



Compliments of the Hunter Education Program

The Feds may be shut down, but here at VTANR, we are still in full swing! Most of our instructors are wrapping up their final classes, and submitting their course results. Thanks to everyone for working with Event Manager, and for the input you have shared with us!

In this issue you will find VT Fish & Wildlife press releases, articles relevant to the program, and a few new columns written by Hunter Education staff members. You'll also notice that the newsletter has a new name. You voted on it, and 47% of you chose to call our newsletter "Field Notes." Well, here it is!

Insights

Photo and text by Instructor Robert Lajoie

This is the month when the green of summer changes into bright colors before November's gray. It is time to get in some great fall fishing. It is a time to hunt upland game or bow hunt. It is time to visit the landowners who allow us access to their land. It is time to spend some special time in the woods with a young person. It is a great time for us to show a new hunter the way to hunt respectfully and safely.



Photo credit: Instructor Robert Lajoie

Government Shutdown Closes Popular National Refuges to Hunters and Anglers



Photo credit: Michael Kolsun, Chief Instructor, Windham County

The federal government shutdown has some Vermont hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers looking for alternative venues to enjoy their favorite fall activities. At the Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, both the Nulhegan Basin Division and Putney Mountain Unit have been closed to the public. The Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge has also curtailed operations.

Visitors to the the headquarters of these federal lands will find they have been shuttered, gates leading into the properties have been closed, and access to public activities such as hunting and fishing have been suspended. A federal agent patrolling the Conte refuge is warning hunters against trespass.

“The federal shutdown hits Vermont during one of the state’s busiest seasons for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing,” said Patrick Berry, Fish & Wildlife commissioner. “This is a time when rural communities across Vermont really count on the local revenues generated by hunting and fishing activities.”

Berry encouraged those whose plans are being compromised by the closures to check the department website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) for other wildlife management areas and public lands that offer comparable resources.

“Closure of the Conte and Missisquoi refuges will undoubtedly upset the plans for many sportsmen and women in the region,” Berry added, “and deprive the Island Pond area of much needed income. We can only hope that there will be time and other options for all those affected to enjoy the resources Vermont has to offer.”

Vermont currently has several hunting seasons open, including for moose archery, bear, ruffed grouse, woodcock, rabbit, and squirrel—all of which normally occur on refuge lands. Trout fishing waters on the refuges, which typically are open until October 31, are also off limits. Affected in these closures are:

- The Conte refuge in the Northeast Kingdom, encompassing 26,526 acres of remote forested land, comprises one of the premier--and most popular--areas in the state for moose archery hunting and small game hunting. Many hunters that normally choose to hunt in the Conte area, including those who were fortunate enough to draw archery moose permits, will need to travel to other areas. Nearby West Mountain and Bill Sladyk Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) offer opportunities for both wildlife watching and upland game hunting and are open except for the roads that border the Conte.

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Government Shutdown Closes Popular National Refuges to Hunters and Anglers (continued from previous page)

- The Nulhegan River and its North and Black Branches within the Conte refuge, as well as Lewis Pond, are popular trout fishing waters. Alternatives include West Mountain and the Johnson Farm WMAs.
 - Another area popular with hunters, the Putney Mountain Unit of the Conte in southeastern Vermont is also closed. Hunters are encouraged to travel to Turner Hill WMA.
 - The Missisquoi refuge is considered one of the best waterfowl hunting locations in the northeast. Should the government shutdown continue, the controlled waterfowl hunts currently scheduled on the refuge will be cancelled. Eagle Point Wildlife Management Area in Derby, which is managed cooperatively between Fish & Wildlife and the USFWS, has also been affected by the shutdown, and all access to Eagle Point, including all roads and parking areas has been closed. Waterfowl hunters should consider Mud Creek WMA and North Hero State Park.
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Leashed Tracking Dogs for Recovery of Game

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is providing the following list of certified leashed tracking dog owners who will help locate deer, bear or moose that have been shot during hunting season but not yet recovered. The leashed tracking dog owners must pass an extensive exam administered by Fish & Wildlife in order to be certified and licensed to provide their services. Vermont's two-part archery deer season dates are October 5-27 and December 7-15.

Name	Town	Phone Number	Name	Town	Phone Number
Jeremy O'Neil	Arlington, VT	802-375-6718	Tom DiPietro Jr	Jericho, VT	802-899-4479
Chris Peacock	Burlington, VT	802-658-3423	Jeff Adams	Milton, VT	802-893-4375
Jess Monago	Burlington, VT	607-765-0945	Rene' Bugnon	Mount Holly, VT	802-259-2363
Tina Mollison	Chittenden, VT	802-353-6257	Chris Knox	Northfield, VT	802-793-2224
Ronald Martin	Enosburg, VT	802-933-9134	Kevin Shea	Shelburne, VT	802-985-2887
Zack Hill	Essex Jct, VT	802-578-3129	Marvin Ainsworth	St Johnsbury, VT	802-748-8627
Kenneth Douglas III	Fairfax, VT	802-849-6591	Daniel Myers	Troy, VT	802-988-4370
Sally Marchmont	Fletcher, VT	802-849-9304	Dennis Roberts	Troy, VT	802-988-9632
Kristy Wheel	Grand Isle, VT	802-372-4741	Leon Prevost Jr	Underhill, VT	802-310-6210
Laura Nichols	Granville, NY	518-932-6506	Greg Ruetzler	Warren, VT	802-583-1339
Tim Nichols	Granville, NY	518-642-3012	Tom Harvey	Waterbury, VT	802-244-1458
Travis Nichols	Granville, NY	518-932-6505	Kelli Raymond	West Rupert, VT	802-394-7862
Doug des Groseilliers	Hardwick, VT	802-472-6177	James Lober	Westminster, VT	802-722-4889
Ashley Buffum	Island Pond, VT	802-673-3969	Robert MacNeil	White River Jct., VT	802-281-9340
Justin Goulet	Island Pond, VT	802-673-5988	Mark Powling	Williamsville, VT	802-348-6678
Ben Broe	Jeffersonville, VT	802-598-1235	Wannetta Powling	Williamsville, VT	802-348-6678
Christine DiPietro	Jericho, VT	802-899-4479	Ken Yearman	Worcester, VT	802-229-1057
Tom DiPietro	Jericho, VT	802-899-4479			

Hope's Cookhouse

Let me begin this post by saying how excited I am to share this column with all of you. I love food and I love hunting, so when you put both together I am in HEAVEN! I'm "hoping" to share some of my wild game recipes with you all, but see some of yours as well. Please feel free to send any of your recipes to me via email (Hope.Kanarvogel@state.vt.us) and I will put them into this column so others can see how you're using your harvested game

This week's recipe is one of my favorite dishes to make for Friday night football, or to bring over to a friend's house. It's BIG, spicy and absolutely addictive; this is my spicy venison con queso dip. It's super easy, so I hope you whip up a batch this weekend put your feet up and enjoy your harvest and the game this Sunday!

Venison con Queso Dip

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. Venison Ground Hamburger
- 1 lb. Venison Loose Hot Italian Sausage
- 2 10 oz. cans of Diced Tomatoes and Green Chilies
- 1 Large Onion
- 2 Diced Jalapeno Peppers
- 32 oz. Brick of Velveeta Cheese
- 1 tbsp. Franks Red Hot

Directions:

Add both the venison ground hamburger and venison loose hot Italian sausage to a large fry pan. After meat is thoroughly cooked stir in diced onion, diced tomatoes and green chilies, and diced jalapenos. Before adding the brick of Velveeta cheese cut it up into smaller pieces in order for it to evenly melt. Add Frank's Red Hot and thoroughly mix into the entire dip. Serve warm in chaffing dish with Fritos scoops.



FAQ with Nicole



Q: How do I handle a convicted felon in my class?

A: Convicted felons are allowed to take hunter, trapper, and bow classes. The only caveat is that they are not allowed to handle firearms. It is the responsibility of the felon to come forward and identify themselves to the instructor. By doing so, you can discreetly take the appropriate measures in your class to accommodate the student. Convicted felons are allowed to handle bows, arrows, air rifles, action sets, and muzzleloaders. Remember: it is not your responsibility as an instructor to enforce their behavior, but they probably want to learn just as much as anyone! You can read more about felons in your classes on page 61 of your Policy and Procedures Manual.

Bowhunters Reminded That Handguns May Not be Used to Take Game

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is reminding hunters that handguns may not be used to take game while archery deer hunting. Following the Sportsman Act of 2013, archery deer hunters in Vermont are permitted to carry a pistol or revolver.

“This provision was passed to create more consistency with rights currently afforded to hikers, wildlife watchers, and others,” said Col. David LeCours, head of law enforcement for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. “However, it was not intended to supplement a bow and arrow for legally taking other game during the archery season. Handguns may not be used for taking deer, bear or any other game animal while archery deer hunting, including downed deer.”

Bowhunters are also reminded to practice treestand safety. “We see several hunters every year who seriously injure themselves while using treestands,” said Col. LeCours. “These injuries can usually be avoided by following a few simple precautions.”

Hunters should use a safety harness in a treestand, even while climbing. They should also not go too high. Staying lower in a tree not only improves safety, but also increases the size of the vital zone exposed on a deer. And hunters should choose large, stable trees and use stands certified by the Treestand Manufacturer’s Association.



Tree Stand Safety Tips for Hunters

Taking a stand, political or otherwise, sometimes has risks, but no more so when that stand is up a tree. Here are some tips from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department to get the most out of your tree stand hunting experience:

- Choose a live, straight tree.
- Buy smart. Only use stands certified by the Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA).
- Inspect them each time you use them.
- 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.
- 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.
- Hunt smart. Hunt safe. Wear Orange.



Photo credit: John Hall

Keep your eyes peeled!

Vermont DEC Watershed Management Division has begun receiving reports of cyanobacteria blooms last week. It is not unusual for mild weather to trigger the blooms. Small surface blooms have been reported from the south and east shores of Memphremagog, and Lake Morey, where the bloom is apparently visible lakewide.

Anyone who sees a bloom is encouraged to contact Angela Shambaugh with VT DEC at 802-490-6130, and also contact a local town health officer.

Hunt Of A Lifetime Caps Miraculous Recovery

This article was submitted to us by instructor Jeff Houde. David Helstein is one of Jeff Houde's past students.

Thanks to our instructors for making dreams come true every day.

This article was originally published in the Caledonian Record and was written by staff writer James Jardine.

A Lyndon Institute junior made a miraculous recovery from a nearly fatal disease that left him blind in one eye. He celebrated with a once-in-a-lifetime hunting trip. David Helstein Jr., 15, Waterford, celebrated his recuperation from bacterial meningitis with an elk hunt in Oregon - donated by the non-profit organization "Hunt of a Lifetime." In early October 2012, David began feeling sick and got headaches that lasted for a week. The previously healthy 14-year-old was first diagnosed with mononucleosis, then later it was thought he had pneumonia.

On Oct. 6, 2012, as his symptoms worsened, David told his mother, "I can't see out of my right eye." He was diagnosed with meningitis and rushed by helicopter to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. An MRI showed pressure on his brain and surgery was required to remove a piece of his skull. He was in intensive care for five days and was at risk of blood clots and a stroke. He received painful antibiotic injections into his stomach. When his right eye began swelling again, he was transported to Mass. General for eye surgery.

As he fought the life-threatening illness, David and his family struggled through a four-month ordeal that brought him "within hours of dying," said one of his doctors. Following his release from hospitals, he underwent months more of treatment at home, during which his mother, Sarah Helstein, spent each day taking care of him and providing the treatment prescribed by his doctors. In all, David had 13 MRI's and 7 CT Scans and spent months in and out of hospitals, said Sarah.

Now nearing the end of their long road to recovery, David Jr. and his parents David Sr. and Sarah, and older sister Melissa, 18, are grateful for the enormous support received throughout the family's ordeal.

The Helstein family is overwhelmed by the enormous community support received from Lyndon Institute, his medical providers and the community at large, including Ben McCormick's physical therapy practice and many other local businesses. David's father is most grateful for the people and the time they donated supporting his family. "It's the people; it's the people that donate the time." He said the last year has been "a life changing experience" for the family.

"When any member of our community encounters difficulty, the whole community rallies around him," said LI Headmaster Rick Hilton. "The thoughts and prayers of the whole school were with David during his ordeal, and we are delighted to see him thriving -- in class, in the hallways, and on the playing fields."

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Hunt Of A Lifetime Caps Miraculous Discovery

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It was the staff at DHMC and Mass General who first told the Helstein's about the "Hunt of a Lifetime" organization and volunteered to help enroll David.

Thanks to the generosity of volunteers working through the charitable organization, David was sent on an elk hunt in Oregon. He was accompanied by his father. Because David had permanently lost the sight in his right eye as a result of the meningitis, donors gave the young hunter a 30-06 rifle and a special scope from Huskemaw that accommodated his left eye vision. With the donated rifle and scope and the help of volunteer guides, David shot an elk with one shot at a distance of 737 yards.

According to David's father, the hunting in Oregon and the western U.S. is much different than Vermont. It is "canyon hunting," which may mean an average shot is 500 to 1,000 yards. David's hunt was filmed and is expected to be shown on national television on an outdoor sportsmen channel at a later date. A taxidermist has even volunteered to do a shoulder mount of the elk for David and a butcher specializing in game animals is butchering and packaging the meat for the Helsteins.

In Vermont, the state "Hunt of a Lifetime" organization helps eligible youth enjoy a special hunting or fishing trip. Dody and Nicole Bleau, of Richmond, Vt., volunteer through Hunt of a Lifetime and are putting together a moose hunt in the Northeast Kingdom for a boy and a girl who have enrolled in Hunt of a Lifetime. Two other guides are helping as well along with a wildlife game butcher and a taxidermist so that more worthy recipients may have the same experience that David did. The State of Vermont even sets aside a few moose permits specially for recipients of Hunt of a Lifetime.



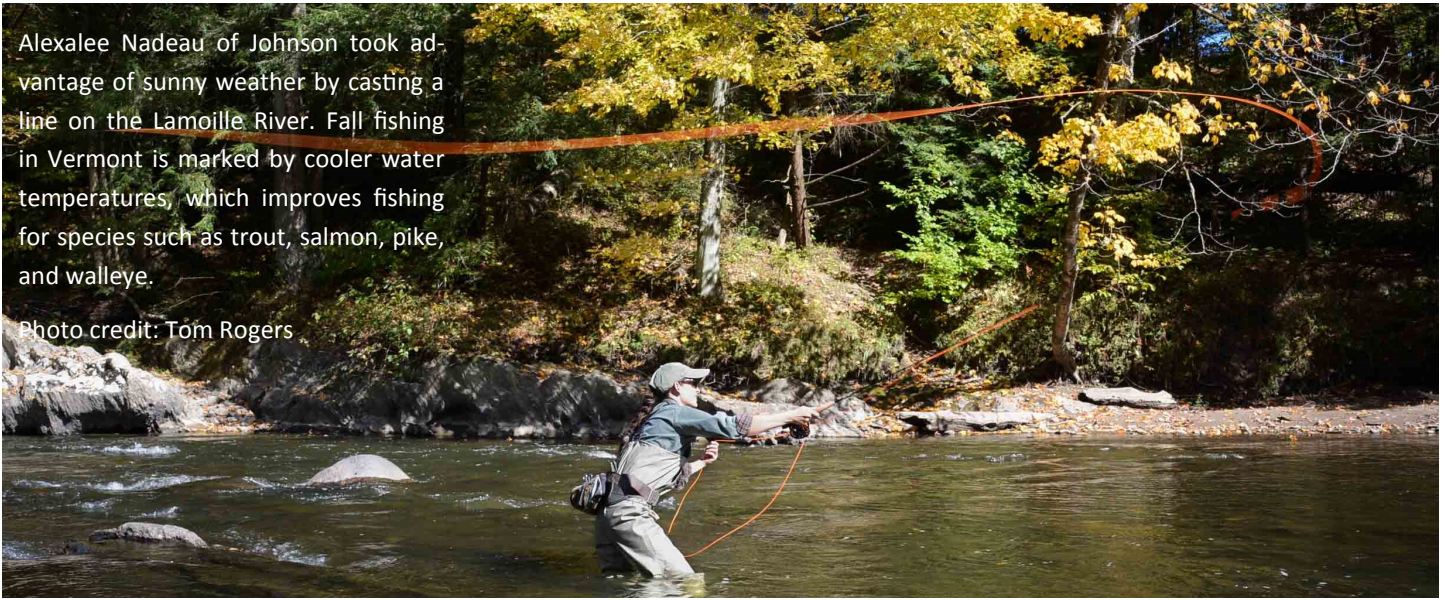
The various branches of the non-profit conduct special trips all over the U.S. and internationally, with hunting trips in Africa and New Zealand. Dody Bleau says, "If we can make them forget they are sick for a week, it's worth it."

Now one year after David fell ill and came so close to death he is back at Lyndon Institute and playing on the undefeated varsity football team as a running back. His teammates assure David, blind in his right eye, "We'll cover you. We're watching your back."

Fall Fishing Opportunities Heat Up as Waters Cool

Alexalee Nadeau of Johnson took advantage of sunny weather by casting a line on the Lamoille River. Fall fishing in Vermont is marked by cooler water temperatures, which improves fishing for species such as trout, salmon, pike, and walleye.

Photo credit: Tom Rogers



Autumn provides some of the year's best fishing opportunities in Vermont's streams, rivers, and lakes, and you may just have the water all to yourself.

Hot temperatures in July and August can make fishing difficult for many species like trout, salmon, pike and walleye. But once the water starts to cool down in the fall, these fish start biting again.

"River temperatures are hovering around the mid-50's, which is the optimal temperature for fishing for rainbows, browns, and brookies," said Jud Kratzer, fisheries biologist for the Fish & Wildlife Department. "Anglers who troll for rainbow trout and salmon are usually successful right until the season closes."

Many Vermont waters also receive much less fishing pressure during the fall with summer vacations over and kids back in school. "Fall is the perfect time for anglers who enjoy solitude to get out and fish," said Kratzer.

Fall fishing hotspots include fishing for walleye on the Connecticut River and fishing for landlocked salmon on the Clyde River. Several stretches of rivers in Vermont have recently been opened for year round catch and release fishing opportunities. The Lake Champlain region is also a great destination for late-fall fishing, as the water cools down more slowly than in other areas of the state.

The high quality landlocked salmon fishing on Lake Champlain makes getting out in cooler fall weather a worthwhile venture. Late season tributary fishing is often overlooked and can produce salmon and steelhead through late fall, as well as continued steelhead fishing right through the winter as river conditions and regulations allow.

Fishing for salmon and trout on Lake Champlain in the late fall is much like fishing for them in early spring. "Deep trolling equipment is not necessary, but can sometimes be used to anglers' advantage," said Kratzer. "The fish will sometimes feed near the surface, where the action can be spectacular when trolling streamers with a fly rod or spoons with spinning tackle."

Anglers interested in tributary fishing for salmon should try the lower sections of the Lamoille and Winooski Rivers. For specific regulations on different waterways and more information on fishing in Vermont, see the Fish and Wildlife Law Digest and Guide at vt.fishandwildlife.com.

Hunters Reminded of Rules on Importing Deer, Elk

Hunters traveling outside Vermont to hunt deer or elk need to keep in mind that the regulation designed to protect Vermont's wild deer from chronic wasting disease remains in effect, according to a reminder from the Vermont Fish & 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. For the latest information on CWD, check these websites: www.vtfishandwildlife.com and www.cwd-info.org.

The potential exists for CWD prion proteins to be introduced to the environment through the bodily fluids of CWD-positive ungulates and then persist in the environment for extended periods of time. Thus, hunters are reminded to help reduce the risk of disease transmission through limiting the utilization of real deer urine attractants while hunting.

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 regulations currently apply to hunters bringing in deer or elk carcasses from the following states and provinces:

Alberta, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

"CWD is a very persistent disease that can resurface after years of absence," said Adam Murkowski, Vermont's deer project leader. "Vermont's CWD regulation is designed to help prevent CWD from infecting Vermont's deer and the drastic de-population 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.

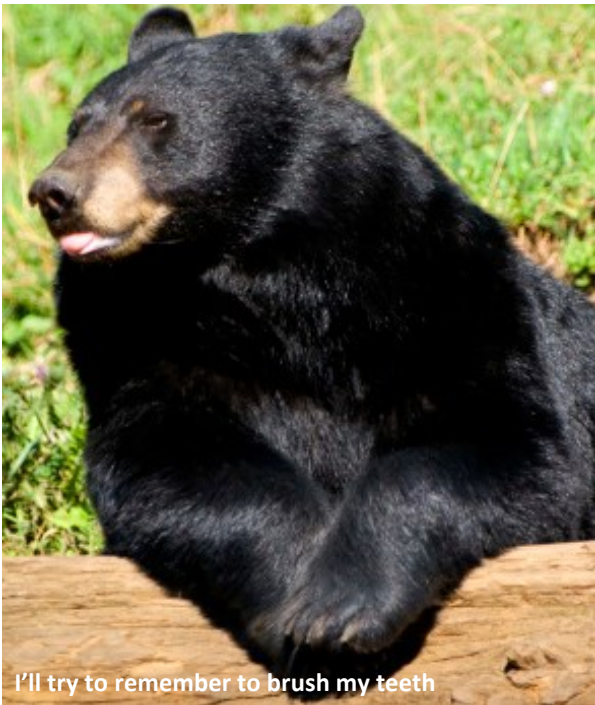


Fish & Wildlife Dept. Seeks Bear Teeth from Hunters

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

Teeth submitted by hunters are used to determine the age of the bear. Department staff use age and sex data to get an estimate of the number of bears in the state and to determine the status and health of the bear population. Envelopes for submitting the tooth are available at big game check stations.

"The premolar tooth we're asking hunters to extract is actually quite small and easy to loosen with a knife," said Forrest Hammond, bear project leader for the Fish & Wildlife Department. "Directions for removing the tooth are on the back of the envelope provided by the check station and are also on our website, including a short YouTube video."



I'll try to remember to brush my teeth

According to Hammond, preliminary reports indicate that bear foods such as beech nuts, acorns, apples and berries are plentiful in the woods this year. Previous years with high food availability have usually resulted in a lower September bear harvest and a higher bear harvest during late November when hunters are out in the woods hunting for deer.

"Bears are likely to be more widely dispersed on high, remote ridgelines this fall," said Hammond. "Years like this typically reward hunters who get away from the cornfields and spend more time afield scouting for natural bear food sources."

Vermont now has two bear hunting seasons. The early bear hunting season, which requires a special bear tag, starts September 1 and continues through November 15. The late bear season begins November 16 and continues through November 24. Hunters should remember that the limit for bears remains one per calendar year.

The bear tag that comes with a hunting license is for use during this late season. This season has been extended four additional days during the November deer season. The change in seasons was instated to help better manage Vermont's bear population, which is now estimated at roughly 6,000 black bears.

"Carefully regulated hunting plays a very important role in wildlife management by helping to control the growth of the black bear population," said Hammond. "Minor fluctuations in the bear population will always occur due to changes in food availability, winter severity, and hunter success. Despite these fluctuations, we look at the long-term trends to manage for a healthy, robust population."

VT bow hunters take aim as deer season opens

This article was originally published on [wcax.com](http://www.wcax.com) by Alexei Rubenstein

You can call Paul Jerome an avid hunter.

"White-tail rifle, muzzleload-- I like venison you might say. It's the ultimate free-range organic meat," Jerome said.

And when it comes to hunting, October's bow season is one of his favorites.

"The adrenaline you get from it when they're 10, 15, 20 yards away. It's not like a rifle when they can be way out there and you can set it on a branch or a rest and take your 200-yard shot. You need to be within 10, 15, 20, 30 yards of them. You can hear them breathe at that point," Jerome said. "It's quite exciting."

The Middlesex mechanic will spend dozens of hours in the woods this fall stalking and tracking white-tailed deer.

While not nearly as popular as the November rifle season, the number of bow hunters has remained fairly steady and even grown over the last several years. That compares to a national downtrend in hunting.

"Today's hunter is one who is actually hunting much more than just the rifle season. It used to be when I was a kid growing up in Vermont in the 1960s and 70s; deer hunting in Vermont meant grabbing a rifle, hunting the 16-day November buck season. Today it's really different. The hunter is spending as much time hunting with a muzzleloader or a bow, many of them," said Mark Scott of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Over at R & L Archery in Barre, hunters are coming in to tune up their bows for the season. The shop-- and official weigh station-- has seen an unusually busy start to the season, with 28 deer brought in in just the first three days.

"I think there's far more participation this year. The sightings of deer around the state for the summer and early fall have been high. There's a lot of anticipation and excitement and the guys turned up for it," said Rick Sanborn of R & L Archery.

Although Paul Jerome took up hunting when he was young, he didn't start bow hunting until about 16 years ago. His advice to others-- put in the time.

"Better get a good bow and start shooting it and get good with it before you go out, because it's really hard," Jerome said. "There's a lot of pressure when they're close and the adrenaline's raging. It's really hard to keep it all under control and get it done."

State wildlife officials say a combination of mild winters and plenty of food mean a healthy population of white-tailed deer. The bow season runs until Oct. 27 and then for another week in early December, following rifle season.

See the full article, a video, and photos here: <http://www.wcax.com/story/23640838/vt-bow-hunters-take-aim-as-deer-season-opens>

Photo credit: Instructor Robert Lajoie
at Maidstone State Park



Do you have a story to tell? A spectacular photograph you
want to share? A good game recipe for us to try?
E-mail Nicole at nicole.corrao@state.vt.us and we will include
you in a future issue of Field Notes!