



Compliments of the Hunter Education Program

Happy Friday! June may be wrapping up on a wet note, but summer will carry on bringing us into our Independence Day celebrations. As our hunter safety course season starts up, we encourage you to send along pictures, success stories, or questions that we can share with our instructor community.

In this newsletter you will find several press releases from Vermont Fish and Wildlife the week of 6/22-6/28

Vermont Moose Hunting Application Deadline is July 5

MONPELIER, Vt – The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department reminds hunters that July 5 is the deadline to apply in the lottery for a moose hunting permit.

Hunters are encouraged to apply on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com), but printed applications also are available at Vermont license agents statewide.

Lottery applications 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.

The Fish and Wildlife Department is issuing 355 moose hunting permits for the regular October 19-24 moose season and 50 permits for the October 1-7 archery moose season.

Hunters took 222 moose last year in the Vermont moose hunting season. A report on 2012 hunting season results can be downloaded for information about where moose were successfully hunted in the past.



Call Vermont Fish & Wildlife at 802-241-3700 for more information

Fishing Regulation Changes Voted by F&W Board

MONTPELIER, Vt –The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board voted June 19 in Montpelier on a proposed regulation to increase trout and bass fishing opportunities for anglers.

Eleven new river sections are proposed to have catch-and-release trout fishing with artificial flies or lures outside of the normal trout fishing season, opening over 70 miles of river to year-round trout fishing.

A section of the Walloomsac River in Bennington is proposed to be added to the selection of trophy trout streams that are stocked with two-year old brown or rainbow trout. The daily limit for this section will be two trout per day.

Bass catch-and-release open water angling with artificial flies and lures (not ice fishing) outside the normal bass season is proposed to now include all lakes, ponds and reservoirs not listed as “seasonally closed waters.”

“The department has made it a priority to increase opportunities for fish and wildlife-based recreation in which there will not be a biological impact,” said Vermont Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Berry. “This new fishing regulation will greatly expand angling opportunities and help promote open-water fishing during more of the year.”

The Board also voted to remove a proposal to reduce the daily limit of 12 brook trout to 6.

The fish regulation, with the proposed changes, can be seen on vtfishandwildlife.com. Under “Law Enforcement and Game Wardens,” click on “Rules and Proposed Rules.”



Photo by Chris Saunders

The Board will vote one more time before the proposed regulation is adopted. If adopted, these regulations will take effect in 2014.

Perch Chowder Recipe

Serves 8 to 10 Prep time: 20mins

Cook time: 30mins

- 3 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 large yellow or white onion, chopped
- 1 1/2 lb Yukon Gold or other waxy potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 quart fish or clam stock
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 teaspoon marjoram
- Salt and black pepper
- 1 1/2 lbs skinless yellow perch fillets, cut into chunks
- 6 to 8 ounces Polish kielbasa, sliced
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh dill or parsley
- 1 cup sour cream, served tableside

Directions:

1. Melt the butter in a Dutch oven or other heavy pot over medium heat. When it stops frothing, add the chopped onion and cook gently until it is soft and translucent. Do not let it brown.
2. Add the potatoes and coat with the butter. Cook for 1 to 2 minutes to let the butter absorb a bit. Sprinkle everything with salt. Pour in the fish stock, water and marjoram and add salt and pepper to taste. Simmer gently for about 20 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender.
3. Once the potatoes are tender, add the perch and the kielbasa and simmer another 10 minutes. Turn off the heat and add the dill. Ladle into bowls and let everyone add sour cream to taste at the table. Serve with lots of beer. and some crusty bread.

Muzzleloader Antlerless Deer Permit Applications Available

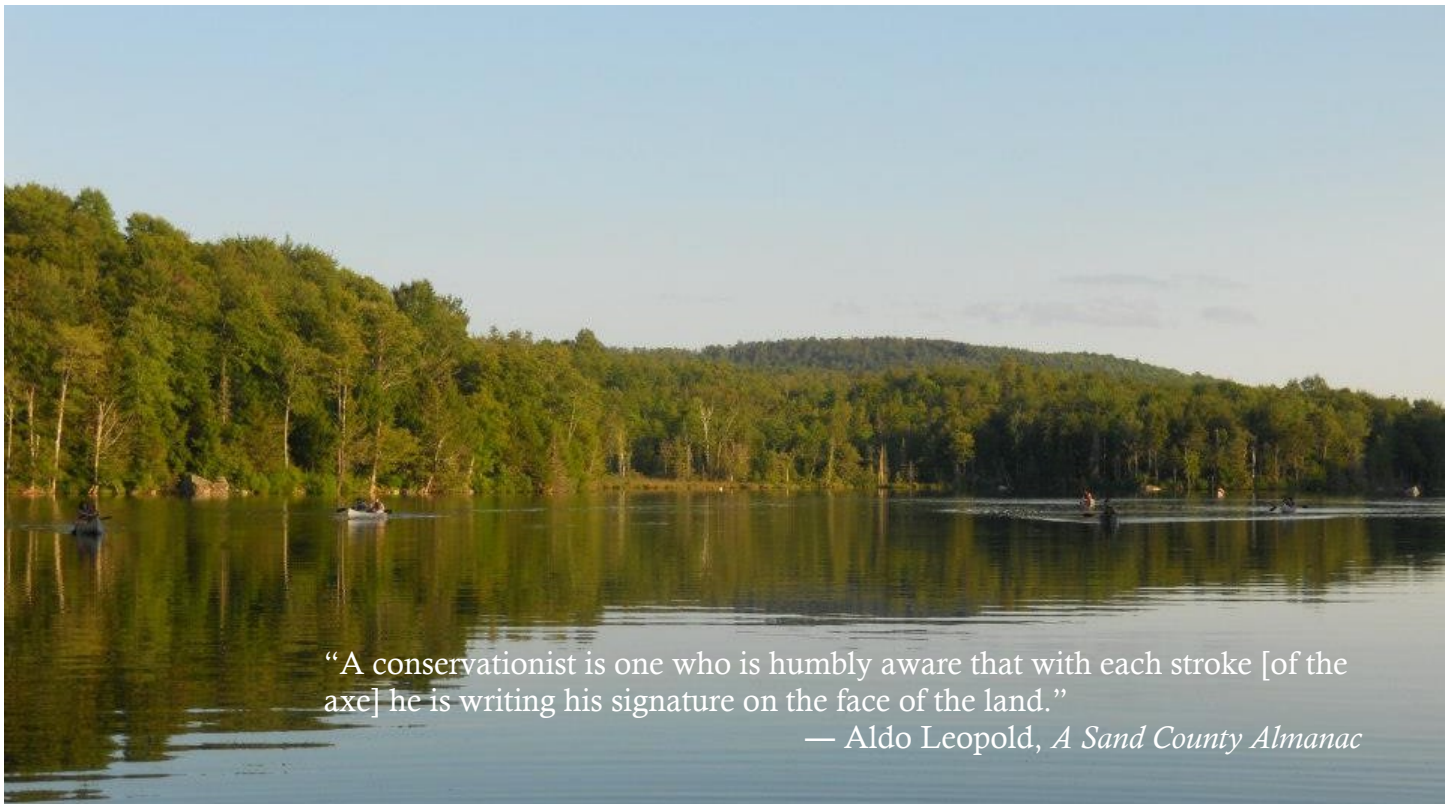
Vermont's muzzleloader antlerless deer hunting permit applications are now available on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com). A quick-link to the information and application is provided on the home page.

"It's a really quick and easy process that ensures your entry is immediately entered into the lottery," said Deer Project Leader Adam Murkowski. "Plus, it saves postage. We encourage you to use the online application because it is more efficient for you and for us. Be sure to apply before the August 29 deadline."

The Fish and Wildlife Board met on June 19 and approved the number of December muzzleloader permits at 14,400 for 20 of the state's 24 Wildlife Management Units, to allow antlerless hunting during the archery season in all WMUs except WMU-E, and to allow any deer to be taken during youth deer hunting weekend.

Biologists expect hunters who receive the permits will take about 2,469 antlerless deer in the muzzleloader season and an estimated additional 3,333 antlerless deer in youth and archery seasons.

"The past two winters have been below average in severity, and these conditions are beneficial to Vermont's deer herd. Therefore, it is important that hunters continue to harvest antlerless deer to ensure the number of deer remains appropriate for the available habitat in each of Vermont's 24 Wildlife Management Units," said Murkowski



"A conservationist is one who is humbly aware that with each stroke [of the axe] he is writing his signature on the face of the land."

— Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

Public Hearings July 23 and 25 on Wildlife Unit Changes

MONTPELIER, Vt – State wildlife biologists with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department are recommending changes to the boundaries of some of Vermont's 24 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs).

The Fish & Wildlife Board is holding two public hearings on the proposal beginning at 7:00 p.m. on July 23 at the Town Hall, 49 Mill Street, Island Pond, and on July 25 at Hartford High School, 37 Highland Avenue, White River Junction.

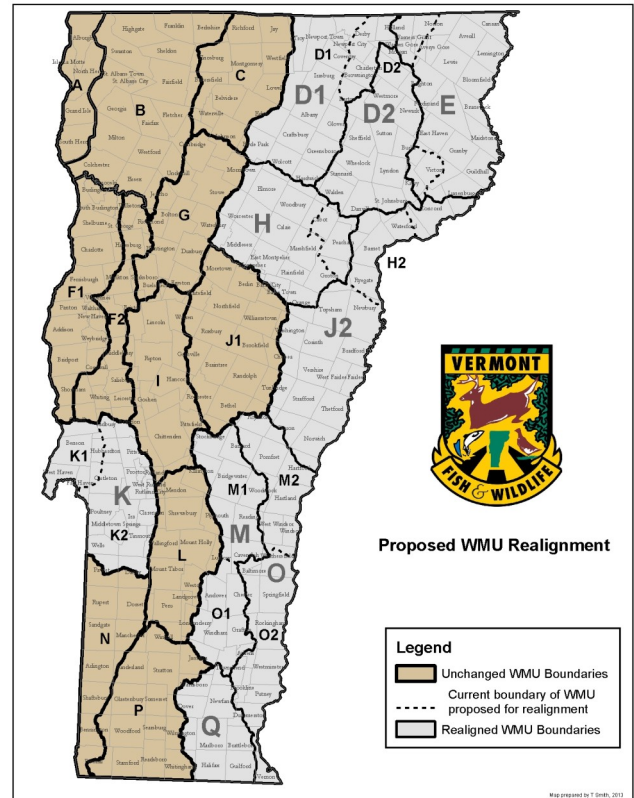
The biologists often recommend hunting regulations tailored to specific WMUs. The WMUs were created in the 1970s based on their habitat conditions, climate, size, and species densities to help manage deer populations on a regional basis. In recent years, hunting regulations for wild turkey, moose, furbearers, and snowshoe hare also have been added that are specific to certain WMUs.

Biologists have noticed that some WMUs now have habitat conditions that are more similar to those in adjoining units. They also have found that the sample sizes of biological data from the smaller subunits have not been adequate. In addition, the implementation of the 9-1-1 program created changes in town highway names and numbers.

In response, the Fish & Wildlife Department recently presented a recommendation to the Fish & Wildlife Board to update some WMU boundaries as follows:

- 1) Combining K1 and K2 into a single WMU K,
- 2) Adjust the eastern boundary of WMU Q to avoid the Connecticut River Valley,
- 3) Combine M2 and O2 into a single WMU O that extends along the Connecticut River Valley to the Massachusetts border,
- 4) Combine M1 and O1 into a single WMU M,
- 5) Extend J2 north along the Connecticut River to include that valley habitat currently within H2 and E,
- 6) Combine H1 and the mountainous portion of H2 into a single WMU H,
- 7) Expand the western border of E to include similar habitat currently within WMU D2, and
- 8) Expand the northeastern boundary of D1 easterly to include farmland currently in WMU D2.

The department's recommendation is on its website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Under Law Enforcement, click on Rules and Proposed Rules.



A map of the WMUs with proposed changes