

# Vermont Sporting Journal

Volume V, Issue 8 \* September 2021



## Anjo Bonanno with his black bear



We return a portion of pre-tax profits as follows:  
2% Hunting and Fishing Education \* 2% Habitat Improvement \* 2% Preservation of the Second Amendment



# Tree Stand Safety Tips for Hunters

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

Tree stands get hunters out of sight and smell of wary deer, but they can also get hunters into trouble. Here are some tips from Vermont Fish and Wildlife to help stay safe and get the most out of your tree stand hunting experience:

- Choose a live, straight tree, and avoid ash that may be in decline due to emerald ash borers.
- Buy smart. Only use stands certified by the Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA).
- Inspect them each time you use them. Check your treestand for wear and tear each time you go out into the woods.
- Know the rules. On state lands, it is illegal to place nails or other hardware into trees or to build permanent structures. On private lands, you must have landowner permission to erect a tree stand, cut or remove trees or other plants, or to cut limbs. All stands, including ground blinds, must be marked with the owner's name and address.
- Always wear a full-body safety harness, even for climbing. Most falls occur going up and down the tree and getting in and out of the stand. Make sure your safety harness is in

good condition. Especially, check the straps.

- Don't go too high. The higher you go, the vital zone on a deer decreases, while the likelihood of a serious injury increases.
- Never carry firearms or bows up and down trees. Always use a haul line to raise and lower all gear. Make sure your firearm is unloaded.
- Familiarize yourself with your gear before you go. The morning of opening day is a poor time to put your safety belt on for the first time.
- Be careful with long-term placement. Exposure can damage straps, ropes and attachment cords. Also, the stand's stability can be compromised over time, as the tree grows.

"Hunter education instructors want you to be safe this coming season," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Hunter Education Program Coordinator Nicole Meier. "Falls from tree stands are a major cause of death and serious injury to deer hunters, but they are preventable by always wearing a full-body harness and staying connected to the tree."

Learn more about Tree Stand Safety here: <https://www.fws.gov/uploaded-Files/TreeStandSafety.pdf> ■

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## The Vermont Sporting Journal

*is published bimonth*

*Advertising, editorial and circulation mailing address is:*

## The Vermont Sporting Journal

29 Strong Road \* Orange, Vermont 05641

or email us at: [vermontsportingjournal@gmail.com](mailto:vermontsportingjournal@gmail.com)

Letters, manuscripts and photographs should be mail to the above address.

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## Enjoy Dead Creek Wildlife Day on Oct. 2

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

If you enjoy wildlife be sure to make plans to attend the 19th annual Dead Creek Wildlife Day in Addison, Vermont on Saturday, October 2. Last year's event was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Activities at Dead Creek Wildlife Day are especially for people who enjoy hunting, fishing, birdwatching, or learning about Vermont's diverse wildlife and ecosystems. The event will be held at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on Route 17, west of Route 22A.

Early risers can begin the day with a bird banding demonstration at 7:00 a.m. Two large tents at Dead Creek WMA headquarters will open at 9:30 a.m. featuring wildlife-related exhibits and activities such as decoy carving, building bluebird boxes and a visit from Batwoman. The Dead Creek Visitor Center will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. featuring displays about conservation and wildlife management in Vermont.



*Many of the activities at this year's Oct. 2 Dead Creek Wildlife Day are tailored to children.*

Live critters will be returning this year with a selection of snakes, turtles, raptors, and more that visitors can see up close and learn about their ecology. Also, back by popular demand is the rocket netting demonstration where you can learn about duck banding and the tools used to capture them. New this year is a presentation on the Eastern meadowlark and a walk to learn about bats and their habitats. Retriever dogs will be working in the area ponds, and all of the favorite nature walks will be happening. All events are free, and a free shuttle bus

will provide regular access to nearby field events throughout the day.

“After a very challenging year for everyone, it will be so great to welcome back visitors to the popular Dead Creek Wildlife Day,” said Amy Alfieri, manager of the Dead Creek WMA. “The activities are fun, the demonstrations are very exciting, and the setting is beautiful. Visitors love to see the live animals and working dogs, and the kids love to build their own blue bird box to take home. With the visitor center operational, and maybe even our new interpretive trail up and running, there are many ways for people to experience and learn about Vermont's wildlife.”

The festival is hosted by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and Otter Creek Audubon Society.

For [more information](#) and a [schedule of events](#), visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website ([www.vtfishand-wildlife.com](http://www.vtfishand-wildlife.com)) and check under Watch Wildlife. ■

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## 25th Annual Rabies Bait Drop Kicking Off

Baited rabies vaccine to be conducted August 5 – 12

*VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release*

The State of Vermont and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services mark a quarter century of cooperative efforts to stop the spread of the rabies, with the 25th annual Rabies Bait Drop, scheduled to start August 5, 2021. The week-long bait drop is part of a nationally coordinated effort to halt the fatal disease.

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 annual drop has been an important part of the state’s focus on curbing the risk of rabies in animals and humans. “The bait drop is an example of public health at work across agencies, both state and federal. We are grateful to have partners like the USDA Wildlife Services and the Vermont of Fish and Wildlife Department,” said Dr. Kwit.

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 a rabies exposure is left untreated, the disease is almost always fatal in humans and animals. However, treatment is 100% effective when given soon after a per-



*Example of a rabies bait blister pack  
Image: Vermont Dep. of Health*

son is bitten by a rabid animal.

The bait packs are not poisonous and are not harmful to people, pets or wildlife. “You can’t get rabies from the bait,” said Dr. Kwit, “but it’s important that if you find a bait pack, don’t touch it and please leave it un-

disturbed so that they can be eaten by wild animals.”

If the 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.

So far this year, ten animals in Vermont have tested positive for rabies, four 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

Watch a video of an aerial bait drop over West Virginia:  
<https://youtu.be/hGbnICU5-V8?list=PL46328461CF9E31E4>

Learn more about rabies in Vermont at:  
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/zoonotic-diseases/rabies>





# Controlled Waterfowl Hunt Applications are Available

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department now has information on its website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)) about the 2021 [controlled waterfowl hunts](#) at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison and Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area in Alburgh.

Applications for hunting at Mud Creek on October 14 and 16 may be downloaded from the website. Applications must be submitted electronically to [Tammy.Gratton@vermont.gov](mailto:Tammy.Gratton@vermont.gov) or postmarked and returned no later than August 27, 2021 to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452.

Hunting on Oct. 14 and 16 at Mud Creek will be by pre-registration only, and blind sites will be assigned at the time of the permit lottery. Any vacancies due to “no-shows” on those days will be filled on the morning of the

hunt with a self-check-in process. All other Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during the open seasons will be self-registration days with permits available at the Mud Creek operations building.

A drawing to award hunting permits will be held Friday, August 27, at 12:00 Noon at the Fish and Wildlife Department office at 111 West Street, Essex Junction. Attendance is not required. Successful applicants will be notified by mail.

Controlled goose hunting at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area will be by pre-registration with hunting zones assigned at the time of the permit drawing. Any vacancies due to “no-shows” on hunting days will be filled on the morning of the hunt with a self-check-in process. Self-registration permits will be available at the Dead Creek check-in kiosk.

Friday, October 15, is a junior hunter day at Dead Creek. Only hunters 17 years of age or younger on October 16 may self-register.

Duck season 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; October 30-December 23); the Interior Vermont Zone is a straight season (October 13-December 11); and the Connecticut River Zone has a split duck season (October 5-November 7; November 24-December 19).

A statewide early hunting season to control Vermont’s population of resident Canada geese will occur September 1-25. A second Canada goose hunting season will be held October 13-November 11 in the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones. Canada goose hunting in the Connecticut River Zone will continue October 5-November 7 and November 24 -December 19.

Snow goose hunting is open from October 1- December 31 in the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones and October 5-December 19 in the Connecticut River Zone.

Be sure to read the [2021-2022 Syllabus of State and Federal Hunting Regulations for Migratory Birds in Vermont](#) available on Fish and Wildlife’s website. ■



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## 'Let's Go Fishing' Program Seeks Instructors

*Training workshop set for September 25*



VTF&W photo

VT Fish & Wildlife is looking for volunteers to become "Let's Go Fishing" instructors to pass on Vermont's fishing tradition to the next generation of anglers. A one-day training workshop will be held on Saturday, September 25 at Fish & Wildlife's office in Essex Junction.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is seeking volunteers to become 'Let's Go Fishing' instructors to pass on Vermont's fishing tradition to the next generation of Vermonters. The department will be hosting a one-day training workshop for new instructors on Saturday, September 25, at its Essex Junction office.

Instructors in the 'Let's Go Fishing' program organize and instruct clinics in their communities for Vermonters of all ages. Participants in the training workshop will learn how to teach a basic fishing clinic, including fishing ethics, aquatic ecology, fisheries management, habitat conservation and tackle craft. They will also be introduced to conducting specialized fishing clinics on ice fishing and species-specific fishing. The class

is informal, and it is not necessary to have a high level of fishing expertise to become an instructor.

"Becoming an instructor will give you the opportunity to introduce Vermonters both young and old to the joys of fishing, while teaching them all they need to know to enjoy a day on the water," said Fish and Wildlife's Corey Hart.

"In recent years we have

seen increased interest from teachers across Vermont as they incorporate aquatic education into their curriculum. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers to enhance their curriculum while securing access to equipment for their future programs. Also, teachers interested in earning one graduate level credit can do so through Castleton University.

Bring your lunch. The workshop runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the department's 111 West Street office in Essex Junction. Pre-registration is required, and you must be 18 years of age to participate. Those interested can register online at: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/node/232> or by calling 802-505-5562 or emailing [letsgofishing@vermont.gov](mailto:letsgofishing@vermont.gov).

Once completed, pending a background check, attendees will become certified instructors and have access to program equipment and resources for their programs. ■





## Hunters Reminded of Rules on Importing Deer, Elk

Hunters traveling outside Vermont to hunt deer or elk need to keep in mind that a regulation designed to protect Vermont's wild deer from chronic wasting disease remains in effect, according to a reminder from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal disease of the brain and nervous system in deer and elk. Abnormal prion proteins produce lesions in the brain that cause disorientation and emaciation in conjunction with other abnormal behaviors. This highly contagious disease is always fatal to deer. For the latest information on CWD, check these websites: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) and [www.cwd-info.org](http://www.cwd-info.org).

The potential exists for CWD prion proteins to be introduced to the environment through the bodily fluids of CWD-positive deer, elk, or moose and then persist in the environment for extended periods of time.

Vermont rules on importing and possession of deer or elk from areas with chronic wasting disease (CWD) and captive hunt areas or farms:

It is illegal to import or possess deer or elk, or parts of deer or elk, from states and Canadian provinces that have had chronic wasting disease, or from captive hunt or farm facilities with the following exceptions:

- Meat that is cut up, packaged and labeled with hunting license information and not mixed with other deer or elk during processing;
- Meat that is boneless;
- Hides or capes with no part of the head attached;
- Clean skull-cap with antlers attached;
- Antlers with no other meat or tissue attached;
- Finished taxidermy heads;
- Upper canine teeth with no tissue attached.

Vermont's CWD importation regula-

tions currently apply to hunters bringing in deer or elk carcasses from the following states and provinces that have detected CWD in either captive or wild animals:

Alberta, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New

York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

"CWD is a very persistent disease that can resurface after years of absence," said Mark Scott, Vermont's director of wildlife. "Vermont's CWD regulation is designed to help prevent CWD from infecting Vermont's deer and the drastic population reduction measures that would be required if it appears here."

"Hunters bringing deer or elk from any of the CWD-listed states or provinces into or through Vermont simply have to get them processed according to the regulation before doing so."

A fine of up to \$1,000 and loss of hunting and fishing licenses for one year are applicable for each deer or elk imported illegally.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife is also reminding hunters that using any type of natural deer urine-based or deer body fluid attractant scents is prohibited in the state because of the CWD threat. ■



## Reuniting with an old friend

by Ken Jones

In the late 1980's early 1990's my brother introduced me to a friend of his that had very similar outdoor enthusiasm as we did. One thing a little different about this fella, he was a waterfowl hunter. Blowing on his duck and goose calls all the time so, me being the turkey hunter I was I asked him one early spring morning if he'd like to join me for a morning of pre turkey season scouting.

The next morning found us listening to some gobbling turkeys and we moved a little closer to hear them better. We tucked in a little cover and I figured I'd show him how they responded to calling. I made a few yelps on a diaphragm call and that answered with thunderous gobbles. As we sat there discussing the calling just a few moments later the gobbles thundered again on their own. Only this time they were right on top of us!! Seconds later three young Jake gobblers appeared at maybe ten steps. They were looking for the hen that they heard only the one time and they knew she had to be right here somewhere. For a good ten to twenty minutes they paced around in front of us their gobbles shaking the ground under us before finally fading into the forest. Searching intently for some spring time love.

Once they were clear, we snuck out in the opposite direction so as not to bump into the birds again. What I didn't realize at that moment in time was that I had created a monster!!! This guy would come to be my best friend in the world and his focus of game calling soon turned from waterfowl to turkeys. My brother Phil over the years would become one of the best

turkey callers I've ever met. His love of turkey hunting soon had him in a Prostaff position with Quaker Boy game calls and he started an NWTF chapter in VT that still remains today.

In the fall of 1996 just after bow season for deer ended we grabbed up the turkey gear and took to one of our favorite mountains hoping to fill our fall tags.

Three quarters of the way up the mountain we stopped at a large pine tree where my brothers had taken a few deer and there were shelves of beech trees just above us. As we sat there in quiet conversation and whistling Kee kees occasionally, response started coming from out around the corner. We whistled in a flock of hens and poults and having not killed a whole bunch of birds in our lives, we weren't picky and doubled up on a couple of the poults. What an awesome experience for us two bird brains to call up and kill two turkeys sitting side by side. Although they weren't the biggest birds, our smiles certainly were huge.

Over the years we both became much more accomplished both at turkey hunting and turkey calling. Both competition callers traveling around the northeast winning and placing in contests and stacking birds up both fall and spring. In the spring of 2016 we even had a triple with me smoking two gobblers with one shot and him dispatching a third out of four birds we got on from the roost that morning.

Then in November of 2018 I got a gut wrenching call from my friend. The

call you hope you never get. Phil had been diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. In today's world stage four isn't an absolute death sentence and his outlook appeared to be good. But a little short of a year later the cancer spread to many parts of his body and on October tenth 2019, a few days after I last talked to him as I was getting ready to get in a tree for an afternoon bow hunt I got the call from his mom that my best friend ever had lost his battle.

I had requested the use of his trusty twenty gauge for the upcoming fall hunt and his mom simply gave me the gun and really all of his belongings. He had tricked this little gun out with a tactical stock, red dot sight and mossy oak bottom land wrap. His favorite kicks goblin thunder choke was tight and she was a little turkey destroyer.

The fall turkey season was entering it's final days and I was just struggling to find a flock that wanted to play. I did stumble into some gobblers one morning but managed to miss my only opportunity to put a tag on one. Driving by that same farm where we had doubled and tripled throughout the week I noticed no birds in the low lying fields and decided on the last morning of the season I would climb to the area where so many years ago we had that miraculous double.

I started at daylight and worked my way up with a little better than a dusting of snow sign was easy to read and I cut several deer tracks along the way but not much in the way of turkey sign. As I got about a hundred yards or so from the "pine tree" suddenly,



there it was. The tell tale signs of a flock of turkeys working the beech-nuts. It looked as though a yard crew had been in there with rakes!!! This was pretty fresh so confidence was getting high.

I got to the pine tree and said hello to my real brother who's deer drag I had left under a rock that is used as a seat at the base of the tree after his passing from cancer nearly three years earlier. I had one of Phil's favorite old box calls in my vest. An old primos heart breaker. I decided to make a sound file video for one of our favorite turkey Facebook pages and ran the box as best I could hard and loud for a couple minutes. I posted the video and sat there remembering all the good times had at this spot with my brothers and

Phil and of course reliving that magic double.

Suddenly, on the shelf above me came the unmistakable sound of turkeys yelping!!! I instantly went into hunt mode and began whistling Kee kees just like that faithful morning so long ago.

Within minutes three nice mature hens came down the hill calling frantically for what they thought was one of their ranks they'd left behind. I wasted no time singling out the lead lady and as soon as she cleared, at thirty steps. I squeezed the trigger on "Little Philly" and I had done it!! One month to the day of his passing and I had scored a bird with his gun, in the exact same spot we doubled in twenty three year before.

I knew then, and I know now, and I'll know for the rest of my life. That bird was meant to be and my best friend just wanted me to go to a special place. A place where we could be together again.

As fall approaches, and deer hunting preparations begin along with fall turkey scouting. I find myself once again feeling that empty spot that Phil once filled. Oh, I have his gun, his calls, and I'd give em all up to have him sitting with me this fall at the pine tree.

Life is too short to sweat the little things. Hug your loved ones. Tell your best friend you love them every chance you get and last but not least.

Be safe, have fun and shoot em up!! ■





## Flaming Gorge Outdoor Recreational Area, Worth the Trip!!

By Brett Ladeau



Utah is my home away from home. My oldest brother has lived in Utah since 1979 and we've hunted deer, elk, antelope, and fished out there since then. I lived in Utah for 2 years



lakes, like Hoop Lake, Spirit Lake, and others in the area. The Gorge is known for big lake trout, but our focus is typically for Kokanee salmon. The Green River, below the Flaming Gorge dam, is also home to some trophy brown and rainbow trout fishing. While the fishing is grand the beauty of the area is second to none and would draw us back even if the fishing and hunting was horrible.

This summer allowed us to return

right after I got out of the service from 1992 to 1994. My oldest daughter and her family also live in Utah so we try to visit as often as we can. Lately, our trips have focused around summer and fishing more than hunting. We spend the bulk of our time in Manila, Utah and fish Flaming Gorge and surrounding Uinta mountain



to Manila, after a year off due to Covid, and we were able to get some fishing in at Hoop Lake, and at the Gorge. Fishing was slow but we did manage a few fish at each location. Over the years, we have had some banner trips fishing above the Anvil boat launch on the Wyoming side of the Gorge. Our biggest fish come from that area on a typical trip. This year, since time was limited, we fished the Utah side and put in near the Sheep Creek launch. The scenery is vastly



different on the Wyoming side versus the Utah side. The steep cliffs on the Utah side are spectacular and make the perfect back drop for the trip. It's not uncommon to see big horn sheep and other wildlife while out on the boat, which also adds to the beauty and mystique of area.

A trip to Red Canyon Lodge and the scenic overlook are also worthy of a visit while in



the area. The views from the overlook are spectacular. Having a meal at the Lodge is also recommended. You will often see mule deer, elk, and maybe an occasional Shiras moose too. We've seen all the above on a trip to the lodge. Most importantly, in my opinion anyway, is the success of the wild turkey restoration in the area. We've seen more and more turkey there every year we visit. I have yet to hunt them there but that is in my plans.


If fishing and hunting aren't your priority you could always enjoy jet skiing, boating on the lake, or bring an ATV and enjoy the miles of mountain roads and ATV trails that allow you to roam and explore the area. There is also something to do and see while visiting the Flaming Gorge area. The Uinta Mountains offer even more room to explore and are the highest mountain range in the contiguous United States that run east-west.

Camping in the area is popular, and you can literally camp right on the Gorge or go to the high mountains and camp in more secluded/remote areas of the mountain. We've done a combination of both over the years. Our favorite area to camp is Hoop Lake and my brother and his



family have based all their hunting adventures out of the Hoop lake area since 1979. My brother and his wife have both shot beautiful mule deer buck in the area and the memories and time spent there will be etched in our memories for ever.

These are only some of the highlighted areas that we have spent time in, but the Flaming Gorge National Recreation area should be on any outdoor enthusiasts "to do" list. I highly recommend visiting the area if resources and time allows. There are limitless outdoor opportunities for varied interests. ■




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## Public Invited to Learn About Forest Management at the Hinesburg Town Forest

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The Hinesburg Town Forest Committee and the Chittenden County Forester invite the public to visit the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) to learn more about responsible forest management and its benefit to wildlife and habitat through two new self-guided tours.

Creating and promoting high quality wildlife habitat is dependent on responsible forestry practices and thoughtful planning, both of which are highlighted in the most recent project at the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF).

From 2018-2020, an innovative forest management project at the HTF was completed, demonstrating an integrated, ecological approach to the stewardship of Vermont's forests, simultaneously managing for wildlife, biodiversity, climate resilience, carbon sequestration, and storage, local, renewable resources, recreation, and more.

A major goal of this project was also to show responsible forest management to the public in an open, transparent, and inclusive way. Over two winters 19 public events were held, attended by more than 500 people. The project reached still more Vermonters through articles and appearances on local television and radio programs. For more information about this innovative outreach project, check out a "story map" about the project, here: <https://arcg.is/09zfC1>

The self-guided tour consists of eight "stops," each marked by permanent interpretive signage created by the Chittenden County Forester in partnership with students from the University of Vermont and the Hinesburg Town Forest Committee. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Habitat Stamp Program provided the funding

and additional support for the creation of the signs. Each sign contains information on different aspects of the project, linking to educational resources and videos with QR Codes, with the goal being to give the public the tools to understand what management techniques were used and what benefits they will provide into the future.

To take the virtual tour, visit the HTF's trailhead at the end of Economou Road in Hinesburg (online maps may show it as being in Huntington). A sign by the trailhead kiosk will guide you through the download of the free Avenza Maps app and a map that will allow you to navigate to each stop on the tour using your smartphone.

The public is also invited to take a self-guided tour of a future forest management project that will occur over two winters from 2021-2023, from the HTF's trailhead on Hayden Hill Road East in Hinesburg. Signed instructions to download the Avenza Maps app and a map of this area will allow you to navigate through the area to be managed in 2021-22 and see the trees marked to be cut.

The Vermont Habitat Stamp program is run by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and helps fund the conservation and improvement of habitat for all wildlife species on public and private lands in Vermont. This includes supporting and showcasing responsible forest management in our local forests and communities. To learn more about supporting Vermont's wildlife and the Vermont Habitat Stamp, visit [vtfishandwildlife.com/vthabitastamp](http://vtfishandwildlife.com/vthabitastamp).

The HTF is an 864.5-acre forested parcel owned by the Town of Hinesburg. HTF is one of Vermont's oldest and most storied municipal forests, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The HTF is a multi-use public resource, with a long and rich history of forest management, demonstration, research, education, hunting, mountain bike riding, birding, and other recreation coexisting on the property.

To learn more about these and other related projects from the Chittenden County Forester, visit his YouTube channel or sign up for his email list at <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>.



*VTF&W photo by Noel Dodge  
A public walk led by F&W and FPR at the Hinesburg Town Forest to discuss wildlife habitat and forestry management in the summer of 2019.*



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## Legislative Update with Evan Hughes

The Supreme Court of the United States has set November 3, as the date for oral arguments for the challenge to a New York City firearms law. The SCOTUS case is *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*. The case challenges an NYC oppressive carry permit law and process. In NYC it is nearly impossible for a citizen to obtain a carry permit.

Paul Clement is the lead counsel for the NYSRPA in the present SCOTUS case and argued for gun owner rights in *City of Chicago v. McDonald*, before the SCOTUS. He is a former Solicitor General of the United States and is a highly experienced in arguing cases before the SCOTUS.

The Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the Vermont State Rifle & Pistol Association have joined as parties to an Amicus (friend of the court) brief in this case.

The SCOTUS is currently recessed and returns on the first Monday in October. This case is being heard early in the session.

The Biden Administration has withdrawn enforcement of the laws on U.S. border with Mexico. This has resulted in a surge in convicted violent criminals, drug cartel members and illegal drugs pouring into this country.

The City of Burlington made a very public campaign of reducing the staffing level of its police department. The Acting Police Chief has informed Burlington's elected officials that the reduced police staffing has reduced the capability to deter violent crime.

Two weekends in a row, there were shootings in the same parking lot in Burlington's South Winooski Avenue. In the first shooting, a pick-up transporting two of the participants in the shooting was found to have contained a substantial amount of crack cocaine. One of the men in the first shooting resided in a Burlington residence in 2020, and another man was shot twice last September.

Not long afterward police identified Walter Hamiid Jones, 25, a known gang member from Massachusetts, as a suspect in the first shooting.

The BPD was provided assistance from other area police departments in handling its calls while dealing with the crack cocaine related shooting.

The following weekend there was another shooting in the same Burlington parking lot, at Simon's Mobil station.

In the early morning hours, 2:30 A.M., of August 23, there was yet another illegal shooting at Church and Main Streets. The shooter fired the gun, racked the slide and pointed it at three other people. There were no suspects identified to the public or arrests at the scene.

The act of multiple shooting in the same small parking lot and then brandishing, firing and pointing a firearm at Church and Main Street at that particular hour shows that the drug dealing/violent crime thugs have no concern for law enforcement resources in Burlington.

Business owners in Burlington have been complaining of a concern of customers/patrons and employees about a threat to their safety while in downtown Burlington in the evening hours.

When crack cocaine flows into Vermont, it is not going to dealers in just Burlington.

Since 2020 violent crime in all categories has been surging in the large cities in which elected officials have demanded reductions in police staffing and restrictions on law enforcement procedures. Indefensible brutal attacks have been inflicted on unsuspecting and vulnerable victims. These brutal attacks are occurring particularly in those inner cities with depleted police departments, reduced and drastic restrictions on bail, and reduced sentencing and reduced conditions of probation and parole.

Vermont has long enjoyed one of the very lowest violent crime rates in the nation. The FBI annual crime reports



have upheld these facts in its annual crime statistics report. Vermonters will not long continue to have a safe state if our elected officials play Politically Correct politics. What is happening in Burlington proves that to be true. The impact on honest citizens of avoidance of areas with violent crime is a reasonable reaction. Our federal, state and local elected officials whose responsibility is to deal with violent crime should take note. Again, the crack cocaine flowing into Vermont is not just in Burlington. At this point the violent criminals are simply more emboldened and brazen in Burlington.

Gun control advocates and their political supporters and advocates in the press will work to blame surges in violent crime on guns as a means to justify new gun control laws. Even though much of violent crime does not involve firearms and honest citizens are purchasing firearms in record numbers to be able to defend their families and themselves.

The current situation affirms a need for the federal government to enforce our border enforcement laws and for state and local elected officials to stop hounding police and support the enforcement and prosecuting of existing Vermont's laws outlawing violent crime. No new laws are needed.

Elected officials, including prosecutors, need to grasp it is the repeat violent criminals that are the problem causing increased serious violent crime.

The best way to achieve deterring violent crime is for all Vermonters to get off the sidelines, be vocal against violent crime, and vote! ■



## Peregrine Falcon Nesting Season Complete

Cliffs Clear to Hike and Climb Again August 1

Hikers and rock climbers can return to Vermont cliffs starting August 1, now that peregrine falcon nesting season has ended. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has confirmed that all the young falcons have learned to fly and should not be disturbed by human presence on the cliffs.

“The young peregrines have fledged, and nesting data suggest Vermont falcons had a successful year. A final report will be issued later this year,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s migratory bird biologist Doug Morin. “The falcon’s nesting success is due to a combination of factors, including good weather and cooperation from hikers and rock climbers who observe a respectful distance from nesting falcons during this critical period. Peregrine nesting success would not be possible without more than 50 volunteers who monitor the nest sites statewide from March to the end of July.”

According to Audubon biologist Margaret Fowle, who coordinates the monitoring effort on behalf of the Fish and Wildlife Department, biologists and volunteers monitored

peregrine pairs that occupied at least 52 Vermont cliffs in early spring and summer.

“We greatly appreciate the time and effort volunteers put into monitoring the population this year, and we thank landowners and recreationists for their cooperation in protecting nesting peregrines from human disturbance,” said Fowle.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife and Audubon Vermont partner to monitor and protect peregrine nesting sites in Vermont. Peregrine falcons were removed from the state’s Threatened and Endangered Species List in 2005. Ongoing cooperation from recreationists and continued monitoring efforts by Vermont Fish and Wildlife and Audubon Vermont will help ensure the peregrine’s remarkable recovery in future years.

*VTF&W photo by Tom Rogers  
Vermont cliffs monitored by biologists and volunteers for nesting peregrine pairs this spring and summer are open August 1 for recreationists.*

## The Harder I Work

By Brad Roy

Tucked away quietly fifteen feet above the grassy pasture, one of my fondest memories of archery hunting whitetails takes place years ago on a Central Vermont farm on a picturesque October evening. After a few years of relentless failure with a stick and string, this particular season had a sense of success that was palpable on the short walk to the stand from a parked pickup just a few hundred yards away.

Hours upon hours of practice at the range had my confidence at an all-time high. A brand-spankin-new used bow bought secondhand from a cousin hung from my gloved hand, and the sun was just beginning its final descent from afternoon into evening.

As I climbed into the stand and settled in for the next few hours of anticipation, my chest was filled with the perfect mix of excitement and anxiety that comes when one sets themselves up for an ambush in a great spot. The feeling of confidence swelled in my heart as I awaited something to walk by where three main trails intersected in front of me. After about forty-five short minutes spent admiring grey squirrels and October foliage, down the trail just 20 yards in front of me sauntered in a beautiful whitetail doe. All alone, she worked her way from my right to left, stopping to browse just ahead of a hummock of grass that the horses must have deemed unfit for their particular taste just a few weeks prior.

With hands shaking like one of the oak leaves quivering in the breeze in the woods behind me, I slowly maneuvered my compound into shooting position. I pulled back carefully and drew a bead for a picture-perfect shot on what would soon become be my first archery whitetail! With a calculated breath and smooth pull of my index finger back toward myself on the trigger of my release, I watched my graphite arrow leave the whisker biscuit and soar through the air, directly at doe who was unsuspecting and stopped, broadside, just 20 yards away.

I felt my stomach drop as the arrow flew toward her, getting closer and closer. The millisecond it took to reach her felt like hours in this young hunter's brain. As the arrow closed in the final few inches, a shudder and arch of the back had me visualizing my perfect shot whizz at a few hundred feet per second directly over the spine of

this nice doe, only to go whizzing off a rock buried in the pasture just a few feet behind her.

In sheer disbelief that I could possibly have missed such an easy shot, and with the healthy doe now looking directly at me, I knew the only thing I could do was to try again. I removed a second arrow from my quiver, slowly and smoothly knocked it on the string of my bow, and drew back again for another chance. It is now that I wish I could tell you instinct and training kicked in, and I smoothly released well-placed vitals shot into that doe, but I cannot. The scene played out as an exact repeat of the first shot. A "wshh" of an arrows release, a quick duck by the doe, and an arrow sent flying directly above her into the pasture. With a third arrow knocked on the string, I guess the poor doe had decided enough comedy for one evening had transpired. A few bounds and she was out of site.

The moral of this story is not solely to engage the reader with an interesting tale of my dismay, but to highlight one of the many things that can go wrong during the final moments of a hunt; particularly when using archery equipment. Those of us who strive to pursue game with dedication and a passion for clean, quick harvests know fully well just how gut-wrenching a missed mark on an easy shot can feel. And what's even more trying, is when a well-placed shot is suddenly turned into a miss, or far worse—a poor hit, because an animal seized a split-second opportunity to move, duck, step, or otherwise throw off your original calculated trajectory. These anomalies are things that we as archers, cannot control. However, the old adage that "The harder I work, the luckier I seem to get" stands true in archery as well. While it may seem early in the year to some to be thinking about sending arrows downrange, this really is the time to get going if you haven't already. As I write this, the scorching temperatures outside and fresh tomatoes hanging from green stems in the garden tell me that fall is just around the corner. A little practice can go a long way, and a lot of practice can go a lot further, so let this serve as your reminder to start thinking about your fall pursuits just a little earlier this year. Get the gear together and go do some shooting, you just might find that all your practice will make you a little luckier this October. ■



## Open Range Days with Range Stewards at VTF&W Shooting Ranges

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department announces that its shooting ranges at Buck Lake Conservation Camp and West Mountain Wildlife Management Area will have five open range days with range stewards for anyone interested in sighting in their rifles on selected dates beginning August 29.

“This is a joint project with Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Vermont 4-H Shooting Sports and Back Country Hunters and Anglers,” said Fish and Wildlife Hunter Education Coordinator Nicole Meier. “These five events are open to the public and free with no registration required. Bring your own firearm and ammunition. Safety glasses and hearing protection are required.”

Vermont members of [Back Country Hunters and Anglers](#) will be hosting and instructing open range days from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 12 at the Walter Cabell Range at Buck Lake Conservation Camp off Route 14 in Woodbury and September 26 at the West Mountain Range on the South America Pond Road in East Haven.

[Vermont 4-H Shooting Sports](#) will be hosting and instructing open range days from 10:00 a.m.

to 4:00 p.m. August 29 and September 18 at the Buck Lake Conservation Camp Range and September 4 at the West Mountain Range.

Shooters will be asked to abide by the range rules, which are posted at both the Walter Cabell Range at Buck Lake Conservation Camp and the West Mountain Wildlife Management Area.

For more information, contact Nicole Meier by email at [Nicole.Meir@vermont.gov](mailto:Nicole.Meir@vermont.gov) or by phone at 802-318-1347.



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## TRAPLINE TALK

Well has it been hot enough for you??? I hate this weather with a passion, thank God for A/C.

This time of year, it's tough to think trapping but real trappers think trapping 24/7/365. In doing so we eat. Think. And sleep trapping every day.

In July I got a invite to teach a trapping class for the Machia Camp.

### About Machia Camp

Larry Machia was a long-time hunter education instructor for the Fish and Wildlife Department. Larry passed away in 2004 and his last wishes were to provide a opportunity for kids to attend a week long camp to learn everything outdoors.

Larry's wife Bonnie set the wheels in motion and Machia Camp was born. Along with Dennis Briggs, another long-time instructor and a solid board of directors Machia Camp is alive and kicking.

For years Machia operated out of a building on the Underhill Firing Range. Their generosity provided an excellent classroom space along with a better wilderness experience.

Through hard work and determination, the Board Of Directos of Machia Camp landed its very own piece of property in Milton. It is a 100 t- acres with a large old horse stable that was donated by a local family. Many hours of blood, sweat, and tears. the brush was cut, tall grass was mowed, and half the arena was transformed into a top-notch classroom space. It is the perfect setting to learn everything about the

outdoors. All folks involved should be very proud of what they have created in Larry's memory. I am sure Larry is smiling down on all of us and swelling with pride.

On the morning of the class, I taught I was met by 20 energetic teens who were having the time of their lives. It made me wish I was a teen again or wish they had this type class for old geezers like me.



**MACHIA WILDERNESS CAMP**

After introductions I always ask how many folks present trap. Once in a great while a hand may go up. This class had no hands go up. I then held up a regular mouse trap and asked how many had used one of these, and three quarters of the hands went up. Phew I was in!!! I then asked all the students their opinions on trapping, honest opinions with no retribution from me, and the score ended up 18-2, and a cloud former over my head. 18-2 against. I had my work cut out for me.

I had three hours to do my best. The first exercise was to set a #2 coil spring trap and set it off with my fingers. The looks on all of their faces was priceless. For the class to not see me withering in pain. I had them bewildered. Everything they had seen on Disney was destroyed right in front of their eyes. In the next two hours I explained how trapping works, usually an 8-hour task.

At lunch break I was surrounded by students with rapid fire questions, stories of parents and friends who trapped or do trap. The cloud of doom was breaking up. After lunch it was outside to show how to do sets for different critters. With that task done it was time for the students who wanted to make the sets of their choice. I stood back and watched as these young folks gave it their best shots. How they giggled when they accidentally snapped their own fingers in the traps. Many of them explained how foolish they felt with their pre-conceived notions about trapping.

At the end of every class, I teach I give every student a trap of choice if they want one. Twelve of the twenty kids came to my truck and chose their traps, either a 110 conibear or a 1.50 coil trap. The kids who wanted put their names in a hat and the winner will get to trap on the Machia property, mentored by myself or another seasoned trapper.

My payback on all of this is the score went from 18-2 at the beginning of the class, with 18 totally against trapping, to 12-8, with twelve with their first traps in their hands. Sorry Disney but facts do not lie.

My hat is off to the folks at Machia for giving me the opportunity to get the correct message out. Thank you for all you do for the youth of Vermont.

I wish everyone tight chains this season. Prices on fur are still dismal but what price can you put on enjoying the outdoor life? I would still trap if I had to pay to get rid of my fur!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Being the month of November is upon us, I give thanks every year to my parents who introduced me to the outdoor lifestyle. And thanks to my wife and kids for putting up with all

of the nuances that come with this lifestyle, From the early morning alarms that wake the whole house, the smoke alarms from burnt toast, the slamming doors, the routine absences

throughout the day, and the smell of wet leather and wool at the end of the day. AND the occasional lure smells hitch a ride into the house. Thanks for understanding my passion. ■

## Trapping 2020-21

Well, the less than slim lady has sung! (Gotta stay politically correct here).

Trapping in Vermont is a wrap. It was a good year for a start and then mother nature reared her ugliness. Heavy rains and a quick freeze made making sets a real chore.

Now it is clean up time. Every trap used is dirty. Dirty as in mud, stones, grass, leaves and some body fluids.

To protect your investment some time is needed to be sure your traps function flawlessly in six months.

I would lay my traps out in the bed of my truck and hook up a pressure washer and let them have it. If you do not own a washer, a trip to the local car wash works well.

Once cleaned, I take them one by one and inspect them. Check for the strength of spring, any bent parts, all the chain links and swivels, also a check with a pan tension tool is advised.

Once inspected, I lay out a few milk crates and sort them out by size. I have a crate or two for any traps that will need repair or treating later on. I have gone to speed dipping my traps and found through trial and error that dipping when its hot and sunny with a good breeze works very well.

The traps that weathered the storms are hung on the ceiling of the trapping shed to collect dust, for the summer. I sort them by size, so if I get a call for nuisance work, I can quickly find what I need.

Its also time to show a little time to all your lures, baits and urines. I usually take a wet rag and wipe off all of the gack around the threads and screw the caps on. Vaseline will keep any miniscule critters from entering and stop the caps from rusting on. Anything that looks or smells funky should be thrown away. The ideal spot to store these goodies is inside an old fridge, working or not. Dry, cool, and out of sunlight is important to make these items Last a few seasons.

Next is the fur prep items. A quick trip through the dishwasher (when the wife is away), works very well. If that is not an option, a pail of hot water and some dawn liquid cleans most of the mess off.

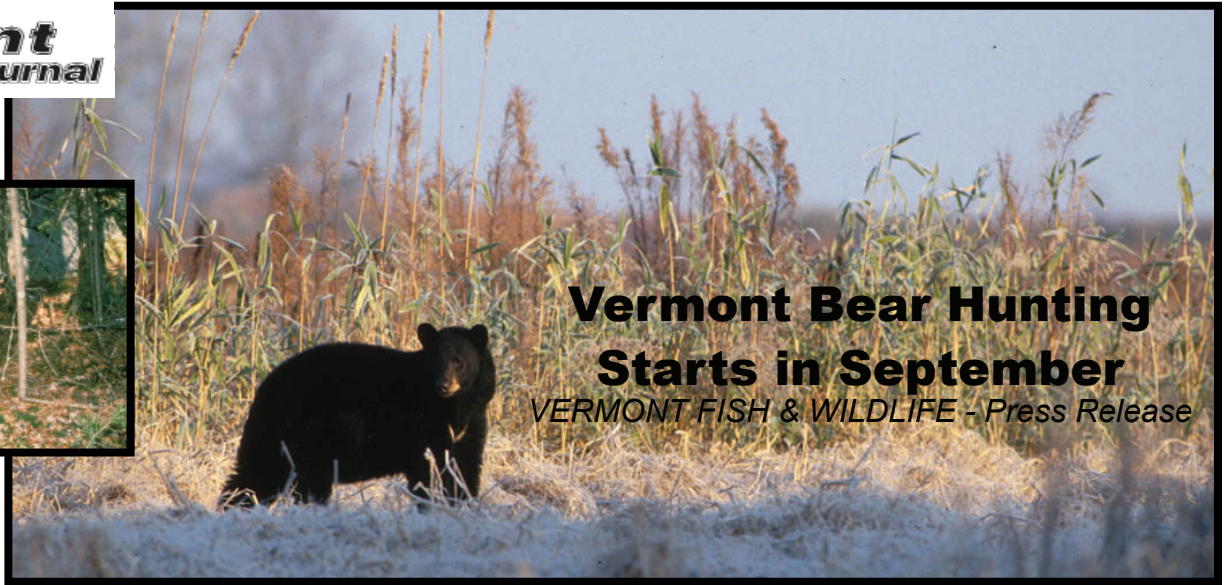
Once cleaned I spread a layer of Vaseline on all of the metal parts to prevent rust. Some trappers sharpen all their gear before the Vaseline, but I wait until fall to do this chore.

Your stretchers and fleshing beam will need attention too. I used a T-handle fleshing knife to clean all the meat pieces stuck on the stretchers. I also smooth out any Knicks that might have formed.

With the beam I use my knecker knife to clean and knock off any knicks. Once cleaned, I rub a light coat of vegetable oil on the beam. I have found if you do not do this your beam will grow a fur coat over the time of the use.

Any rubber gloves and aprons used should be cleaned to. Hot, soapy water and a firm bristled brush works fine on these items. At the same time your Boots and waders can be scrubbed and hung for the year. Now it's your mode of transportation time. The four-wheeler gets an oil change and a good bath. That leaves the truck. Uggggggghhhhh! I always leave this chore for last. Six months of mud, snow, food, and candy wrappers, my truck could qualify for a rolling dumpster. Lost bottles of lures and baits, a few traps, shotguns shells, rifle shells, gloves, hats, flash lights, dog hair and enough dog snot on the windows that they could be considered tinted. And that is just the cab part! Every year I get done cleaning my truck inside and out, I walk around it and it appears the front bumper is smiling.

Enjoy what spring and summer have to offer and do not forget to send your trapping report to Fish and Wildlife, whether you trapped or not. It is a mandatory requirement now. Please comply. ■



## Vermont Bear Hunting Starts in September

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says bear hunting season starts in September and reminds hunters about the bear hunting regulations.

Vermont has two bear hunting seasons. The early season, which requires a special bear tag, starts September 1, and continues through November 12 with one exception. Nonresident hunters using dogs cannot start bear hunting until September 15. The late bear season begins November 13 and continues through November 21. A hunter may only take one bear during the year.

In addition to a hunting license, a bear hunter using a bow or crossbow must have a prior or current bow license or a certificate proving completion of a bow hunter education course.

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 and 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.

Upon the request of a game warden, a person harvesting a bear is required to return to the kill site with a game warden.

“Bears will be feeding along power lines and in forest openings and old fields where berries and apples can be found as well as in forested beech and oak stands,” said Vermont’s Director of Wildlife Mark Scott. “They also are likely to be feeding on standing corn.”

Scott says Vermont’s regulated legal bear hunting seasons help manage the state’s population.

“Fifty years ago Vermont had less than 1,500 bears, and they were found mostly in the mountains and northeastern quarter of the state,” he said. “Bears are now found state-wide except in Grand Isle County, and although we have successfully increased bear numbers to close to 5,000, the human population also has increased, resulting in more encounters between humans and bears. Carefully regulated legal hunting helps control the growth of the black bear population and allows for their sustainable use, while decreasing interactions with humans.”

Scott says with bears being so abundant, this is a great opportunity for hunters who have never hunted bear to do so this year. He says properly prepared bear meat is highly nutritious. The key to successfully securing good meat is to skin the bear as soon as possible and process it immediately if you do not have access to a large cooler. Recipes are readily available on the Internet as well as in the [2021 Black Bear Hunting Guide](#) which is available on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website.

Scott recommends that hunters refrain from shooting a bear with cubs as well as bears observed in groups as they are usually made up of sows with cubs. ■

*VTF&W Photo*

*Vermont Fish & Wildlife urges hunters to download and read its [2021 Black Bear Hunting Guide](#) at [www.vtfis-handwildlife.com](http://www.vtfis-handwildlife.com) for its helpful information.*



# Vermont's Archery Deer Season Starts Oct. 1

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says hunters are looking forward to Vermont's upcoming October 1-November 12 and November 29 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 and Wildlife's website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)).

Hunters planning a Vermont archery deer hunting trip will find it helpful to download a copy of the [2021 White-tailed Deer Harvest Report](#) from Fish and Wild-

life's website with this link: <https://tinyurl.com/nz4ej23m>. 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 [2021 Deer Seasons Guide](#) from Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website, or pick up a free copy of the 2021 HUNTING & TRAPPING GUIDE from any [license agent](#).



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## Vermont Youth Waterfowl Hunting, Sept. 25-26

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release

A youngster's first hunt can mark the beginning of a lifelong passion for the outdoors and a commitment to wildlife conservation. There is no finer time to begin this journey than during Vermont's upcoming youth waterfowl hunting weekend on September 25 and 26.

"Vermont's youth waterfowl hunting weekend helps ensure that young hunters get the quality training and experiences they need for lifelong participation," said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner

Louis Porter. "By design, the youth weekend hunt reinforces the route of initiation that is critical in recruitment -- learning from an experienced adult role model."

On September 25 and 26, hunters 17 years of age or younger may hunt ducks and geese in the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont waterfowl hunting zones. The age requirement is 15 and under in the Connecticut River zone.



*Photo from VT Fish & Wildlife  
Vermont's youth waterfowl hunting weekend  
is September 25 and 26 this year.*

The youth hunter must have a Vermont hunting license and must be accompanied by an un-armed adult, 18 years of age or older, who also has a Vermont hunting license. Youths 16 and 17 years of age must have state and federal duck stamps. All youth hunters must also register with the Harvest Information Program (HIP) in each state that they hunt. This can be done on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website or by calling toll-free 1-877-306-7091. The adult may not hunt waterfowl or carry a firearm while accompanying the youth when the youth is hunting waterfowl.

Ducks and geese may be taken by youth hunters on September 25 and 26 according to the bag limits set in the [2021-2022 Syllabus of State and Federal Hunting Regulations for Migratory Birds in Vermont](#), available from Vermont post offices and as a downloadable file from [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com) under Hunt – Waterfowl. ■

## Be Alert to Avoid Moose on the Highway

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE - Press Release



*VT Fish & Wildlife cautions drivers that moose are more likely to be crossing roadways at this time of year, especially after dark or early in the morning.*

Drivers need to be alert and cautious because moose are on the move, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Moose are more likely to be crossing roadways at this time of year, especially after dark or early in the morning because this is breeding season for moose.

"Motorists hit 39 moose on Vermont highways during 2020 and 41 so far this year," said State Game Warden Lieutenant Carl Wedin. "We are

asking drivers to be especially careful and for people to enjoy watching moose from a distance. Moose can be unpredictable and dangerous if you get too close and they feel cornered or get irritated."

**Moose are a threat to motorists, but there are measures you can take to avoid hitting them, according to Fish and Wildlife:**

Always be aware of the danger --



moose cross the road randomly, as well as at their regular crossings.

Increase your roadside awareness and reduce your speed when you see MOOSE CROSSING signs along the highway. When on secondary roads, the recommended speed is 40 mph or less in these moose crossing areas.

Drive defensively and don't overdrive your headlights. Moose are more active at night and early morning, and they are difficult to see because of their dark color.

If you see a moose ahead, slow down or stop. Trying to speed past them before they can move can be a serious mistake.

**Vermont highway sections most frequented by moose:**

- Rt.105 from Island Pond to Bloomfield.
- Rt.114 from East Burke to Canaan.
- Rt.2 from Lunenburg to East St. Johnsbury.
- Interstate 91 at Sheffield Heights.
- Interstate 89 from Bolton to Montpelier.
- Rt. 12 from Worcester to Elmore.
- Rt 118 near Belvidere Corners and the Rt. 109 intersection.

Nineteen people have died in motor vehicle collisions with moose on Vermont highways since 1985. ■

*VTF&W photo by Benjamin Young*

Vermont's resident Canada goose hunting season will be held September 1 through September 25 to help control Vermont's resident Canada goose population prior to the arrival of Canada geese migrating south from Canada according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

The season will be open statewide with a daily bag limit of five Canada geese in the Connecticut River Zone and eight in the rest of Vermont.

A second Canada goose hunting season for resident and migrant birds will be held October 13-November 11 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.

A hunting license is required, and a waterfowl hunter 16 or older must carry current federal and Vermont duck stamps. [Federal stamps](#) are sold at post offices, federal refuges and on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website <https://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp>.



[php](#). Vermont duck stamps can be added to your hunting license on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website ([www.vtfis-handwildlife.com](http://www.vtfis-handwildlife.com)) and through license agents. The hunter must sign the federal duck stamp.

All migratory game bird hunters must also be registered with the Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.). This can be done on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website or by calling toll-free 1-877-306-7091. After providing some basic information, you will receive your annual H.I.P. registration number, which you then need to record on your hunting license.

A printable copy of [migratory bird hunting regulations](#) can be downloaded from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website under "Hunt" – "Waterfowl." A printed version will also be available from license agents and post offices. ■

## The Pitman-Robertson Program

The Pitman-Robertson Program is funded by the federal excise tax on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife is offering shooting range improvement grants to encourage upgrades of shooting ranges for enhanced safety and operation.

The Shooting Range Improvement Grant Program seeks grant applications from clubs and government agencies involved in the operation of shooting ranges, including archery ranges. Grant applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on October 29.

Eligible projects include shooting range re-development, noise abatement structures, safety berms, shooting pads and stations, and the construction or improvement of access roads and parking lots. Grant money may also be used for lead mitigation, such as recycling, reducing range floor surface drainage, or liming range property.

\$80,000 in grant funds will be available this year. These funds are derived through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Restoration Program which is based on federal excise taxes on hunting and shooting equipment.

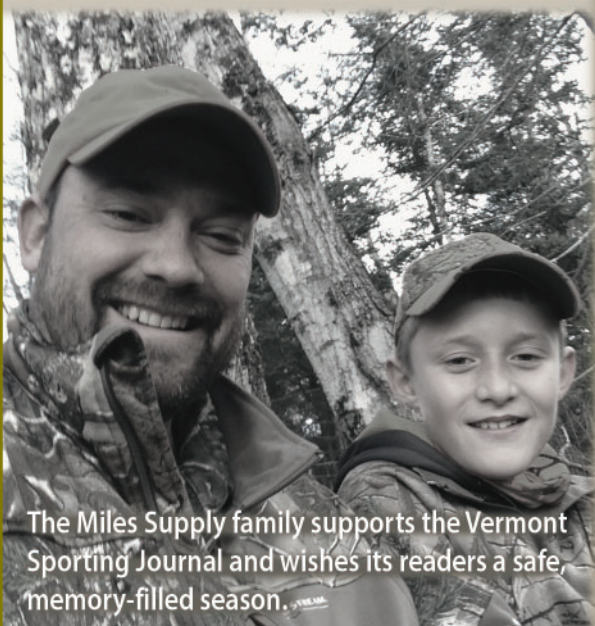
Ranges that receive these grants must provide at least 20 hours of public use per month when in operation and be open at reasonable times for hunter education courses.

For further information or to download an application packet, visit the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department website at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Click on "Hunting and Trapping," and then on "Shooting Ranges in Vermont." Or, contact Nicole Meier at [nicole.meier@vermont.gov](mailto:nicole.meier@vermont.gov) or by calling (802) 802-318-1347.



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