sure to check your local regulations to ensure you know the rules in the region or state you are choosing to hunt. Times, dates, and other important rules vary in most



states and in different regions within the same state. It's our responsibility as hunters to know all the rules and regulations in the areas we hunt.

There are several methods for fall turkey hunting. If you have a flock patterned, you could sit and ambush them on the way by. You can cold call to a flock of birds that you can either see or know are in the area and hope they respond. You can attempt to scatter a flock of birds and call them back to you or, if you are really dedicated to the craft of fall turkey hunting you might have a dog that is trained specifically for breaking up a flock of birds and then you can call them back in that way as well. All methods have their merits. I don't own a turkey dog and a stout bald dude running at a flock of turkey hasn't really done much to break the flock up in the past so I typically rely on scouting and knowing where turkey roost or if I see a flock that I can hunt I will set up on them and call to them. If I know where a flock is roosted, I will typically arrive early and get myself as close to the flock as possible. I don't typically use a ground blind but on a few fall hunts I have set up a ground blind under roosted birds with good success but you need to arrive well before any daylight has hit the sky in order to be set up close to the birds without spooking them. I have tried it without a blind, but I get too fidgety and most of the time the birds see me from their roost trees and the hunt is virtually over before it starts. However, if you can sit statue still for

an hour or more then going without a blind could work. You could also set up a just out of sight of the roost and you might be able to call them in to your location that way too. I tend to be aggressive and like to have them fly down within range if possible.

Scattering a flock is also a viable option in the fall. To scatter a flock, you can run at the group of birds and try to scatter them in as many directions as possible so that they will need to come looking for each other to reassemble. If most of the flock goes in one direction it will be more difficult to call them back in. My experience is that birds don't seem to be nearly as afraid of me running and yelling at them as I would hope, and I rarely get a good break. The use of a trained dog, where legal, is probably a better bet in getting a good scatter. My goal is to experience hunting with a dog this fall in Vermont as it seems like a lot of fun.

Once you get a good scatter your calling techniques may very depending on the make-up of the flock. If it was a group of hens and poults then kee kees, assembly yelps, and yelping



would probably be the preferred calling method. If the scattered flock is mostly male birds you would want to try mimicking a male bird with jake or gobbler yelps, some slowed down clucks and purrs and sometimes even a fighting purr, or a gobble might bring the birds back together. The fighting purr is an a great call in the fall or spring as it hones in on the social dominance portion of the flock. I've observed many fights in the fall and especially when the birds regroup or even shortly after flying down. They like to remind each other who the boss is throughout the year.

Using decoys is a fall tactic that I don't have much experience with, but I know several people that have had great success using decoys in the fall, especially a jake or gobbler decoy when hunting a male flock. Like spring, it seems to elicit a pecking order or social response and if nothing else gives the other turkey something to look at on their way in. As usual, safety should be your first thought. If you don't feel safe using a decoy, for whatever reason, then leave them at home. ■

I encourage you to get out and give fall turkey hunting a try this fall. In my home state of Vermont we have an archery and a fall shotgun season. Please check <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-opportunities/wild-turkey> for season dates and regulations.

Fall turkey hunt that I self-filmed in 2018:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGuYFul-e3M>

A Reminder on Use of VT Fishing Access Areas

The COVID pandemic has affected our lives in many ways, and if you have gone fishing or launched a boat at one of Vermont's state fishing access areas recently, you may know that they are getting a lot of use this year

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department owns and manages 196 fishing access areas on lakes and rivers throughout the state. They are open 24/7, and their use is regulated with

priority to anglers and boaters because the purchase and maintenance of these areas are funded by the sale of fishing licenses, a federal tax on fishing equipment and boating fuels, and motorboat registration fees.

“Vermont is fortunate to have these areas providing public access to many of our public waters throughout the state, and we are seeing a dramatic increase of their use this year because so many people have more time at home,” said Mike Wichrowski who

manages the fishing access areas for Fish & Wildlife. “More anglers and boaters are showing up, and so are lots of other people. We are getting many complaints about illegal use, littering, parking problems, and thoughtless activity affecting other users.”

“We are glad to see the fishing access areas being enjoyed,” he added, “and, we are asking folks to be respectful of each other, to learn the rules of use of Vermont's fishing access areas and to follow them.”

The following are authorized activities in order of priority:

1. Fishing and the launching of any vessel to be used for fishing and the parking of vehicles and trailers used for these activities
2. The launching of motorboats and parking their vehicles and trailers
3. Hunting, trapping and parking of vehicles and boat trailers used for these activities
4. Launching of non-motorized vessels not used for commercial purposes and the parking of their vehicles and boat trailers
5. ATVs and snowmobiles when being used for ice fishing

Prohibited uses include, but are not limited to:

- Discarding of bottles, glass, cans, paper, junk, litter, food, garbage, or trash
- Swimming
- Dog walking or dog swimming
- Washing or cleaning of fish or wildlife
- Camping, picnicking, or making or maintaining a fire
- Parking of vehicles or trailers while the owner or user is not present or on adjacent public water
- Withdrawal of water except by fire departments
- Parking for more than 72 hours
- Commercial activities except by those associated with the above authorized activities
- Group use not authorized by permit
- Launching and recovery of sailboards, rafts, snow kites, and the parking of associated vehicles and trailers
- All other activities not listed above as authorized or granted by special permit

To locate and learn more about Vermont's state fishing access areas, go to <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/fish/boating-in-vermont/fishing-access-areas> ■

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Now Offering Online Bowhunter Education Course

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is now offering a new way for Vermonters to obtain their bowhunter certification through an on-line-only education course.

To protect the health and safety of staff, instructors and students during the COVID-19 pandemic, the department has made its hunter education, trapper education and now, bowhunter education classes available as an on-line-only option. Although offered on a limited basis, in-person bowhunter education courses are still available, but students will now have the option to take an in-person or online-only bowhunter education course to obtain their bowhunter certification.


Students who want to take the bowhunter education course will need to complete the online homework found here: <https://www.bowhunter-ed.com/vermont/> and then sign up for the course. Students will need to complete all the materials in the confirmation email they receive. The



curriculum consists of a video presentation, several demonstration videos and a final exam. Once all

components of the course are completed, a certification card will be mailed to students within two weeks.

“While our hunter education, trapper education and bowhunter education courses meet the standards and requirements established by the International Hunter Education Association,” said Hunter Education Program Coordinator Nicole Meier, “we realize that online learning is not for everyone, so we’re encouraging Vermonters who have taken an online course, to also take an in-person class if possible. At the end of the day, hunters are accountable for themselves and their actions to ensure the safety and welfare of all Vermonters, wildlife and our hunting legacy.” ■




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Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Announces 100th Wildlife Management Area in 100 Years



The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, along with the Shrewsbury community and the Vermont Land Trust, are celebrating the conservation of their 100th Wildlife Management Area (WMA), coincidentally, in the 100th year of department WMA ownership and management in Vermont.

On August 4th, the department established the new Wildlife Management Area, a 526.7-acre property in the Town of Shrewsbury. Originally settled in the late 1700s, the site was later purchased by the Town in 1870 to create a town farm to house the poor. The town farm was abandoned by 1903 and despite exchanging hands several times over the years, it has remained undeveloped, aside from the scattered stone walls and foundations that preserve the old town farm.

“The 100th Wildlife Management Area represents a key parcel in a strategic, state-significant wildlife corridor, connecting state land to the north with federal and privately conserved land to the south,” said Vermont Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. “The property is part of an area we have mapped as

a highest ecological priority and one that is critical for maintaining ecological function within Vermont.”

Public Land Section Chief Jane Lazorchak mentioned, “This area is utilized by wide-ranging mammals like black bear, bobcat, moose and deer, as well as upland bird species and migratory songbirds. On a smaller scale, the property contains small wetlands, vernal pools, early successional forest, and mast-producing trees. In addition to protecting valuable habitat and forest connectivity, this property safeguards public-use for hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing and other dispersed wildlife-based recreation.”

Since 2008, the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission (SCC) had attempted to arrange funding to conserve the property after learning of its wildlife value through the department’s Community Wildlife Program. After several years of dead ends, the SCC invited the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) to enter as a conservation partner. Local fund raising efforts to draw funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began, after a sizeable lead gift was pledged by VLT. These funds had been bequeathed by

the late Joan Sibley, local resident and wildlife enthusiast, for conservation in Shrewsbury.

“We were delighted to work with such a dedicated group of partners. The donor who made this possible lived just down the road from this property in a little log cabin,” said Donald Campbell, Vermont Land Trust’s southern regional director. “She loved nothing more than knowing that bears, bobcats and moose were using the woods around her. Fortunately, many Shrewsbury residents share her love for this land—enough to protect it.”

In September 2019, with a decision to prioritize the land as unique wildlife habitat, the department stepped in as the new prospective owner and immediately entered into a purchase and sales agreement with the landowner. The department then leveraged its Vermont Habitat Stamp program which provided local supporters a dedicated channel to raise the remaining funds to finally acquire the property.

“The people of Shrewsbury are very conservation-oriented, and it’s these people that made this project happen,” said SCC chairman Louise

Duda. “For many years, we didn’t think conserving this land was possible, but it is possible, and reaching out to different agencies and working in partnership allowed this to happen.”

Shrewsbury resident and SCC member Mark Youngstrum stated, “It was a wonderful opportunity that came along with this partnership between the community, the state and the Vermont Land Trust. It’s almost universally supported and nearly everyone in town is excited and looking forward to this property becoming the 100th Wildlife Management Area.”

“Owning and managing Wildlife Management Areas are vitally important to meeting our mission, which is to protect and conserve the fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont,” said Lazorchak.

“This milestone achievement is widely celebrated by all,” said Wildlife Division Director Mark Scott, “we are very fortunate to be able to collaborate with conservation partners like the Vermont Land Trust and the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission to realize these conservation successes for Vermonters to enjoy into the future.”

The department now owns and manages 100 WMAs throughout the state, comprising nearly 135,000 acres, for fish and wildlife habitat and public access.

Conservation and management of all WMAs is funded through sporting license sales, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Fund, and the Vermont Habitat Stamp. Join the effort and help us continue wildlife conservation with your own Habitat Stamp: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/vthabitatstamp> ■

Photo Album



Quinn Higgins, Williamstown High School Student



Mark Scott and son Doug with archery deer



Doug Scott with his Tom



Jesse Scott with her Spring Tom



Quinn Higgins, Williamstown High School Student

Trophy Aftercare

Rodney Elmer & Mountain Deer

Pretty sure after this crazy year, everybody's really getting tuned up to go out into the woods this fall. Hopefully you've got the tags and nobody messing up your plans to get out there and have fun and enjoy yourself.

Make sure while you're at it that you check with your meat cutter, especially this year, and make plans to take care of your trophy yourself, when it comes time. And of course it always begins with taking care of your animals once it's on the ground.

Keep it as dry as possible out of the snow and the rain. Clean the blood off and take lots of photos before you start gutting and getting it out. We carry dollies and sleds with us and they work great for keeping the skin protected and to keep the dirt off things. We like to carry at least 1 good roll of paper towels in the rig or wipes of some kind are great and if you have to wash the animal out, wash out the chest cavity dump it out and then hang the deer up.

Right at freezing or just under ... is the perfect temperature for hanging meat and make sure that a lot of blood and bacteria are wiped away from the mouth along with the saliva. It's a delicate part of your mount later on.

This is especially important with that warm bear season that happens every September. If you have ever gutted out a bear before, you know how dark the blood is inside the chest cavity in between the grease and the fat and the dark blood. Everything is this big gooey mess and it's hard to make things

out. Once you've got everything apart take the time to get a dry cloth and wipe out the inside, It'll help you see what's going on and whether or not you've left anything behind or there's anything else that needs to come out. All that blood will grow bacteria like crazy in warm weather and it's a shame to lose a beautiful bear due to the warm weather.

We definitely have fewer fall foods this fall for a lot of the animals and I would expect the bear season to be intense and short and once the corn is cut and what few nuts are picked up they'll be going to bed early. Many early adult male bears don't make the greatest mounts because the fur is not all that good. They're mostly guard hairs with very little downy for underneath so consider that when it's time to make a decision about a mount. If You have to leave an animal in the woods overnight or for any length of time hang it up if you can. Get circulation all the way around it even if you have to lift parts of it and put some logs up underneath it to get circulation instead of having it lay on the warm ground and not cool on the downside. Coyotes are especially notorious for this because they are rarely gutted out. Naturally the thickness of the skin and stomach area with a massive he makes the stomach the first place to turn green. Even in really cool weather.

Take the time to watch a caping video and know how to, even if you have a guy or

guide. It's worth the time. Be sure to keep it as close to the head as possible and not leave a huge chunk of neck meat inside the cape. It will help you get a smaller seam and a better stretch.

The fellows with the nicest mounts bring their taxidermist the nicest capes and they deserve them! You can always tell the hunter who planned his mount and the one who did it as an afterthought.

I'd like to thank all the readers of John's paper over the years, past and present! Also to all our past and present customers acquaintances students and everybody that has shared in our business over the years. It's been such a great experience for all of us and I hope it keeps going way out into the future. They say you should start everything with gratitude so now let's let the season begin!!! Have fun out there! ■

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A Special Hunt by Jeff Blanchard

One of my greatest enjoyments of turkey hunting isn't when I have successfully gotten a turkey but when someone I'm with is successful at getting one. I get so excited for them. Especially if it's a youth.

Several years ago my son (who was 11 at the time) and I had gotten permission to hunt an area that had a good mixture of cornfields, hay fields and some hardwoods which divided these fields. We had seen a very large Tom turkey along with some Jakes and some hens, so we scouted the area and found their roosting spot. Watching them both in the early mornings and late in the evenings allowed us to somewhat determine their daily routine, which by the way wasn't always routine.

We found a nice pinch point where the wood line, cornfield and hay field intersect. Giving us a great opportunity that at some point they will walk in front of us. The dilemma we faced was from their roosting spot they had been travelling one of two ways. Flying off the roost away from us and walking the opposite direction and making it a long day if they don't come our way or flying off the roost and coming right at us.

It's now opening morning of the youth weekend. My Uncle, myself and my son get up early and head for our spot. It feels super cold this morning. Around 25 degrees. We knew it was going to be cold so previously had set up a tent blind to help keep the wind off us. We started out with me sitting outside the blind up against a tree, but

the morning air was really cold and it began to snow. Eventually all three of us were tucked into the blind just to try and use body heat to keep us all warm.

As predictably unpredictable as turkeys can be, they decided this particular day that only a couple Jakes and hens would make an appearance in front of us. My son decided to wait as we knew the large Tom was in the area and that's the one he wanted. We shivered through the remainder of the day and packed it up to prepare for the next day which was to be a much better weather day.

Sunday morning came and my son and I head to our spot. The air is much warmer. The snow had pretty much melted off. It just had a good feel that the morning was going to be good. As the songbirds began the morning music, the darkness was starting to break. We begin to hear some gobbles as the turkeys awake. They are probably 100 yards away directly in front of us. The darkness is now light and we've determined the turkeys have now flown off the roost. All eyes alert at this point. We soon see a few hens make their way into the field followed by three Jakes. But where's the Tom? Not with them.

The birds make their way up to us and feed for the better part of an hour and then we see him. The big old Tom. Way in

the far corner of the field. Full strut. Wings dropped low, tail feathers up taking small steps forward while displaying his beautiful feathers for all to see. He's a long way away and decides to take his sweet time to get to us. It probably took him thirty minutes before he was anywhere near us. Upon his arrival one of the Jakes decides it's time to check out our decoy. Just as he's about to circle the decoy the Tom stops strutting and sprints towards the Jake. Leaping into the air and using his legs knocks the Jake over like a bowling pin. Meanwhile my son has his shotgun up and informs me the red-dot scope isn't working. I whisper to him to center the turkey's head in whatever he can see and when he's ready to shoot. BAM...goes the shotgun and down goes the turkey. He did it. He scouted and roosted this bird and has now successfully hunted him. The Tom weighs 22.8 pounds.

The elation I had was incredible. To watch a young man be determined and committed to the hunt and the appreciation he had for being successful still puts a smile on both our faces even 10 years later. ■



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Hard Water Baits for Warm Water Trout

by Ken Jones

This one will start off on a somber note. In October of last year I lost one of the best friends I've ever had in this life to cancer. Along with being a mutual turkey hunting addict, he loved fly fishing. In fact he spent a couple summers before his death guiding in Utah. He was one of those guys like Brad Pitt was in the film *«A River Runs Through It»* Remember the scene where Norman brings his future brother in law to fish with them and brings the big Hills Bros. can of worms? Well Phil was the kinda guy that despised those cans of worms but along the way a great friend of his that's become a dang good friend of mine turned him on to a method of trout fishing that hasn't quite hit mainstream fisherman yet. Our friends name is Matt Wettish. Matt has been involved in the outdoor industry for decades and most of the big name TV personalities would pick him out of a

crowd and run to shake his hand.

Matt has devised a method of catching trout and big trout that rival the dry fly guys. Normally you'd see a container of meal worms in a guy's snowmobile suit keeping them from freezing while he moved from hole to hole on a frozen pond or lake. Well Matt has brought the meal worm to warmer waters. I'd seen a few short video clips of him on his Youtube channel Real Outdoors TV of him and our Brother Phil (Phil mostly on the camera) hauling in these great brown trout from some streams in Connecticut, Matt's home state.

A few months after Phil's death, Matt reached out to myself and a few other of our turkey brethren in hopes of putting together a fishing excursion where we could try our hand at this meal worming method. Being a car-

penter and turkey hunting myself into the poor house during the month of May, I hadn't touched a fresh water fishing rod in several years. Well we put the trip together and it would be one overnight at Matt's place and we would fish for one day.

I had found a few spinning rods while going through Phil's things and decided if I was going to do this fishing thing, I would do it with one of Phil's rods. Matt had plenty of gear and the all important meal worms for all of us to get through the day. We had a great barbeque that evening consisting of some marinated venison I brought with me and a wild turkey breast Matt provided. A few samples of Matt's extensive bourbon collection and it was off to bed.

We rose early and were on the water around 7:00am. I was pretty amazed to see all the activity on the river. There were dry fly guys lining the river so we had to kind of slip in where we could. Matt had gone over the set up which I couldn't believe was so simple. A small hook and two small split shot sinkers about 18 inches above it. Just like we used to use when I was a kid fishing the little brooks around Rutland Vermont. We waded in and started casting and letting the drift bring the worm back to you. Thump thump!! You'd feel em pick it up and just like the old night crawler or trout worm technique we used to use, set the hook.

We immediately started catching nice trout anywhere from 8-10 inches up to some respectable 14 or so inches. A couple hours in I latched on to some-



The author with a fine Connecticut brown trout taken with the meal worm method

thing that was considerably heavier than what we had been seeing all morning. Taking line and making the drag sing. I saw a gold flash out in front of me and thought, here he is a big brown!! I alerted the fellas that I was on a big one and they came running with the group cameras to video the catch. As the big fish came closer then made a run at me my heart sank as it was a giant sucker!! We laughed him off and I released him and went back to fishing. Now, I really hadn't been on fire as far as catching fish was going. Phil's rod was short and lacked the casting capabilities of the other guy's gear but I kept plugging. Not long after the sucker ordeal I set the hook on another big fish and the drag was talking again. I saw that golden flash

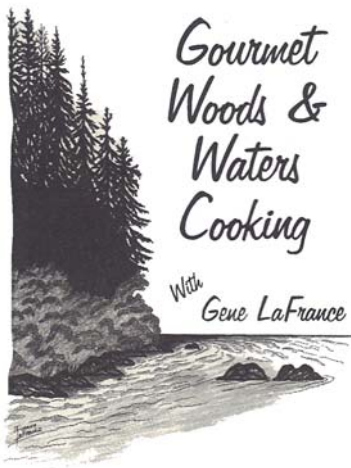
and hoped I wasn't on a school of suckers. Then he made a dash for me at which time I had to take up a lot of slack to keep him tight but when he got close, I spotted those beautiful red spots and knew I had hooked what we came for!!! I got him to the net as Matt and Morgan filmed with the gopros. A gorgeous brown all of twenty inches long probably three pounds or so. The video of the release was something extremely cool. The gopros work under water so I got to see him get it together and head out to make someone else's day.

We had a great lunch back at the truck of venison brauts and fished into the afternoon catching trout after trout and making the dry fly guys look lost.

Matt's source for the meal worms is rainbow mealies .com if you'd like to take your trout fishing to another level I highly recommend giving this method a try.

It's amazing what will bring us back to childhood. Through the loss of my best buddy and getting with new best buds, things have kind of come full circle. I will forever miss my little spaghetti bending buddy Phil Salzano and I'm dedicating this article to him. Thanks again brother. Even from beyond you've helped me feel like a kid again. even if only for a day.

So, until next time. Get outdoors, be safe, have fun and shoot em up!!! ■



Having scalded and plucked the feathers off your grouse, split the bird in half lengthwise along the center of its rib cage. Combine the flour, salt, and white pepper in a clear plastic bag. Wet each half of your grouse with water or milk and thoroughly coat each half of your grouse with the flour mixture. Drop each half into the flour mixture, seal the bag, and shake the contents over each half of your bird.

Red Wine and Ruffed Grouse

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Large mature grouse
- 6 teaspoons of flour
- 1 Teaspoon of salt
- 1 Teaspoon of white pepper
- 3 Tablespoons of butter or margarine
- 1 Cup chicken broth
- 2 Tablespoons of butter or margarine
- 1/2 Cup of dry Burgundy wine

In an electric frying pan set at 325 degrees F., or a regular frying pan set at medium heat, brown each half of the grouse in the hot butter or margarine. Make sure to turn the halves over, so both sides of your grouse are exposed to the browning process.

Add the cup of chicken broth and your chopped onion to your frying pan. Cover and simmer the two halves of the grouse until tender. This will take about an hour more or less, depending on the size of your grouse.

Remove the two halves from the frying pan and place them on a plate in an oven pre-heated to its WARM setting. Stir your half cup of dry Burgundy wine into your pan drippings.

Increase the heat until the contents boils vigorously. Reduce the liquid contents of the pan to about half a cup. This should take about ten minutes. Stir the contents constantly. Take care not to scorch your Burgundy wine gravy.

Serve your grouse halves on pre-heated plates, and pour your wine gravy over each bird half. Serve the grouse with a vegetable of your choice. One grouse, cut in half, along with potatoes and vegetables, should provide a gourmet meal for two people. It wouldn't hurt to have a couple of candles burning in the center of your dining room table, for dining on native ruffed grouse is a special occasion and should be treated as such. ■

Your Rights Under Siege

By Evan Hughes

The right to own firearms, shoot and hunt in Vermont has been under well funded attack for several years.

This attack has been the result of national gun control and anti-hunting organizations pouring substantial money into Vermont lobbying firms. In recent years former NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg's gun control group "Everytown for Gun Safety" has been funding the lobbying firm Necra Group of Montpelier to lobby to bring New York City-style gun control laws to Vermont.

"Giffords" another national gun control group, has also been using Vermont lobbyists to pursue its national gun control agenda being enacted into law.

These national gun control groups are required to report their lobbying spending to the Vermont Secretary of State, which is posted on its state agency web site. Since January of 2019 through May of this year, "Everytown..." has spent \$110,952,50 in lobbying compensation and \$6,413.16 in other lobbying expenses.

"Giffords" has reported \$63,589.86 in lobbying compensation and \$2,054.69 in other lobbying expenses

"Everytown..." is based in New York City and "Giffords" in Washington, D.C. These national gun control organizations are spending very big money in very small population Vermont.

This big dollar spending in Vermont is rather curious because year after year FBI data shows Vermont is one of the very lowest violent crime rate states in the country. In late 2019 the FBI published its latest annual statistics for crime in this country. The FBI Report shows Vermont had the second lowest violent crime rate state. Maine had the very lowest and New Hampshire had the third lowest violent crime rate.

This lowest violent crime rate ranking of these three northern tier New England states is quite well established. These three states have very similar gun laws, laws that work and respect the rights of peaceful gun owners.

In contrast, New York and Massachusetts have much higher violent rates and their state gun control laws are among the most restrictive in the nation. Yet, year after year their violent crime rates continue to be higher than VT, ME and NH. NY and MA contin-

ue to enact more gun control laws and it still does not deter violent crime.

The FBI violent crime rates are based per 100,000 residents and all states are measured by this same standard. All of the cited states are even in the same geographic areas. Clearly, more restrictive gun control laws do not help NY and MA to deter violent crime.

Yet, as outlined above, there is considerable effort and expense being spent by gun control groups to enact NYC-style gun control laws in Vermont.

Many of the legislators who support more gun control laws are the very elected officials who want to strip resources away from our Vermont law enforcement.

Much of Vermont has police coverage from the Vermont State Police, which ceases to have on "On-Duty" coverage from 2 AM to 6 AM, commonly having officers only serving "On-Call" coverage. This has been standard VSP staffing practice for many, many years and openly public information.

Lawsuit in Vermont Supreme Court

In April of 2018 the legislature passed and the governor signed S.55, which became Act 94, and one week later the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and other Vermont parties filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the firearm magazine capacity portion of the legislation.

The case was filed in Washington County Superior Court and both parties have agreed to move the case forward to the Supreme Court of Vermont. The case is Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, et al, v. Matthew Birmingham, et al, Civil Division, Docket No. 224-4-18 Wncv

The citizens of Vermont currently enjoy the second lowest violent crime rate in the USA. Why would Vermonters support more gun control laws, which violent criminals simply disregard, as shown by the higher violent crime rates in NY and MA.

Why would Vermonters support drastically reduced funding for law enforcement? So, some politicians can play election year political shenanigans with public safety?

The only way to protect our constitutional freedoms, and the way of life

that has proven to provide safety in our state, is to vote. Promote the importance of voting to your friends and family.

Voting is a right and duty of citizenship. ■

Why Do a Soil Test For a Food Plot?

by Mike Farnham

A lot of people will throw on a little 10/10/10 fertilizer or whatever they can find at the local farm and garden store, but it's not that simple. Yes, you can make an educated guess based on the type of seed you're planting, but there are many variables that need to be taken into account. With a soil test however, you'll have the macro-nutrient, micronutrient, and pH levels for the soil you're planting in. These levels will help you determine what fertilizer best suits your soil and seed.

While you could forgo the soil test and just make an educated guess, playing the guessing game isn't a surefire way to success. Another issue regarding the guessing game is use of lime in your soil. In my personal experience and observation, the average plot in Vermont requires a minimum of two tons per acre of lime for two years in a row. Most people do not know this, thus they do not put enough lime into their plot. While two tons of lime for two years may sound like a lot, if you have micro plots with good measurements, it will save you money in the long run by not guessing on size. I use a Garmin Rino 650 with the area finder app. Without a proper pH levels, things don't grow well, and it locks up the availability of what's called phosphorus. You could also over-

feed the nitrogen or potash within the soil and end up with an abundance of weeds in your plot. Your soil could be low on sulfur or boron, or even high in aluminum, which can all be corrected with, you guessed it, lime. But what if your soil quality is somewhat poor? Sandy soils with low organic matter won't hold nutrients that your plants will need.

But this doesn't mean you're doomed. Sandy soil can be corrected by things like planting other plants that produce organics for the soil, or even spoon feeding the soil fertilizer throughout the season. The list goes on. But without a soil test, how are you supposed to know? Another good source is you can buy a tractor trailer load of ground up newspaper with lime and fertilizer from Casella Organics. You will need to add an extra test called C:N ratio.

In order to obtain a proper sample, check out my website www.morewildlife.net, click on services and info, soil tests, click the blue word link, and then download the blue form from State of Vermont UVM Extension. When obtaining soil for sampling, to it is best to et an average by digging three to four separate holes about a foot deep in different

locations. The next step would be to scrape the side of the hole with a small spade and let dirt fall into it, in case the shovel was dirty. Then clean the spade off and take three scoops of dirt from the side of each hole three to four inches down, placing the sample into a clean plastic pail. Then mix the samples, making sure to remove any sticks, roots, or stones. Then take a cup to cup and a half of the soil and put into a clean plastic Ziploc bag. On both the Ziploc bag and paperwork, put the size and name of your plot and code from the back of the sheet based on what you are planting, and then mail to Agricultural & Environmental Testing Laboratory (ATEL, Univ. of Vermont, 262 Jeffords Hall, 63 Carrigan Drive, Burlington, VT. 05405-1737).

If you need help figuring out what fertilizer you need after you get your results back, send us a email with a copy of your test at morewildlife@hotmail.com and we will give you a hand.

HAPPY PLANTING!!! ■

Vermont Bear Hunters to Aid Wildlife Scientists

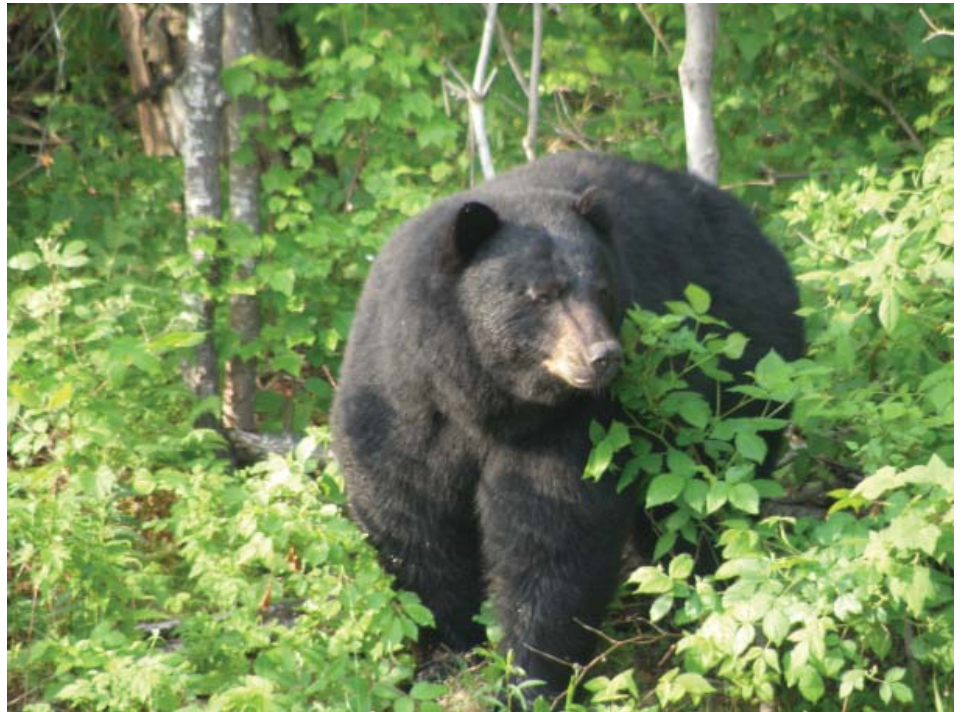
Successful hunters are required to submit bear teeth

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is again reminding successful bear hunters that a regulation requires them to submit a bear tooth so wildlife managers can collect important information on Vermont's bear population.

The hunter must field dress the bear before taking it to a reporting station. It is also legal to skin the bear and cut it up in order to carry it out of the woods. Although the bear must be reported within 48 hours, Fish & Wildlife urges doing so quickly to cool the meat. The hunter must also collect and submit a pre-molar tooth from the bear at the time the bear is reported or within 30 days. The tooth provides important data on the age structure and size of the bear population.

Envelopes for submitting teeth are available at all big game check stations.

“Successful bear hunters will be helping in our management of this magnificent big game animal,” said Forrest Hammond, bear project leader for Vermont Fish & Wildlife. “The premolar tooth we’re asking hunters



VT Fish & Wildlife photo by Jacob Zorn

Vermont bear hunting seasons are Sept. 1-Nov. 13 and Nov. 14-22.

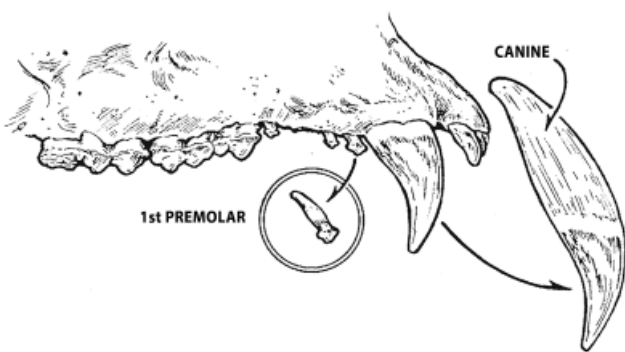
to extract is small and easy to loosen with a knife. Directions for removing the tooth are on the back of the envelope provided by the check station, and a short ¹ video showing tooth removal is found on our website by clicking on Hunt and then Black Bear.”

bear season begins November 14 and continues through November 22. A hunter may only take one bear during the year.

“Carefully regulated hunting plays a very important role in scientific wildlife management by helping to control the growth of Vermont’s bear population now estimated at being well within our population objective of 3,500 to 5,500 bears,” said Hammond. “Minor fluctuations in the bear population will always occur due to changes in food availability, winter severity and hunter success. Despite these fluctuations, we look at the long-term trends to manage for a healthy, robust population.” ■

Vermont has two bear hunting seasons. The early season, which requires a special bear tag, starts September 1, and continues through November 13 with one exception. Nonresident hunters using dogs cannot start bear hunting until September 15. The late

¹https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=0n3i910AXGc&feature=emb_logo



VT Fish & Wildlife requires hunters to send in the first pre-molar tooth from their bear. The tooth is small and easy to loosen with a knife.

Vermont's Archery Deer Season Starts Oct. 1



The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says hunters are looking forward to Vermont's upcoming October 1- November 13 and November 30 to December 15 archery deer hunting season.

A hunter may take up to four deer in Vermont's two-part archery season if they do not shoot any deer in the other deer seasons. The purchase of an archery deer license and tag is required for each deer. No more than one of the deer taken during archery season may be a legal buck if no buck is taken in the other deer seasons. Antlerless deer hunting is allowed during archery season statewide this year.

In WMUs C, D1, D2, E1, E2, G, I, L, M, P, and Q a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler three inches or more in length. In WMUs A, B, F1, F2, H, J1, J2, K, N, and O a legal

buck is any deer with at least one antler with two or more antler points one inch in length or longer.

Hunters must have a standard hunting license in order to purchase an add-on archery deer hunting license, except that nonresidents may purchase an «archery only deer license» costing \$75. Licenses may be quickly and easily purchased on Fish & Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Hunters planning a Vermont archery deer hunting trip will find it helpful to download a copy of the 2019 White-tailed Deer Harvest Report from Fish & Wildlife's website with this link: <https://tinyurl.com/v7kz477>. It has the number of deer taken in each town in last year's deer hunting seasons.

For more information and a summary of regulations, download the 2020 Deer Season Guide from Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website, or pick up a free copy of the 2020 HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE from any license agent.

Nonresident archery hunters are cautioned that COVID-19 travel restrictions can change prior to and during the fall archery deer hunting season. Nonresident archery deer hunters are encouraged to consider this before purchasing an archery deer license for 2020 as refunds for hunting license purchases will not be granted due to changing travel restrictions because of COVID. Additional information on COVID-19 travel restrictions can be found by going to <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>. ■

R3: Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation and the Outdoor Recreation Adoption Model

Why? With hunter and angler numbers in decline nationwide, government organizations, non-profit groups, and hunting industries are working together to Recruit new hunters and anglers, Retain current hunters and anglers, and Reactivate lapsed hunters and anglers. This work is known as the R3 Movement. It is important for all sportsmen and women to be up to date with this material, since they are the boots-on-the-ground when it comes to R3, especially at the recruitment stage. Taking one new person into the woods this season can make a lifelong difference for that individual, but can leave a larger impact for the future of the hunting community as a whole.

Adoption Model (ORAM) describes the process of becoming and continuing to be a hunter, trapper, or angler. This model is the guideline for most R3 efforts in the United States today. Social support is a key component, necessary for any new hunter to continue hunting and identify as a hunter. For instance, if you knew no one that hunted, or only people with a negative view of hunting, it would be unlikely that you would become a hunter (but not impossible). The decision to continue after the initial recruitment period is crucial and largely based on the existence of that social structure as an avenue for questions and positive encouragement.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is actively involved in R3 strategies through our education programs, seminars, and outreach events. In 2020, the Hunter Education program has expanded beyond typical hunter education classes to include many virtual seminars including cooking wild food with Rooted in Vermont, and multiple spring turkey talks with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF). This fall, we implemented in-the-field mentoring of new hunters while taking advantage of the new Novice Season for deer. We are currently looking for qualified mentors. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to us at (802) 828-1193! The Let's Go Fishing program is putting on a very successful series of "Fish with a Warden" events where people new to fishing can come give it a try with the help of an expert: their local Game Warden! Our Hunter Education Program, in conjunction with the Warden Service, Let's Go Fishing Program, and Green Mountain Conservation Camps, are in the planning stages of hosting fall hunting seminars on topics such as deer butchering, field dressing, sighting in your rifle, and others. If you are interested in attending, please watch for them to become available on our website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Space will be limited in all events and current COVID-19 health and safety guidelines will be followed. If you are interested in more information and conversations about R3, please visit our website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com or shoot us an email at HunterEducation@vermont.gov. ■

What is it? Outdoor Recreation

What is Vermont Doing? What Can You Do?

