



Compliments of the Hunter Education Program

Greetings! Looks like we finally have some sunny, dry weather over the next few days. The perfect kind of weather for some fishing, a hike in the green mountains, camping, or a visit to the local swimming hole. What better way to kick off your weekend than with our weekly shout out? In this newsletter, you will find several news releases from the past two weeks, enjoy!

Fish and Wildlife Department Holds Bear Hunting Seminar

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department will hold a free seminar entitled "Getting Started in Bear Hunting" in St. Johnsbury on August 17, 2013. The department hopes to increase interest in bear hunting and to teach bear hunters how to become more successful.

"Bears can be challenging to hunt, but hunters who know where to look and how to hunt them can improve their success rate," said John Pellegrini, hunter education training coordinator for the Fish & Wildlife Department.

Forrest Hammond, bear biologist for the Fish & Wildlife Department, will lead topics on bear biology, hunting tactics, rules and regulations, field dressing, and trophy and game aftercare. He will even share a few bear recipes. Members of the Vermont Bearhounds Association will also be on hand to demonstrate how hounds can be used in bear hunting.

"Now is an excellent time to learn how to bear hunt," said Hammond. "Vermont's bear population is high which means that the opportunity for success is very good."

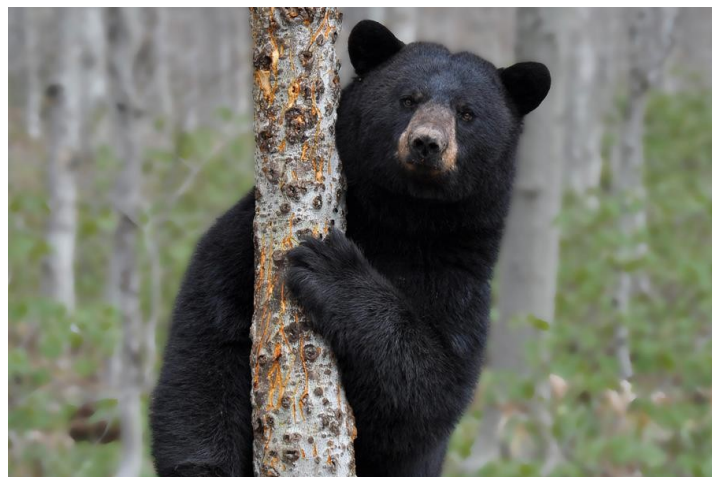


Photo by Tom Rogers

The seminar will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and participants are encouraged to bring a lunch. Registration is required by contacting John Pellegrini at 802-272-2909 or by email at john.pellegrini@state.vt.us. Please include your full name, address, and a daytime phone number in the message. A confirmation letter with directions will follow

Planning Your Hunter Safety Course

We are starting to hear from many of you about your next hunter safety, bow hunter, and trapping courses. Here are a few things to remember as you are planning your class:

1. **PLAN AHEAD.** Make sure to allow time for students to register and complete the necessary workbook before the course
2. **SEND IN YOUR REQUISITION** several weeks before your course. This allows travel time for your boxes and time to arrange a meeting point for equipment delivery. A requisition also ensures you receive what you need. If you need a requisition you can call or email Mary (802)241-3720, mary.childs@vt.state.us
3. **USE US.** Looking for an action set, survival pack, FAS harness? Or maybe you would like a climbing tree stand, compasses, animal models? We have equipment and hands on tools to engage your students . Ask us, and we will do our best to provide.



Agency of Natural Resources Encourages Public Comments on West Mountain WMA

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is updating the management plan for West Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Essex County. The agency will rely on input from the public to help guide this process and encourages all who may be interested in these lands to attend a meeting or provide written comments.

The Agency of Natural Resources has hosted two public forums and numerous meetings with constituent groups to gather ideas before drafting its plan updates. The agency will host additional public meetings late in the fall to review and refine its draft plans.

Since 1999, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources has managed West Mountain WMA and has managed a public access easement on adjacent lands now belonging to the Plum Creek Timber Company. This complex project has involved collaboration with partner organizations including The Nature Conservancy, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Vermont Land Trust, and Plum Creek, as well as numerous local and state constituent groups.

West Mountain is the largest wildlife management area in Vermont, a vast land of bogs and evergreens hosting a large moose population. It is part of one of Vermont's greatest conservation success stories, which has perpetually devoted more than 130,000 acres of land to public access, working forestry, and ecological protection.

Doug Morin, state lands biologist for the Fish & Wildlife Department, is coordinating the effort for the agency. He encourages users to submit comments from now until August 15, 2013. "We rely on input from the public to guide this process," said Morin. "We'd like to hear from the public about what's working, what could be improved, and what people value most about these lands."

Please send comments to ANR.FWwmaComments@state.vt.us, or mail them to Doug Morin,

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 1229 Portland Street, Suite 210, St Johnsbury, VT 05819.

For more information on the update process, West Mountain WMA, and public access on the private timberlands, visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wildlife_WestMtnWMAReview.cfm.

Public Meeting Set Regarding Proposed Stocking of Walleye in Moore Reservoir

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department will hold a public informational meeting at **6 p.m. on July 22, 2013 at the Littleton Opera House, 2 Union Street, Littleton, N.H.** to discuss the proposed stocking of walleye into Moore Reservoir. Moore Reservoir is an impoundment on the Connecticut River in the communities of Littleton and Dalton, N.H., and Waterford and Concord, Vt.

At the session, fisheries biologists will provide background on the proposed stocking activities, and there will be an opportunity for public comment and questions.

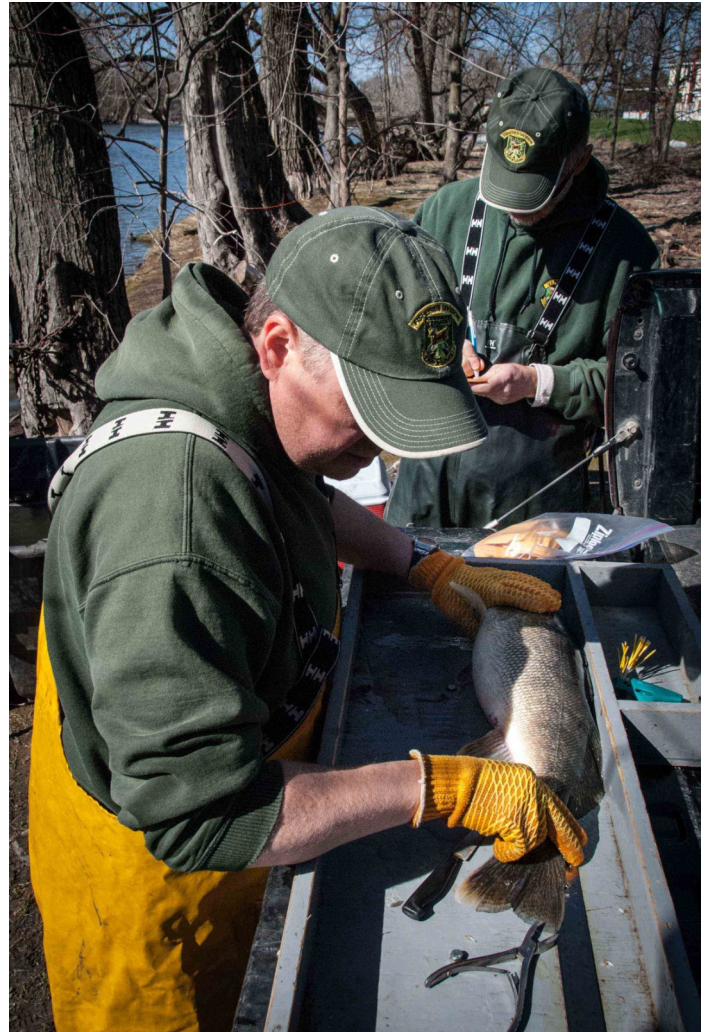
"Walleye are currently found in the Connecticut River south of McIndoes Dam, and creating a fishery for them up in Moore Reservoir will be a welcome opportunity for North Country and Northeast Kingdom anglers," said Gabe Gries, a fisheries biologist with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

This proposed stocking is a cooperative effort between the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Walleye fingerlings would be raised at the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Bald Hill Fish Culture Station in Newark, Vt., with the first stocking proposed for 2014. It is likely that, over time, a successful self-sustaining walleye population in Moore Reservoir will also naturally populate the two downstream reservoirs (Comerford and McIndoes) that currently do not contain walleye.

"Moore Reservoir has the potential to produce trophy walleyes due to its excellent habitat and abundant forage," said Jud Kratzer, a fisheries biologist with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

For directions to the Littleton Opera House, visit: www.littletonareachamber.com/opera_house.php. If you are unable to attend the public hearing but still wish to comment on the proposal, you may email your comments to Jud Kratzer at jud.kratzer@state.vt.us or call 802-751-0486.

Fisheries research and fish stocking activities in Vermont are funded by fishing license sales and the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, funded by an excise tax on the purchase of fishing and boating equipment.



Fish & Wildlife Biologist Bernie Pientka measures a walleye on the banks of the Missisquoi River.

From Vermont Department of Health: Don't Pick up Wild Animals

BARRE – Eleven people and several pets in Barre were recently exposed to the saliva of a baby skunk that appeared abandoned, and was rescued from the side of a road. The animal later tested positive for rabies.

Everyone who was possibly exposed, including six children, underwent a series of vaccinations as a preventative measure and should fully recover, according to Robert Johnson, DVM, the Health Department's public health veterinarian.

The baby skunk was one of two captured in Barre that tested positive for rabies on June 27. A total of 31 animals have tested positive for rabies so far this year in Vermont.

"Wild animals are not kittens or puppies, and we want to remind Vermonters not to feed or touch wild animals," Dr. Johnson said. "The best prevention is to avoid exposure.

"The tendency is to want to rescue and save the animal, but our advice is leave it alone."

The only way to potentially rescue a wild animal is to make sure it is handled properly (with gloves and placed into a box) and brought to a state wildlife rehabilitator.



Photo by John Hall

For guidance on what to do if you find a wild animal (such as a baby animal that appears to have been abandoned by its mother), contact the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (802-241-3700), and visit: http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wildlife_rehabilitation.cfm for a wildlife rehabilitator in your area.

Once the animals are taken in as pets and improperly handled, and people are either bitten or exposed to saliva, the potential for rabies exposure requires that the animal is tested for the disease. Animal testing for rabies involves killing the animal and testing a sample of its brain tissue.

Without treatment, rabies is a potentially fatal disease for humans and animals.

Avoid any wild animal that is acting strangely and contact the Vermont Rabies Hotline: 1-800-472-2437 (1-800-4-RABIES), Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information visit: <http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/rabies/Rabies.aspx#hotline>

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“THE GREAT FAIRLEE WETLANDS”

A Hidden World Within Our Hills

Wednesday July 17

7 PM

Lake Morey Resort

Susan Morse, wildlife ecologist and photographer,
Brett Engstrom, conservation biologist
David Paganelli, Orange County Forester
Steve Hagenbuch, Audubon VT.

*What’s in the immense and varied complex of beaver
ponds, marshes, swamps, and meadows tucked within the
wild hills between Lake Morey and West Fairlee?*

What does it look like back there?

What critters live there, and what grows?

....And why is it unique and special?

Come find out! It’s FREE

This is a Friends of Fairlee Forests presentation
generously hosted by the Lake Morey Resort