

Vermont Sporting Journal

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Boaters Rescued After Midnight on Lake Dunmore

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

An adult and four children were rescued after midnight Monday, July 5, by a State Game Warden who found them adrift in a boat without power on Lake Dunmore in Salisbury.

Warden Wesley Butler received a call just after midnight from New Haven State Police advising that the Burlington U.S. Coast Guard station had been alerted to a disabled vessel on Lake Dunmore. Warden Butler called the wife of the boat operator, Carrie Carrasco, who told him that her husband, Jeffrey L. Carrasco, 49, of St. Johnsbury had left the north end of the lake and was enroute to the island approximately halfway down the lake to watch fireworks with four children, including a toddler, but that his boat would not start and his cell phone was almost out of battery.

When Warden Butler arrived at Lake Dunmore just after 1:00 a.m. the sky was clear with a temperature of 55°F and a west-northwest breeze. Warden Butler immediately traveled to the area of Lake Dunmore between

Sucker Brook and the island where the boat had been reported adrift. After finding them not there, he checked the wind conditions for the prior three hours on his cell phone and saw that the wind had been out of the southeast earlier which led him to believe the vessel might have drifted to a different area in the northwest portion of the lake.

Warden Butler located the disabled vessel at about 1:55 a.m. All occupants advised they were OK, but cold with one child shivering uncontrollably. Both the State Police and the Mrs. Carrasco were updated with the situation. The vessel and occupants were towed off the lake to the Kämpersville dock. Medical treatment was refused, and the occupants advised that they were okay and would be able to warm up at the campsite.

Warden Butler's knowledge and experience operating a boat during darkness hours as well as his vast knowledge of Lake Dunmore aided in a safe rescue of the Carrasco family. ■

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Protect Grassland Birds by Mowing Later

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release



Bobolinks, meadowlarks, Savannah sparrows, and grasshopper sparrows enrich our summers with their songs, but some of these species are in decline due to the loss of appropriate grassland habitat.

Landowners can make a difference by altering the times of year they mow fields. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is encouraging landowners to help these beloved species by waiting a little longer to mow to give these birds a chance to complete their nesting season.

“People maintain fields and meadows in Vermont for a variety of reasons, from commercial hayfields and grazing pastures, to simple aesthetic beauty,” said Doug Morin, biologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife

Department. “Mowing is the most common way to maintain grasses, but if mowed early in the summer, grassland birds will lose their nests and chicks.”

Bobolinks build nests among the grasses and wildflowers of fields and meadows. When bobolinks are present, other grassland bird species such as Savannah sparrows and grasshopper sparrows, may also be nesting among the grasses. Deer fawns, wild turkey chicks, and other animals take refuge in the grass and are also at risk by mowing too early.

According to Morin, landowners who mow their fields for aesthetic reasons can maintain these fields and accommodate nesting birds simply by cutting later in the summer, preferably after August 15. ■



*VTF&W photo by John Hall
Landowners who have fields can help protect grassland birds such as bobolinks by delaying mowing until mid-August.*

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Fires are Prohibited at Fishing Access Areas

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

With the beginning of summer upon us and the increase in shore fishing, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department reminds people that open fires are prohibited at all Vermont fishing access areas and state wildlife management lands.

Open fires and their remnants, create unsafe areas for other anglers and boaters to use and enjoy. The remnants of these fires are also unhealthy for the animals and fish that live in the adjacent waters. Fish and Wildlife cleans up the toxic waste left by open fires on state lands annually at considerable expense.

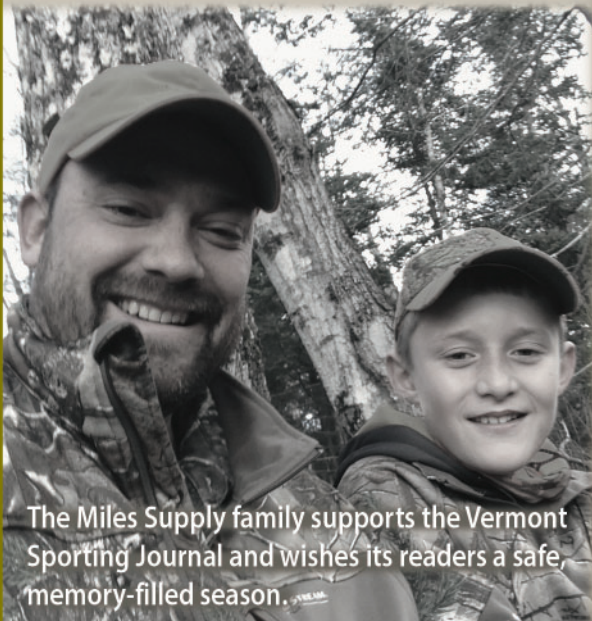
“Vermont State Game Wardens will be strictly enforcing the open fires and camping rules at state fishing access areas this summer,” said Lt. Keith Gallant. “Please help keep our lands clean and open for others to enjoy, and report violations to your local warden or use the anonymous Operation Game Thief hot line at

1-800-75ALERT. Reports of time-sensitive violations should be called in to a local State Police radio dispatcher who can contact a warden.”



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Wildlife Course for Educators Still Has a Few Openings

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department still has a few openings in our July 11-16 Fish and Wildlife summer course for teachers and other educators.

Now in its 36th year, "Wildlife Management and Outdoor Education Techniques for Educators," is a one-week, three-credit graduate course taught by Vermont Fish and Wildlife and other Agency of Natural Resources staff through Castleton University.

"This interactive field course gets educators out into Vermont's streams, forests and wetlands with some of the state's leading natural resource experts at the Buck Lake Conservation Camp in Woodbury," said Fish and Wildlife's Education Manager Alison Thomas.

"Wildlife resources are important to all Vermonters in one way or another. If educators can get connected with the outdoors and in turn expose their students, then many of these students will be able to make informed

decisions about Vermont wildlife and their habitat needs."

"This course is unique in that it helps non-formal and pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers from any discipline -- math, language arts, physical education, or history -- improve their instructional strategies and make their lesson plans more relevant to their students."

"The course is hands-on and continues to evolve and incorporate new environmental education ideas and activities, but we also continue to do traditional programs that have been part of the week for more than three decades. It is a great mix of new and old with all of it being incredibly helpful and memorable. We believe



during these difficult times, it is important now more than ever that we foster personal relationships with the natural world, habitat and wildlife and encourage an individual's connection with the outdoors."

Tuition is \$650 for the course. Books, food, and overnight facilities are included. A limited number of partial scholarships are available. Increased personal safety and sanitation measures will be in place to ensure the health and safety of all participants and staff.

A course description, schedule of activities and registration information are available on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/249>. If you have questions, you can email Alison.Thomas@vermont.gov

Buck Lake Conservation Camp is located east of Route 14, north of Woodbury Village. ■



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Fawns are Arriving; Leave Them Alone Urges F&W

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says deer fawns are being born this time of year and asks that people avoid disturbing or picking them up.

Most deer fawns are born in late May and the first and second weeks of June, according to Vermont deer biologist Nick Fortin.

Fortin says it is best to keep your distance because the fawn's mother is almost always nearby. When people see a small fawn alone, they often mistakenly assume it is helpless, lost or needing to be rescued.

Fawns do not attempt to evade predators during their first few weeks, instead relying on camouflage and stillness to remain undetected. Dur-

ing these times, fawns learn critical survival skills from their mothers. Bringing a fawn into a human environment results in separation from its mother, and it usually results in a sad ending for the animal.

Fortin encourages people to resist the urge to assist wildlife in ways that may be harmful, and he offered these tips:

Deer nurse their young at different times during the day and often leave their young alone for long periods of time. These animals are not lost. Their mother knows where they are and will return.

Deer normally will not feed or care for their young when people are close by.

Deer fawns will imprint on humans and lose their natural fear of people, which can be essential to their survival.

Keep domestic pets under control at all times. Dogs often will kill fawns and other baby animals.

For the safety of all wildlife, taking a wild animal into captivity is illegal in Vermont.

"It's in the best interest of Vermonters and the wildlife that live here, for all of us to maintain a respectful distance and help keep wildlife wild," added Fortin. ■

Fawns are being born now and should be left alone. Their mothers are almost always nearby, according to Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

How to Plant With Success

After you have received your soil test back from the State of VT. UVM Extension make sure you understand what is needed for lime and fertilizer. If you have questions they can be contacted or if you are using More Wildlife seeds we will figure everything out for you.

Step one is weed-kill mid-May and then wait 7-10 days before moving to the next step.

Step two apply your lime as required from your test. Example: If it calls for 3 tons/acre and your plot is .500 (1/2 acre) and you are using 40# bags. $.500 \times 50 = 25 = 1 \text{ ton/acre} \times 3 = 75$ 40# bags of lime. The reason we use 50 is there are 50 40# bags of lime/

ton. Always incorporate your lime for best results.

Step three disc or till your plot and then drag with an ATV harrow drag. Step four really depends on the seed you are using and soil conditions. If it's a small seed or your soil is real dry and fluffy I would roll before applying seed and fertilizer. Some seed like Buckwheat, Soy Beans, Sugar Beets, and Winter Peas and Radish like to be planted deeper so you will actually drag the seed and fertilizer into the dirt lightly. For this example we are going to use Clover so roll, apply seed and fertilizer per soil test recommendations, and roll.

Step five for clover after it reaches 4-6" I would most likely apply 0/0/60

(Potash) @ 200#/acre as a finishing fertilizer. For this example it would be 2 50# bags of 0/0/60. $.500 \times 200 = 100\#$

Every seed and every location is different so keep in mind always soil test using UVM Extension. You could have two plots 100 yards apart and they most likely won't take the same fertilizer because of what has been planted there before, what you are planting now, or what has been applied in the past for lime and fertilizer.

Check out our website @ www.more-wildlife.net or email us @ morewildlife@hotmail.com

Happy planting!!! ■

Multi-Month Fish & Wildlife Investigation Leads to Seven Arrests in Rockingham Area

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

On December 5, 2020, the Vermont Warden Service began a multi-month investigation into illegal deer hunting in Rockingham and surrounding towns that would lead to seven arrests. Throughout the course of the investigation Wardens discovered that Christopher Brough Sr., 51, of Rockingham shot and killed five deer in 2020 while his rights to hunt, fish and trap in the State of Vermont were suspended for prior Fish and Wildlife convictions. These deer were ultimately reported at Vermont Big Game Reporting Stations by his adult children.

Christopher Brough Sr. was charged with 34 misdemeanors in both Windham and Windsor Counties. On May 11, 2021, Christopher Brough Sr. pleaded not guilty to 16 misdemeanors at the Windham Superior Court, Criminal division. These charges included two counts of hunting under revocation, four counts of possession of an illegal big game animal, one count of failure to tag a big game animal, one count of taking deer in excess of the annual limit, three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and three counts of false information to law enforcement authorities.

On May 25, 2021, Christopher Brough Sr. pleaded not guilty to 18 misdemeanors at the Windsor Superior Court, Criminal Division. These charges included three counts of hunting under revocation, one count of failure to tag a big game animal, three counts of possession of an illegal big game animal, three counts of shooting from a motor vehicle/public highway, two counts of taking deer in

excess of the annual limit, one count of failure to report a big game animal, one count of taking big game by illegal means, one count of taking big game outside of the legal day, and three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Dominique Brough, 29, of Rockingham pleaded guilty to aiding in hunting under revocation and false information to law enforcement authorities at the Windham Superior Court, Criminal Division on May 11, 2021. She was fined over \$1,000. On May 25, 2021, she pleaded not guilty to possession of an illegal big game animal at Windsor Superior Court Criminal Division.

Stephan Brough, 32, of Chester pleaded guilty to one count of possession of an illegal big game animal on May 11, 2021 at the Windham Superior Court Criminal Division and was fined over \$600.

Christopher Brough Jr., 27, of Hartland pleaded not guilty to two counts of possession of an illegal big game


animal on May 25, 2021 at the Windsor Superior Court Criminal Division. Shaun Richardson, 40, from Chester pleaded guilty to hunting under revocation, false information to law enforcement authorities, and prohibited persons possessing firearms on May 25, 2021 at the Windham Superior Court Criminal Division and was fined over \$1,300.

Diana Brough, 51, of Rockingham is due in court on July 7, 2021 at the Windham Superior Court Criminal Division to answer to the charge of aiding in possession of an illegal big game animal.

A juvenile was also charged.

As a result of this investigation three antlered deer mounts were seized from a taxidermy shop in New Hampshire with the assistance of New Hampshire Fish and Game.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife would like to remind the public that all suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. ■




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LITTLE FISH BIG BITE

by Ken Jones



When I was a boy, summers meant riding my bicycle around the southwestern part of Rutland VT. Exploring the many fishing holes in the Moon Brook and Otter creek.

But there were a few days when dad would mention the words fish fry. When I heard this I was excited for the adventure to come.

He and a few of his buddies had this trout ritual they would do two or three times a summer. We would head to a stream in Ripton VT that I was so young that I have no idea where it is today. Upon arrival, dad would be left at the vehicles where he would set up a couple tables and would get the Coleman stove out and the cast iron skillet and begin frying bacon.

While dad was setting up household, the guys and I would split up and move on the stream like an enemy encampment. Many of the other guys being older and better at rod management would run eight foot fly rods because they could simply reach holes on the opposite side of the brook. For me, it was more of a sneak attack. Creeping up on holes, being careful not to cast a shadow. Tossing a size eight hook with no weight and a trout worm on above the hole and letting it drift into the danger zone. The sudden “thump thump” and the stopping of the line. Or the sudden race of the line against the current as the attack on the bait was ferocious!!!

Then the hook set. Not the slam it and feel like you hung on a wall and a huge fight resumed. No, this was more of a lift and swing the tiny brookies to the bank because many times he was too small to hook. These fish averaged the size of your pocket knife but the bite was much bigger. As a boy it seemed like we fished the day away but in reality in a couple hours we would all have a limit of these mini brutes.

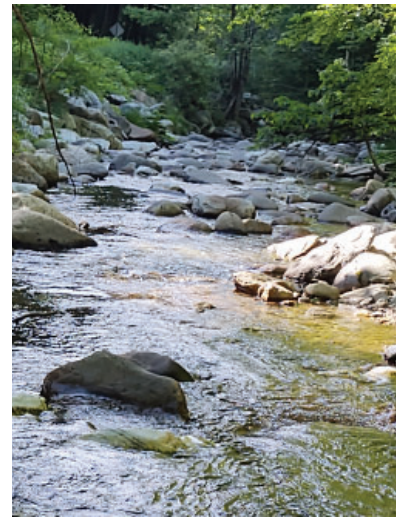
Now the real reason for targeting such small fish. Everyone would clean up their catch and return to the vehicles and the picnic area. Dad would have a few pounds of bacon cooked off by the time we returned.

He would fire the stove back up and begin to create the days delicacy. The tiny brookies would be rolled in yellow corn meal and fried in the bacon grease. After that, a burger bun some horse radish mayo and a few slabs of bacon and lunch was on!!!! Various side dishes like salads and chips rounded out the meal and someone’s wife had made some berry cobbler for desert.

The back roads of VT are full of little brooks teaming with tiny brookies waiting to test your sneakiness and skills. Recently I picked up a fish pole for the first time in years. I didn’t go for any big trophy fish. I packed up the corn meal and cast iron skillet and took a little trip down memory lane. Dad and all of his buddies are gone now but when I was walking back to the truck with a few brookies. I imagined when I got there, dad would have the bacon grease ready and I kinda skipped back. Like I did when I was 8.

Every once in a while, do something you did when you were 8. The memories, the feelings flooding back, and the picnic lunch are all good for the soul.

So, until next time, be safe, have fun and shoot em up!!!!



June Longbeard, Finally!!

By Brett Ladeau

As you have probably figured out by now, I have an obsession for turkey hunting. This article is oddly enough also about turkey hunting.

I have hunted Maine since 2013 with great success in the early season. However, since 2016 I have dedicated my Maine hunt to the last 3 days of their season, which runs through the first Saturday June, in an attempt to get a June longbeard, and to extend my turkey season by at least a few days. While I have shot a few birds in June the longbeard has proven to be elusive for me. Over the years I have hunted from just west of Bangor all the way south to the New Hampshire border and many points in between. I have worked a few June longbeards but could never seal the deal.

I have tried to hunt them on my own but have also had assistance from Stu Bristol and other friends that live in Maine, but it just never came together. This spring I met a friend from Virginia in Maine and hunted with Aaron Lane from Rugged Country Guide Service. Aaron has donated a few turkey hunts to my NWTF banquet so I decided I should pay him back and use his local knowledge to assist in finding a bird or two to hunt. His brother-in-law, Hunter was our guide. Maine allows all day turkey hunting in the spring. The morning started out slow with no gobbles on the roost. We managed to work a few birds later in the morning but the longbeards were still elusive. Around 2PM we decided to head back to camp grab lunch and a nap. We met Hunter again around 5 to get out for the afternoon hunt. On the way to our hunting spot we saw a flock of birds in a freshly

plowed field. We watched them from a distance and determined it looked like a flock of jakes and maybe a hen or two, so we moved on. However, a gut feeling made us turn back around and take a better look. Sure enough, on second observation there was a longbeard in the flock. After a quick move to the edge of the field I was able to pop a decoy up and once the gobbler saw it, he came into range. I had a stressful few seconds because just as I saw the longbeard the rest of the flock started getting nervous and alarm putting. Fortunately for me, the longbeard was within range. I put the Swampfox red dot on his neck and gently squeezed the trigger of my Mossberg SA-20 gauge and I finally had my first June longbeard.



Finally, my goal of a June longbeard could be checked off my “to do” list. I proudly put my tag on the bird and took several pictures to wrap up my 2021 season. We ended up with 4 birds on the day and happy to put tags on all of them.

I now have a long-term goal to try to

shoot a turkey in every month that legally allows turkey hunting. According to my research, you can hunt at least one day in July and all of August in Florida. September hunting is allowed in many states, including Maine and New Hampshire, and winter hunts are offered in many western states. I have no immediate plan to put a lot of these hunts on my schedule but knowing it’s possible to hunt turkey all 12 months of the year definitely gives me something to think and dream about now that we have officially entered the off season.

Pretty sure I slept for almost a solid week after my Maine hunt and now that I am caught up on sleep, I am starting my plans for 2022. Dreaming of a Northwestern swing through Oregon, Washington and Idaho in mid-April, and maybe a Minnesota, and Wisconsin swing later in the spring, but you never know how plans will develop and change as we get closer to spring. Some of my plans will revolve around my traveling partners plans and schedule as well. I keep putting off an attempt at a single season grand slam and don’t think I can do it next year either, but I am strongly leaning towards trying it in 2023.

I am not sure I can top the 2021 turkey season, but I am sure going to have fun trying in 2022 and beyond. Please consider join the National Wild Turkey Federation (nwtf) if you are not already a member. It’s one of the greatest conservation organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the hunting heritage and outdoor lifestyle.

Check them out at www.nwtf.org ■

Protect Nesting Loons and Loon Chicks

Enjoy loons from a safe distance

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

Few birding experiences rival hearing the haunting call of the loon or seeing them glide by in protected coves on a lake. However, for the birds' protection, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is asking boaters and anglers to enjoy loons from a safe distance this summer.

"Loons were removed from Vermont's endangered species list in 2005, but two threats loons face are human disturbance during the breeding season and ingestion of fishing gear," said Doug Morin, wildlife biologist with Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

"Although most areas where loons are nesting on Vermont's lakes are surrounded by signs reminding people to give loons the space they need, not all nesting areas are marked. We're asking people to view loons using binoculars rather than from up close, whether they are in a boat, a canoe or a kayak."

Morin also reminds people to avoid lead fishing tackle. Two loons died from lead fishing gear ingestion in 2019. Loons sometimes swallow stray fishing tackle and suffer the effects of lead poisoning. Lead sinkers weighing one-half ounce or less are illegal in Vermont. Morin also recommends anglers to be careful to not attract loons to their bait and lures, and especially do not leave any fishing line behind as it can kill loons.

Eric Hanson oversees the Loon Conservation Project for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies in partnership with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. He and his colleagues monitor Vermont's loon population and have put out game cameras around loon nests to monitor the behavior of people around them. Hanson says most people are respectful of nesting loons and give them space, but people sometimes inadvertently harm loons without meaning to.

"Loon chicks can be difficult to see, so we ask motorboaters to note where loon families are and to avoid those areas," said Hanson. "We also ask that motorboaters obey 'no wake' laws within 200 feet of shorelines because boat

wakes can flood and destroy shoreline loon nests."

As Vermont's loon population continues to increase and canoeing and kayaking continues to become more popular, there is greater potential for people to come into conflict with loons. Hanson reminds boaters to avoid pursuing loons in a canoe or kayak, especially loons with young.

"Occasionally a loon will be curious and approach people and if that happens, just enjoy it," said Hanson. "However, loons that are constantly swimming away from you are stressed and may abandon their young if they feel they are in danger."



*VTF&W photo by Mitch Moraski
Loons nesting along lake shorelines are susceptible to human disturbance, and their nests can be flooded and destroyed by motorboat wakes.*

Hanson also urges shoreline property owners to maintain appropriate habitat for loons, including a forested area along shorelines where loons can nest. Having shrubs and trees instead of lawns along shorelines also improves water quality which is essential for healthy lakes and loons.

Volunteers interested in monitoring loons for the Loon Conservation Project should contact Hanson at ehanson@vtecostudies.org. Volunteers can monitor lakes all summer long with a focus on lakes with loon pairs and nesting. Some adopt-a-lake sites that need volunteers (listed from north to south) are Great Averill Lake, Little Averill Lake, Island Pond, Maidstone Lake, Jobs Pond, Center Pond, Salem Lake, Lake Memphremagog, Clyde Pond, South Bay, May Pond, Hardwick Lake, Nelson Pond, Stiles Pond, Moore Reservoir, Comerford Reservoir, Keiser Pond, Ewell Pond, Peacham Pond, Osmore Pond, Kent Pond, Lake Rescue, Lake Hortonia, Lake Bomoseen, Lake St. Catherine, Gale Meadows Pond, and Harriman Reservoir.

Volunteers can also survey one or two lakes on Loonwatch Day, being held on July 18 this year, between 8 and 9 a.m. The goal is to survey all lakes greater than 20 acres at the same time, which provides a population count and checks on small lakes that are surveyed less often during the rest of year. ■

Vermont Moose Hunt Application Deadline, June 30

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The deadline to apply for a 2021 Vermont moose hunting permit is June 30.

[Moose permit applications](#) are available on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website www.vtfishandwildlife.com for the hunt limited to Vermont's Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) E in the northeastern corner of the state.

"Moose density in WMU E is more than one moose per square mile, significantly higher than any other part of the state," said Nick Fortin, Vermont Fish and Wildlife's biologist in charge of the moose project. "Moose densities greater than one per square mile support high numbers of winter ticks which negatively impact moose health and survival."

The Fish and Wildlife Department partnered with University of Vermont

researchers to conduct a study of moose health and survival in WMU E. The results of this study, in which 126 moose (36 cows, 90 calves) were fitted with GPS tracking collars, clearly showed that chronic high winter tick loads have caused the health of moose in that part of the state to be very poor. Survival of adult moose remained relatively good, but birth rates were very low and less than half of the calves survived their first winter.

"Research has shown that lower moose densities, like in the rest of Vermont, support relatively few winter ticks that do not impact moose populations," said Fortin. "Reducing moose density decreases the number of available hosts which in turn decreases the number of winter ticks on the landscape. The goal is to improve the health of moose in WMU E by reducing the impact of winter ticks."

The department will issue 60 either-sex moose hunting permits and 40 antlerless moose hunting permits available this year for a hunt limited to Vermont's Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) E in the northeastern corner of the state. The science-based hunt will result in an estimated harvest of 51 to 66 moose, or 5 percent of the more than 1,000 moose currently estimated to live in WMU E.

Lottery applications for hunting permits are \$10 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents. Winners of the permit lottery will purchase resident hunting permits for \$100 and nonresident hunting permits for \$350.

Hunters who held a permit within the past five years are not eligible to apply for a permit or to buy a bonus point. Also, although a "bonus point freeze" was in place for the 2018 and 2019 moose seasons, due to limited or no moose permits being available for those years, that is no longer in place and applicants must continue to annually submit a moose permit application if they wish to retain their past bonus points.

By law, five permits will be available to Vermont military veterans, three permits will be auctioned in accordance with regulations, and up to three permits will be available for "Special Opportunity" recipients with life-threatening illnesses.

A drawing for permit winners is scheduled for August 4. ■







GAME CLUB TRADITION
JUNE



Legislative Update with Evan Hughes

The folks who would restrict outdoor sports out of existence have long, incorrectly, alleged that the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department mismanages the wildlife resources of Vermont and that they do so under the control of a Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board. They also assert the Board is staffed with a group of irresponsible outdoor sports men and women. These allegations are all quite inaccurate.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department uses a science driven method in the department's management criteria. The Fish & Wildlife Board adopts fishing and hunting regulations in warned public meetings and invites the public to watch and participate. Any regulations the Board adopts are subject to review by legislators serving on the Legislative Committee for Administrative Rules (LCAR). LCAR hearings are also warned and open to viewing by the public.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board just held its June meeting. The Board heard petition's to introduce restrictions to outdoor recreational activities. The F&W Department personnel provided an excellent presentation. Mark Scott started for the F&W folks in a presentation was very well done and provided established data to explain the Department's management of Vermont's wildlife.

The Mark Scott started the department's presentation at 1:04:00 in this video. The video is quite informative and well worth watching: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_cAmg5a2VU&t=6038s

Those who oppose hunting and fishing are quite vocal with their elected officials. Many of our legislators usually hear only from people opposed to hunting and fishing. Our folks need to speak with their legislators. Our folks need to vote. So Speak to your legislators and Vote or else we won't get the results we want and need from politicians elected by our opponents.

Encourage your friends and relatives to vote. You get the government you earn.

All around the nation, America's cities have suffered a large surge in violent crime. We see news reports of young repeat offenders without warning punching older women in the face arson, looting, robbery, assaults, sexual assault,

aggravated assaults, and murders that are all happening in vastly increased numbers.

Vermont has long been one of the lowest violent crime rate states in the nation, as are Maine and New Hampshire. All three states have very similar criminal laws governing firearms. These laws work as proven by the cited violent crime rate data from annual FBI crime statistics reports. If the Vermont legislature continues forward in its campaign to have more restrictive laws making gun ownership more expensive and difficult - violent crime will certainly increase.

On June 29, 2015, Veronica Lewis attempted to murder Darryl Montague, who was her firearms instructor, during an instruction session at the range at his home in Westford. She viciously shot him twice in the face and once in the abdomen and fled to avoid apprehension and prosecution. She even brought a hammer to use her planned attack to murder Darryl Montague.

Darryl Montague grew up in Vermont. Since his youth he has seriously participated in competitive shotgun matches. His father was Harry Montague, who was long involved in protecting gun the rights of outdoor sports men and women. Darryl and his mother Annie joined in this important work. Darryl grew up working the Federation tables at shows and fairs all over the state. Darryl was serving as the Secretary of the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs at the time of the attack.

On May 28, the Federal sentencing hearing for Veronica Lewis, who shot Darryl Montague in Westford, VT on June 29, 2015, was held in the Federal District Court in Burlington, VT.

Veronica Lewis participated remotely during the ZOOM broadcast. Federal court proceedings do not allow for providing recording of their proceedings.

The defendant was charged with two Federal crimes: the use and discharge of a firearm during the commission of a robbery, and being in possession of a stolen firearm. The judge accepted the plea agreement between the Office of the U.S. Attorney and defense counsel. The sentence agreement complied with the federal sentencing guidelines.

The State had jurisdiction for the charge of Attempted Second Degree Murder. Vermont law sets the minimum sentence for conviction of Attempt Second Degree Murder at 20 years.

Veronica Lewis shot Darryl in a planned murderous attack. She left him to die and fled the area. Darryl's mother found him. Lewis shot Darryl twice in the face and in the upper body. She had also brought a hammer to use in her planned killing attack.

Darryl Montague and his mother Ann testified in person, in the court room. Veronica Lewis testified remotely.

Ann Montague is now 90 years and she testified first. She related how she had gone outside to tell Veronica Lewis and Darryl Montague that the lunch she had made for them was ready. Instead, she saw Darryl struggling from the gun shot wounds....

Ann tried to render aid to Darryl. A neighbor stopped and called for first responders. Ann related Veronica Lewis was gone, as Ann tended to her severely wounded son. Ann said that after Darryl was rushed away by medical first responders, she realized her clothing was soaked in his blood. She changed her clothing and got a ride to the ER.

Ann related the trauma of dealing with Darryl's life threatening wounds and his extensive medical journey. She related how Darryl was in a comma for an extended period of time and was long in danger of not surviving his bullet wounds.

Anne also testified Veronica Lewis shot Darryl just several weeks after his father, Harry Montague, had passed away. Harry and Ann had been married for 55 years.

Darryl Montague testified, speaking for a substantial period of time about the intentional and planned murderous attack by Veronica Lewis. He spoke of the devastating wounds he sustained, and he described how his life had changed since the shooting.

He listed some numbers at the beginning of his testimony. He filled in the meaning of those numbers at the conclusion of his victim's statement.

He cited the 7 photographs of his gunshot wounds. One photo of the two gunshots to his face and one photograph of the gunshot wound to his abdomen.

Darryl stated 334 was the number of days he was hospitalized for the gunshot wounds from the attack of Ms. Lewis.

18 months was the length of time of the open wound for his abdomen gun shot wound.

1/4 of an inch was the distance of which the gunshot wounds to his face would have been fatal.

3/16 of an inch was how close the gunshot to abdomen came to his spine, which would have paralyzed him.

3 was the number of rounds Veronica Lewis had shot him.

3 feet was the distance from which his vicious attacker had shot him.

5 was the number of minutes he had been from dying because the emergency medical personnel transporting him would exhausted their medial supplies.

47 was the pinks of blood used to keep him alive, the human body typically has 8-9 pints of blood.

Darryl related he is blind in one eye.

Darryl related he is deaf in one ear.

He has a very difficult issue with lack of balance

He has suffers from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Darryl Montague related the terrible changes in his life since that awful day of June 29, 2015 that Veronica Lewis, a person he was trying to help, viciously attempted to murder him and fled to avoid apprehension and prosecution.

Veronica Lewis will be sentenced to 72 months for the two Federal crimes for which she appeared in the Federal sentencing hearing.

Veronica Lewis has a long history of criminal and violent actions and she deserves the most severe sentences to which the criminal justice system has the ability to impose upon her. The public has reason to always fear her.

On June 1, the State of Vermont held a sentencing hearing for Veronica Lewis. She was charged with Attempted Second Degree Murder, which carries a sentence of 20 years to life imprisonment. Remember, she brought a hammer with her that day to use in her planned deadly assault on Darryl.

To view the plea of guilt and the sentencing for the State of Vermont charge of Attempted Second Degree Murder click on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGrKXxduUmE>

The State proceeding started at approximately 9:45 AM and ended at 12:15 PM. There was a period of recess in the hearing.

During the hearing it was not possible to view Darryl Montague's mother, Annie, during her victim's testimony. Remember Annie, is 90 years of age, was present as a victim aide read her statement, which was virtually the same as was entered in the Federal sentencing last Friday. You can view her testimony on the video of the sentencing hearing.

Darryl Montague, though visible at some points in his testimony, was not visible for much of his testimony. His testimony was essentially the same as given last Friday. You can witness his incredibly dramatic testimony in the video of the sentencing hearing.

Veronica Lewis was sentenced to 20 years to life, with all but 10 years suspended. She will have 40 years of probation. She will serve her State sentence in concurrence (both at the same time) with her Federal sentence, which means she could be eligible for release from Federal and State incarceration in about 6 years. She could have been sentenced to serve the Federal and State sentence consecutively (one following the other) if the State of Vermont were willing to take her to trial.

If she were to commit another planned, violent attack she could have her probation revoked. But, that result in be new victim(s) of Veronica Lewis and she might well begin another long and expensive journey through the prosecution process for any new attacks.

Within 90 days there should be a restitution hearing to take up the matter of Veronica Lewis reimbursing the massive medical and other bills of Darryl Montague and his loss of income.

Violent crimes increase when the public and its government officials do not deal with convicted violent felons in a serious manner. We must stand together to support all in our ranks. This solidarity is very important to the continued existence of our rights and interests.

The folks in our ranks need to vote and encourage others to vote. The rights and interests of no group of citizens survives by our folks sitting out involvement in elections.

S.30 as it passed the Senate:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0030/S-0030%20As%20passed%20by%20the%20Senate%20Official.pdf>

H.167 as introduced to create Environmental Stewardship Board:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0167/H-0167%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

H.172, as introduced for bans trapping and hunting bears with dogs

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0172/H-0172%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

H.316, as introduced. would end bear hunting with dogs

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0316/H-0316%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

H.411, as introduced «An act relating to the retrieval and disposal of wild animals.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/H-0411/H-0411%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

S.129, as introduced: VT F&W Board stripped of hunting & fishing rule making.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/BILLS/S-0129/S-0129%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

The Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs tracks legislation that are our interests in the state house. To view these bills just click on:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/csbvtfsc/pages/1/attachments/original/1618527817/2021-22_legislation.pdf?1618527817 ■

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge

JUNIOR WATERFOWL HUNTER TRAINING PROGRAM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021

(8:00am – 4:30pm)
Sportsman's Club of Franklin County

The Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge Junior Waterfowl Hunter Training Program is being offered to young hunters who want to learn more about the sport of waterfowl hunting and experience a high quality waterfowl hunt. The program is offered to youngsters 12 to 17 years of age who have an adult waterfowl hunter to serve as a mentor.

The Junior Waterfowl Hunter Training Program is a joint educational effort of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, the Sportsman's Club of Franklin County and volunteers to teach young hunters about waterfowl hunting. The program focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary to become responsible, respected individuals who strive to learn all they can about waterfowl and to become knowledgeable in firearms safety, hunter ethics and wildlife conservation.

Mentors and youths who would like to participate in this year's program must pre-register with the Refuge by Friday, August 6. Participation in the program will be limited to 30 enrollees.



All mentors and young hunters must attend the one-day training session on Saturday, August 21, with instruction beginning at 8:00 AM at the Franklin County Sportsman's

Club on Route 36 (Maquam Shore Road) in St. Albans. The training session will be held rain or shine, so participants should dress appropriately. All youth participants should bring the shotgun they intend to use for hunting to the training for a patterning session.

Junior Hunters and their mentors, once they complete the training, are awarded exclusive use of several premier hunting areas at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge for the first four weekends of the waterfowl hunting season. Juniors are only permitted to shoot for the first two weekends, mentors will be permitted to shoot alongside their juniors the last two weekends of the junior hunt. Blind sites and hunting dates for the Jr. Hunters are determined by a lottery conducted at the annual training session.

To register for this year's program, call refuge headquarters at 802-868-4781. Please include the mentor's name and youth's name and age, address and telephone number.

The mission of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov ■




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Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer Permits Are Still Available

VT F&W -Press Release



Vermont's muzzleloader season [antlerless deer permit applications](#) are still available online at Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website and from license agents for a while longer.

Hunting for antlerless deer will be allowed statewide during the archery season. One deer of either sex will be allowed during the October 23-24 youth and novice weekend hunt.

The muzzleloader seasons on October 28-31 and December 4-12 will have antlerless permits available for 19 of

Vermont's 21 Wildlife Management Units.

Landowners who post their land may not apply for a landowner priority muzzleloader antlerless deer permit. They are eligible to apply in the regular lottery for an antlerless deer permit.

"Yearling antler beam diameters, fawn weights and other physical condition measures are declining or are below optimal levels in many areas, indicating that deer have exceeded

the level their habitat can support long-term," said Nick Fortin, Fish and Wildlife's deer project leader. "No population growth is expected in 2021, however, deer populations in 7 WMUs will be above their respective population objectives. The goal is to reduce deer populations in those areas while stabilizing populations in other areas."

The deadline to apply for a muzzleloader antlerless deer permit is August 4. ■

Wardens Arrest Middlebury Man on Multiple Charges

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

Vermont State Game Wardens executed a search warrant in Middlebury on May 14 for evidence of turkey and deer being illegally possessed, firearms illegally possessed, and evidence of stolen property.

Wardens recovered 10 illegally possessed firearms, several packages of deer meat, turkey meat, turkey mounts and several tree stands that may have been connected to thefts from private property. A follow up search of a vehicle yielded two more illegally possessed firearms as well drug paraphernalia and suspected methamphetamine.

Kyle Tetreault, 30, of Middlebury was taken into custody during the execution of the search warrant and transported to the New Haven State Police barracks. Tetreault was then transported to the Northwest Correctional Center and lodged under a \$5,000 bond. He is due in Addison County Superior Court on May 17 to answer to the charges of Possession of Illegal Big Game, Failure to Report Big Game, Petit Larceny, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Felon in Possession of Firearms.

Wardens were assisted by The ATF (Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms), Vermont State Police and Middlebury PD. ■

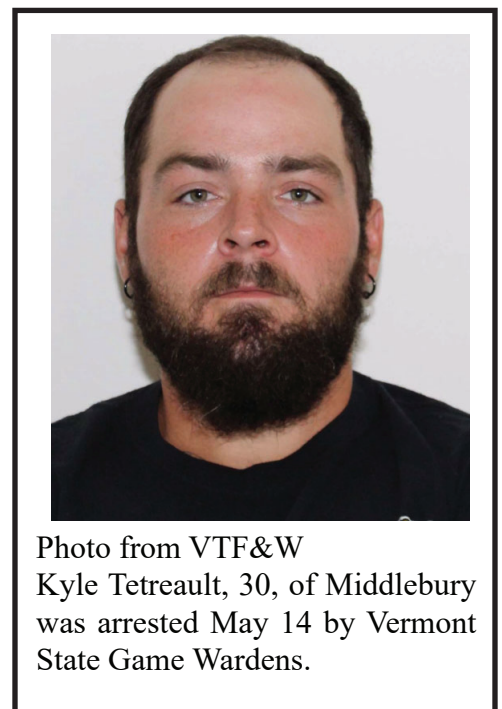


Photo from VTF&W
Kyle Tetreault, 30, of Middlebury was arrested May 14 by Vermont State Game Wardens.

Turtles Must be Left in the Wild

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says keeping native turtles as pets is prohibited because it can harm the turtle and pose threats to wild turtle populations.

“Capturing a wild turtle and keeping it as a pet, even if only for a short time, is not only bad for that individual turtle but it could be detrimental to the entire turtle population as well,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff. “Releasing captured turtles back into the wild could introduce wildlife diseases into the population or disrupt population genetics if released into a new population. Adult turtles usually have well-defined home ranges, so releasing a turtle in unfamiliar habitat may result in its slow death since it won’t know where to find food or take shelter.”



*VTF&W Photo by Luke Groff
Bringing home a native Vermont wild turtle to keep as a pet is illegal because it can be harmful for the individual animal and local turtle populations.*

“Turtles are slow to develop, especially those living at northern latitudes where the growing season is short. Many of Vermont’s turtle species do not reproduce until they are at least 10 years of age. Older, sexually mature females are critically important to the long-term persistence of some Vermont turtle populations. The loss of even a couple mature females from a population may have serious consequences.”

Some common species you are likely to see include the Painted Turtle, Snapping Turtle, and Northern Map Turtle. The Wood Turtle, Spotted Turtle, and Spiny Softshell are rare in Vermont, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department urges you to report sightings of these species. If you see some of Vermont’s native turtles in the wild, feel free to take a photo home with you, but leave the turtles in the wild.

For more information on Vermont’s native turtle species, visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com or contact Vermont Fish and Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff at Luke.Groff@vermont.gov. ■

Pollinators in Peril

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release



Many of Vermont's pollinator species are in peril, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department would like to share a few simple suggestions to greatly benefit our essential pollinator species.

"The majority of our flowering plants need pollinators in order to produce seeds," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department zoologist Mark Ferguson. "Vermont is home to hundreds of species of pollinators from bees to butterflies to beetles and other bugs that play a vital role in pollinating our flowers, trees and food crops. These insects are responsible for pollinating 60 to 80 percent of Vermont's wild plants and play a critical role in the propagation of fruits and vegetables in gardens, wild berry patches, commercial berry farms, and apple orchards."

But many pollinator species in Vermont are in trouble. Habitat loss, invasive species, single-crop farming, disease, and pesticides are a few of the threats affecting populations of these insects across our state. Vermont's native bees, including over 300 unique species and three that are threatened or endangered, are among our pollinators being impacted the most.

A recent examination of our 17 different bumble bees compared recent observations with historical collections and concluded that several species have drastically declined or disappeared from Vermont, including the Rusty-patched Bumble Bee.

To better understand not only the number and diversity of our native bee species, but also their distribution and population trends, the department and partners are conducting a three-year study of Vermont bees. Vermont Fish and Wildlife is working closely with the Vermont Center

for Ecological Studies (VCE) and is inviting any members of the public interested in contributing to this data collection to send their bee observations to iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>).

Vermonters can also help conserve our native bees and other pollinators with a few simple household considerations:

Provide a variety of vibrant flowers and native plants to attract pollinators to your yard and garden.

Learn to live with wildflowers and weeds growing in your yard and fields. Pollinators prefer a variety in their habitat, even if it looks untidy to humans.

Keep an eye out for bare patches of lawn where ground-nesting bees may make their home.

Use pesticide alternatives such as pollinator-friendly barriers to keep unwanted pests off your plants.

Avoid using insecticides (especially those that contain neonicotinoids such as imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin).

Reduce the amount of property that is mowed, mow less often, and consider leaving fields un-mowed until October when most pollinators have finished their pollinating activities.

Meadows that are narrow in shape or less than 10 acres in size are not suitable to provide habitat for grassland birds, but they can be extremely valuable pollinator habitat. Consider leaving these small fields, and also large fields managed as grassland bird nesting habitat which are not needed for hay harvest in August or September, un-mowed until October when most pollinators have finished their pollinating activities.

You can also ensure the viability of Vermont's pollinators by contributing to Vermont Fish and Wildlife's habitat conservation projects through the Vermont Habitat Stamp program: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/225>

To learn more about Vermont's pollinators and additional ways to help, please visit <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/191> or contact Mark.Ferguson@vermont.gov. ■



Vermont Turkey Brood Survey Starts July 1

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

Wild turkeys are found throughout most of Vermont, but their reproductive success is monitored annually by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department with help from “citizen scientists.” The department had an annual online survey for reporting turkey broods in August, but this year the survey will start July 1 and continue to the end of August.

If you see a flock of turkeys in Vermont during July and August, the department asks you to go to the turkey brood survey on its website (www.vt-fishandwildlife.com) and report your observations including where and when you observed the turkeys along with the number of adult and young turkeys, or poults.

“Information gathered from this survey helps us monitor long-term trends in the productivity of Vermont’s wild turkey population,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s wild turkey biologist Chris Bernier. “It also helps us assess the impacts of spring weather on the survival of poults and adult turkeys which is an important consideration in the management of turkeys.”

“We monitor and manage wild turkey numbers annually in order to maintain a healthy, abundant and sustainable population of these iconic and ecologically significant birds throughout the state,” added Bernier. “Beyond providing Vermonters with a local source of protein and an enduring connection to their environment, turkey hunting is the principal mechanism for managing Vermont’s turkey population. Please help us scientifically manage the turkey population by reporting your Vermont turkey sightings during August.”

“We are moving from an August-only survey to a July and August survey this year in order to bring our survey protocol into compliance with the regional protocol. One of the biggest benefits of this survey is being able to compare productivity trends across turkey range and the only way we can do this effectively is if all the Northeast states collect these data in the same way. ■

VTF&W photo by John Hall
Starting July 1, VT Fish & Wildlife is asking people who see wild turkey broods during the month to provide information about their sightings via a survey on the department’s website.

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Family, Friends, and Fishing

by Brad Roy

The changing seasons manifest differently to different people. For those who live their lives under LED lights in recirculated air, seasonality is often defined by a calendar or looming quarterly deadlines. However, for the cohort of us who define the seasons by the potential harvest and weather that dictates its abundance, seasonal changes are often marked by major outdoor “events”. Often these “events” are opening days for various fish and game species; but sometimes, these annual milestones are reached during predetermined gatherings and competitions. Like the first blossoms opening on a zucchini, nothing speaks to this author that summer has arrived quite like the L.C.I. Father’s Day Fishing Derby.

The L.C.I. Derby is a longstanding tradition for myself and many anglers from all over the region. We faithfully voyage out onto Lake Champlain every Father’s Day weekend for the chance to pit ourselves against the ranks in a three-day fishing competition. With a purse of prizes for almost every notable species in the Lake, the ability to fish as a team against other groups of anglers, and nightly raffles and weigh-station giveaways; the L.C.I. Derby is truly an all-inclusive package to welcome any angler into the summer season in Vermont.

My father and myself have been fishing this event for so long at this point, we can’t exactly remember when we started. Although our best estimates suggest we’ve enjoyed the derby for around 15 of its 40 years! Although the tackle, boats, rods, and electronics have changed dramatically since we made our first trip North from Central Vermont to fish the L.C.I. Derby, the main themes still remain:

Friends, Family, Fishing, and Fun. Every year brings unique weather and lake conditions, as well as new opportunities and prizes up for grabs; and every year as we strap the boat to the trailer for the haul home, we begin counting down until the next derby weekend.

We are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to fish from a friend’s camp, which allows quick and easy access to the water out the basement door. Over the years we’ve had numerous camp members place in the top 10 of certain categories, but just



The Author with a largemouth bass from the 2021 LCI Derby

as exciting for us is the small camp derby we run. A few bucks wagered from everyone fishing goes a long way to motivate us to not only fish for a derby fish, but also a fish to win the bragging rights at camp for the year.

Mid-June is also a phenomenal time to be out enjoying the varied habitat of Lake Champlain. With Thermoclines beginning to develop in the deeper areas, those who prefer to troll for lakers and fish deep for toothy walleyes have ample opportunity to test their luck. For the not-so-trolling inclined like ourselves, the shallow weedy bays often lend themselves to consistent catches of post-spawn Northern Pike, as well as aggressive Largemouth. On calm days, we will often make the voyage out further from camp to fish deeper structure in search of bronzeback smallmouth bass.

With a little luck, calm weather and early mornings bring exhilarating topwater action. Classic surface lures like Zara Spooks, Sammys, Gunfish, and propbaits can lead to explosive strikes from everything from Largemouth to Northern Pike. Then, after a long day baking in the sun on an open boat deck, few things will jolt you back to life quite like a 30+ inch northern hammering a topwater on a glass-like surface as the sky forms streaks of red behind a setting sun.

While the moon’s rays begin to shimmer on the lake after the longest day of the year, and sunburns begin to show through pale spring skin, a live minnow tossed on a stout pole in the shallows can often be a magnet for prehistoric giants as well... Just make sure you keep a close eye on your rod, as we’ve seen more than one pole dragged into the lake by an aggressive bowfin! One of the greatest parts about this derby is the ability to fish at any time of day or night, and have most any species you catch eligible for the Derby.

Fishing Access Areas Not Safe for Swimming

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department reminds the public not to swim at fishing access areas due to safety concerns. The primary use of the fishing access areas is for launching and retrieving motorboats.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department maintains 196 developed fishing access areas on lakes and rivers throughout the state. These areas have allowed uses determined by law, and swimming is not one of them.

The access areas were purchased and are maintained with funds derived from the sale of fishing licenses and motorboat registrations, as well as a federal excise tax on fishing equipment, fishing tackle, and gasoline for motorboats. These funding sources explicitly prohibit activities that are in conflict with fishing and boating.

Fish and Wildlife regulations prohibit certain uses of fishing access areas including, but not limited to -- swimming, littering, camping, picnicking, making a fire, parking of vehicles not related to priority uses, and commercial activity.

“It’s great that people want to get out in the water, but a boat ramp is not the right place to go swimming,” said Mike Wichrowski who oversees the Fishing Access Area Program. “There’s a reason motorboats aren’t allowed in swimming areas, and swimming isn’t allowed at fishing access areas -- it’s simply not safe.”

Vermont State Game Wardens often respond to incidents involving people swimming at fishing access areas. In some cases people, including children, are swimming right at the boat ramps while boats were being launched, risking injury or preventing the launching of boats.

“We understand that people want to go swimming, especially during hot weather, but we are urging folks to swim at locally approved swimming areas,” said Colonel Jason Batchelder. “Finding a safe swimming area is easy in most communities. Just ask at a general store or other place where people gather.”

The fine for swimming at an access area is \$162. ■

Nightly raffles and giveaways have always been a staple of the derby as well, although COVID has temporarily put them on hold the last two years. We look forward to heading to the weigh station at closing time for a chance at tons of sponsored giveaways and prizes, as well as a chance to unwind and shoot the breeze with other salty fisherman who spent the day outside as well. With a little luck, you may even bring some a planer board or some smelly jelly.

The LCI Derby is a weekend near and dear to many, and every year it seems to get better and better. I can attest that after 15 or so years, I am just now beginning to realize how little I know about the lake. I look forward to more opportunities to learn in the years to come. As a college student, I spent years devoting my studies to fisheries and wildlife biology, as well as a few working years doing the same after that. Despite being an avid fisherman for many years, I retain my “average” fisherman status with a badge of honor. Fishing to me is a great way to pass the time and relax, a challenge, and something I try diligently to not overthink. With professional bass series, along with many other local tournaments comes a level of competition that I personally am just not up for; which is why I love the LCI. It’s a “working man’s” derby for lack of a better term. An opportunity for anyone to toss their hat into the ring for a change to win some prizes and own the bragging rights for years to come. While some anglers may come with a competitive edge, pure and simple luck can often play a big role in who makes it to the top-ten list. It’s not the equipment or expertise that matters, but rather the slogan of the derby that reminds us what it’s all about, and that’s Family, Friends, and Fishing!■



Vermont's Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons Are Announced

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has announced the 2021-2022 migratory game bird hunting season dates and bag limits.

A printable copy of the [Migratory Bird Syllabus](#) can be downloaded from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) under "Hunt" – "Waterfowl." A printed version also will be available from [license agents](#) and post offices by late August.

A statewide Vermont open hunting season for resident Canada geese will occur September 1-25. The daily bag limit is five Canada geese in the Connecticut River Zone and eight in the rest of the state during this September season. The purpose of the September season is to help control Vermont's resident Canada goose population prior to the arrival of Canada geese migrating south from Canada.

A second Canada goose hunting season for resident and migrant geese will be held October 13-November 11 in the Lake Champlain and Interior Zones with a daily bag limit of one Canada goose in the Lake Champlain Zone and Interior Vermont Zone.

In the Connecticut River Zone, the second Canada goose season will be October 5-November 7 and November 24-December 19 with a daily bag limit of two Canada geese.

Duck season this fall opens on October 13 in the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones and on October 5 in the Connecticut River Zone. The Lake Champlain Zone has a split season (October 13-17 and October 30-December 23). The Interior Ver-

mont Zone has a straight season (October 13-December 11). The Connecticut River Zone has a split season (October 5-November 7 and November 24-December 19).

Scaup daily bag limits are a hybrid season this year. The first twenty days of the Lake Champlain (October 13-17 & October 30-November 13) and Interior (October 13-November 1) zones allow the harvest of two scaup daily. The remainder of the season you are allowed only one scaup daily. Within the Connecticut River Zone, you are allowed only one scaup daily for the entire season.

Vermont's youth waterfowl hunting weekend will be September 25 and 26. Resident and nonresident hunters 17 years of age or younger on those dates may hunt ducks and geese within the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones during this weekend while accompanied by an adult 18 or older. In the Connecticut River Zone, youth must be 15 years of age or younger on those dates. Both adult and youth must have Vermont hunting licenses. The adult may not hunt or carry a firearm. Youth ages 16 and 17 must have a Vermont Migratory Waterfowl tag and federal duck stamp.

Woodcock hunting season is September 25- November 8 statewide with a three-bird bag limit.

In addition to a hunting license, a waterfowl hunter 16 or older must carry a current federal duck stamp and Vermont Migratory Waterfowl tag to hunt waterfowl in Vermont. Federal stamps are sold at post offices, federal refuges, or online at www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/e-stamp.php.



Vermont 2021 migratory game bird hunting information can be downloaded from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) under "Hunt" – "Waterfowl."

[fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/e-stamp.php](http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/e-stamp.php). State Migratory Waterfowl tags are available on Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website and from license agents. The hunter must sign the federal duck stamp.

All migratory game bird (woodcock, ducks and geese) hunters must also be registered with the [Harvest Information Program \(H.I.P.\)](#) in each state they hunt. You can register on Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website or call toll-free 1-877-306-7091. After providing some basic information, you will receive your annual H.I.P. registration number, which is then recorded on your hunting license.

The hunting season dates, bag limits and related regulations for all migratory birds are set annually within a framework established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and in coordination with New York and New Hampshire.

Waterfowl season dates and bag limits are set in three zones: Lake Champlain, Interior Vermont, and Connecticut River. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department sets the season dates and bag limits for the Connecticut River Zone. ■