



Photo courtesy of Tom Rogers

Compliments of the Hunter Education Program

Hopefully you celebrated Independence Day safely and had a fun time. Take a breather and relax now, because as we all know, the busy season is starting up! Hunter Education is holding a new instructor training class at our Buck Lake camp on July 18th and 19th. Please join us in welcoming the new recruits—maybe they can help you out in your upcoming classes to get some experience under their belts. This issue of Field Notes is a little lighter than usual—not much going on as far as press releases, since we are so busy! If you have any articles, pictures, or comments, please e-mail them to Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us

Insights

Hunter Ethics

You probably learned in your very first hunter safety class that ethics are the moral principles that govern a person's behavior – doing what is right even when no one is looking.

In the 1800s when people were clearing land for their own homes, it seemed that wildlife was a limitless resource for harvest. During this time, most game animals were nearly hunted to extinction – you know the story; Buffalo reduced to fewer than 1,000, the beaver was nearly wiped out, deer were in jeopardy, and here in Vermont, turkeys had disappeared completely.

In an effort to conserve wildlife for future generations, sportsmen, legislators, and private citizens banded together to create the first wildlife management laws. The aim of these laws is to regulate hunting seasons to limit hunting and avoid nesting/mating seasons, limit hunting methods and equipment, set bag limits, and establish check stations and a Warden force to ensure these wildlife laws are followed.

Wildlife laws also work to keep people safe, not just during hunting season, but year round. Following hunting laws can keep you and your neighbors happy – only hunting during legal shooting hours when visibility is best, hunting only during designated seasons so that people know what to expect when in the woods, etc.

But if you follow every hunting law exactly, are you being ethical? Can ethics be enforced? Or is it a moral code ingrained in us from birth?

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Hunter Ethics

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Are we justified in bending the law just a bit? What if it is the last day of rifle season, and your buck is running through the woods? Do you shoot? What if you're not exactly sure whose land you are walking on as you're looking for your downed goose? You think it dropped just over here... but you'll only walk in a few yards, right? You don't have a bear tag, but you're hunting with someone who does... you'll just use their tag. Fine, right?

Ethics relate to fairness, respect, and responsibility. As Aldo Leopold said, "Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching – even when doing the right thing is legal." Ethical hunters demonstrate a sense of responsibility, compliance, fairness, and courtesy, both in the field and in everyday situations. Honest people occasionally make mistakes. Accidental or not, hunters are responsible for their actions – everyone is responsible for his or her own actions.

The legacy of hunting ethics might best be described by Theodore Roosevelt who said, "In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing." This has proven true for hunters, conservationists, and people living their everyday lives. Doing right often isn't easy, but it is ethical, moral, and decent; it is something we should strive for every day, not just during hunting season.

Hunting is a privilege, not a right. Hold yourself to your highest ethical standards, and expect the same from your hunting companions, family, and friends. Hunt safe. Hunt smart. Hunt ethical.

Vermont's Moose Lottery Drawing—July 17th at the Statehouse

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and Governor Peter Shumlin will hold the annual lottery drawing for moose hunting permits Thursday, July 17, at the Statehouse in Montpelier.

"Join us at 10 a.m. July 17 in Statehouse Room 11 for the live radio broadcast of Vermont's moose permit drawing, or tune in on Froggy 100.9 to hear us read off all the lucky winners' names," said Director of Wildlife Mark Scott.

Vermont's moose lottery drawing will also be streamed LIVE online at froggy1009.com.

The drawing is done by a computerized random sort of lottery applications that were submitted by a June 17 deadline.

The Fish & Wildlife Department is issuing 335 moose hunting permits by lottery this year. Of those, 285



Moose sparring. Photo courtesy of Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

will be issued for the regular October 18-23 moose season and 50 permits will be issued for an archery moose season October 1-7.

Hammond Cove Range Closed July 16

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says the Hammond Cove Shooting Range in Hartland, Vermont will be closed on Wednesday, July 16, for facility improvement planning. It will re-open July 17.

“The Hammond Cove Shooting Range is Vermont’s first fully, publicly accessible shooting range,” said Hunter Education Coordinator Chris Saunders. “This facility would not be possible without the dedication of the Hartland Fish & Game Club. Among other things, their members keep the range clean, repair target frames and open and close the gate each day.”

Shooters are reminded that summer hours are in effect, including a 7:30 p.m. close each night, regardless of sunset:

May 1st – August 31st

Monday – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information: http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/Shooting_Ranges.cfm



Hunter Education staffer Nicole Corrao takes aim at the range.

Photo courtesy of Tom Rogers, Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

Be Tick Smart: Repel, Inspect, Remove to Prevent Lyme Disease

How easy would it be to find a poppy seed hidden somewhere on your skin?

Lyme disease is transmitted from the bite of infected deer ticks. This time of year the nymphs (immature ticks), which are about the size of a poppy seed, are biting and may spread the bacteria that cause Lyme disease.

Transmission can be prevented if the tick is removed within about 36 hours, but the nymphs are so small that they can go unnoticed if you aren't looking for them carefully. Most infections occur in the summer months.

A few simple steps can help prevent tick bites and the risk of getting Lyme disease. Start by avoiding areas that are good tick habitat as much as is practical. Ticks tend to be common in tall grass, areas with a lot of brush and leaf litter, and along forest edges.

REPEL - Before you go outside, remember to use insect repellent with up to 30% DEET and treat clothes with permethrin. When possible, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and tuck your pants into your socks to keep ticks away from your skin. Inspect yourself regularly when outside to catch any ticks before they bite.

INSPECT – Do daily tick checks on yourself, children and pets. Check yourself from head to toe. While nymphs are most commonly found on the lower legs, they may be anywhere on the body.

REMOVE – Remove ticks promptly. Showering within two hours of coming indoors has also been proven effective in preventing Lyme disease by washing ticks off the skin. The incidence of Lyme disease continues to rise in Vermont. In 2013, there were more than 600 confirmed cases of Lyme disease reported to the Vermont Department of Health. Most illness is in residents of the four southern counties, but cases are becoming more common in the counties on the western side of the state as well. Residents in all counties of Vermont have been diagnosed with Lyme disease.

The first sign of Lyme disease is often an expanding red rash at the site of the tick bite. The rash usually appears seven to 14 days after the tick bite, but sometimes it takes up to 30 days to appear. Not everyone gets the rash, so be on the lookout for other symptoms of early Lyme disease, such as fatigue, headache, fever, chills, swollen lymph nodes, and muscle and joint pain.

Lyme disease can be successfully treated with antibiotics, especially if treatment is given early. Left untreated, Lyme disease may affect other parts of the body, including the heart and nervous system.

For more information about ticks and Lyme disease visit healthvermont.gov. You can also follow us on Twitter or join us on Facebook for health information and alerts.



This partially engorged deer tick and the tell-tale bulls-eye rash could be the beginning of the transmission of Lyme disease.

Vermont's Moose Hunt Auction is Open

Vermont's lottery for moose hunting permits closed June 17, but there's one more opportunity to get a permit for this fall's moose hunt. Vermont's auction for five moose hunting permits is open until 4:30 p.m. August 14.

Auction winners will hunt in one of several wildlife management units (WMUs) open to moose hunting and choose to hunt during the October 1-7 archery season, or in the October 18-23 regular season.

Vermont's 2013 Moose Harvest Report on Fish & Wildlife's website has details on last year's hunt, including the towns where moose were taken. Look under "Hunting and Trapping" and then "Big Game."

Bids must be entered with a sealed bid form available from Vermont Fish & Wildlife. A minimum bid of \$1,500 is required, and winning bids are typically at least \$4,000. Bids do not include the cost of a hunting license (residents \$22, nonresidents \$100) or moose hunting permit fee (\$100 for residents and \$350 for nonresidents).

Additional information about the auction is on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Moose permit bid packets can be obtained by calling Fish & Wildlife at 802-828-1190 or by emailing (fwinformation@state.vt.us).

The bid packets include a map of Vermont's Wildlife Management Units with revised boundaries effective this year.

Proceeds from the moose hunting permit auction help fund Vermont Fish and Wildlife educational programs.

The lottery drawing for 285 regular moose season permits and 50 archery season permits will be held July 17 in Montpelier.



Photo courtesy of
Vermont Fish & Wildlife

FAQ with Nicole



Nicole on the range.

Photo courtesy of instructor DJ Rousseau

Q: How do I register a class?

A: Since we no longer use paper for registration purposes, all class registration, student results, and instructor hours should be recorded on Event Manager. There are two sites, one for students looking for a class, and one for instructors to register classes.

Student link: <http://register-ed.com/programs/vermont>

Instructor link: <https://my.register-ed.com/login/login>

If you don't know your log in information, call Nicole or Dylan and they can help you get started!

The Cookhouse

A Starter Kit to Making Your Own Venison Jerky

from David Draper, The Wild Chef at *Field & Stream*

I believe every hunter worth his weight in dried venison should have a secret jerky recipe he developed on his own. When working up your own blend, there are a seemingly infinite number of different directions one could go — from Asian flavors to South African biltong (another favorite) to something so spicy it requires a six pack of cold lager to cool you down. When I went about developing my own cure, I tried to stick with the Three-S Rule: Sweet, Salty, Spicy. While I'm not sure if my current jerky juice is perfect, it's pretty darn good. And it's going to remain a secret.

That said, I will share my base recipe, which I think is where a good jerky cure should start. It's enough for about 5 pounds of deer, elk, or other venison. Starting with these four ingredients, it's easy to riff on whatever flavor profile you're looking for, or you could just stick with this and end up with a pretty decent end product that's slightly sweet and a little salty. For the hot sauce, I use a habanero blend, but Sriracha or another chile-garlic paste works well. Just make sure to whisk everything together well to incorporate the thick molasses. Then soak the meat overnight and dry in a dehydrator or oven.

Link to original article:

<http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/the-wild-chef/a-starter-kit-to-making-your-own-venison-jerky>

Base Jerky Cure

Ingredients

- 1 cup molasses
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp. hot sauce
- 1 Tbsp. onion salt

Directions:

Whisk together to fully incorporate molasses. Pour over five pounds of meat sliced ¼-inch thick. Marinate overnight. Dry in a warm oven or dehydrator set at 150 degrees until the jerky bends without breaking, typically 5 to 6 hours.

EEE Virus Detected in Mosquitoes

There are few guarantees in life, but you can be sure that mosquitoes will attend all July 4th festivities in Vermont. Anybody celebrating at outdoor parades, cookouts and fireworks can supply a delicious meal to a hungry mosquito.

These tiny pests are mostly an annoyance, but certain types of mosquitoes can spread viral diseases. During the past few summers, mosquitoes carrying Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE) and West Nile virus (WNV) have been found in Vermont.

EEE virus has already been detected this year in one batch of mosquitoes collected in the town of Grand Isle. The mosquitoes were trapped on June 17 making this the earliest detection of the virus in the Northeast. This is also the first time EEE virus has been detected in Grand Isle County, although two horses from Franklin County and a batch of mosquitoes in Milton tested positive for the virus in 2013. So far this year, more than 300 batches of mosquitoes have been tested with just one positive result.

“This reminds us that although the mosquitoes have been biting for weeks, the risk for getting sick starts to increase right about now,” said Erica Berl, an infectious disease epidemiologist.

Both WNV and EEE virus have been detected in many of Vermont’s counties. The Health Department encourages Vermonters to take simple precautions to avoid mosquito bites.

No Matter Where You Live – Enjoy the Outdoors, but Fight the Bite!

Weather permitting, wear long sleeves and pants and avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn – when mosquitoes are most active.

Reduce mosquito breeding habitats by getting rid of standing water. Drain areas where water can pool: rain gutters, wading pools and any other water-holding containers such as old tires.

If you are outside when mosquitoes are biting, use an effective insect repellent. Choose repellents that have an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration number on the label. This indicates that the product has been evaluated for safety and effectiveness. Repellents that contain no more than 30 percent DEET are safe and effective for children and adults. When using insect repellent, always follow the directions on the label. EPA has a tool that will help you search for a repellent that is right for you – Go to epa.gov, use the A-Z listing to find ‘Insect Repellents’ or review this:

http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/arbovirus/documents/how_choose_insect_repellent.pdf

Install or repair screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.

Protect your animals. Horses are susceptible to WNV and EEE infection, and there are effective vaccines available. Llamas, alpacas and emus are also susceptible and can be immunized with the horse vaccine.

Contact your health care provider if you have questions about your health or need medical attention.

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EEE Virus Detected in Mosquitoes

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Symptoms of WNV and EEE

Most people who are infected with WNV will not become ill, and this may be true for EEE as well. Those who become ill with either WNV or EEE may have flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, fatigue, joint and body aches. Symptoms typically last one or two weeks, and recovery can be complete. However, both viruses have the potential to invade the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) and cause more serious illness. Symptoms of severe disease include fever, intense headache, weakness, poor coordination, irritability, drowsiness and mental status changes. About one-third of people who develop severe EEE disease will die, and many who recover are left with disabilities. Fortunately, severe EEE is rare.

EEE/WNV Information Line

The Health Department is offering a WNV/EEE information line to answer questions from the public. The phone line – 800-913-1139 – will be operational from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information on West Nile Virus and EEE and to view EEE risk maps (showing towns with active mosquito surveillance and to find out the latest surveillance results) visit the Vermont Department of Health's website at healthvermont.gov.

For more information about mosquitoes, visit: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/plant_pest/mosquitoes_ticks/mosquitoes

For health news, alerts and information visit healthvermont.gov

Vermont Wildlife Course for Educators, July 13-18

Photo courtesy
of Tom Rogers,
Vermont Fish &
Wildlife



Vermont's popular fish and wildlife summer course for teachers and other educators will be held July 13-18, 2014.

The hands-on field course that gets educators out into Vermont's streams, forests and wetlands with some of the state's leading natural resource experts takes place at the Buck Lake Conservation Camp in Woodbury.

Now in its 29th year, "Wildlife Management for Educators," is a one-week, three-credit graduate course taught by Vermont Fish & Wildlife and other Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) staff through the University of Vermont.

"Wildlife resources are important to all Vermonters in one way or another," says Fish & Wildlife's Education Coordinator Alison Thomas. "If teachers can get connected with the outdoors and in turn expose their students, then many of these students will be able to make informed decisions about Vermont wildlife and their habitat needs when they become adults."

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

"Course participants will include other ANR staff members as well, which provides a valuable opportunity for teachers to not only learn from, but also work with Agency staff."

"This course is hands-on and inquiry-based," added Thomas. "Last year we spent a beautiful sunny day at a wetland where we climbed over a beaver dam, which was very difficult, but we were rewarded with a bull moose wading in the water on the other side. He was so hot that he just let us sit in our canoes and watch him for over an hour. That's environmental education at its best, experiential, memorable, and muddy!" said Thomas.

Tuition is \$770 for the week -- books, food and overnight facilities are included. A limited number of partial scholarships are available. A course description and schedule of activities are available from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com under "general education." You can also contact them by calling (802) 371-9975 or emailing Alison.Thomas@state.vt.us.

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

Vermonters' Connection With The Land: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Endangered Species Restoration

by Kim Royar, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Vt. Fish & Wildlife

As we celebrate the success of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) currently in its 40th year, we are taking stock of the role it has played in the restoration of many fish, wildlife, and plant species across the nation that were on the brink of extinction. At the same time, we should recall that a handful of Vermonters recognized the value and importance of conserving fish and wildlife species and their habitats even before the ESA was conceived.

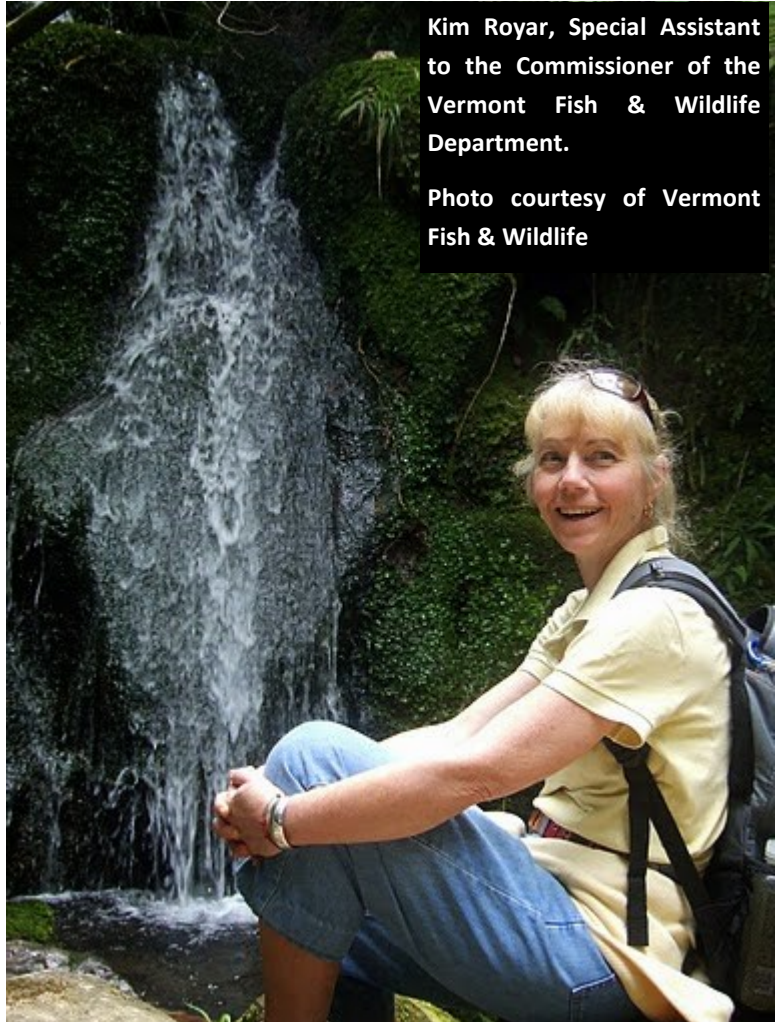
The conservation ethic that took root in early Vermont, and spread to the rest of the country, remains a vital part of our state's culture and shared heritage. But it is also important to remember that it grew not out of care, but out of exploitation. After settlement in the late 1700s, prevailing attitudes and the land use practices that came with them led to the extirpation of many of Vermont's native species.

By the mid- to late-1800s, due to the massive clearing of the forests, the siltation and pollution of many of our water bodies, and the

unregulated taking of our fish and wildlife, many of the species we cherish most today including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, bald eagles, beaver, salmon, fisher, and many others were essentially extinct.

In 1864, the clarion call for change came from Vermonter George Perkins Marsh, a resident of Woodstock, in his book *Man and Nature*. Marsh recognized that man, like other forms of life, "nourished at the table of bounteous nature," and that by destroying nature, the human population was undermining the very foundation they depended on for survival. Thus Marsh, in the mid-1800s, was one of the first people in the country to introduce the concept of conservation and the sustainable management of our valuable forest and wildlife resources.

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Kim Royar, Special Assistant to the Commissioner of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

Photo courtesy of Vermont Fish & Wildlife

Vermonters' Connection With The Land: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Endangered Species Restoration

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In 1866, in response to the devastation, the Vermont legislature appointed a Board of Fish Commissioners, the precursor to the Fish & Wildlife Department, to focus on the restoration of brook and lake trout which they understood required, “pure water.”

In the years leading up to the federal act, many of the species we now regularly see including deer, turkey, beaver, fisher, and peregrine falcons were reintroduced to the state. Now, some of those species are more common than they were prior to European settlement. Today, more Vermonters participate in wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing than residents of any other state in the nation, with the exception of Alaska. Thanks to their efforts, and to the effects of state and federal laws and programs, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and other species are making a comeback in the state, providing a richness to our interactions with wild things that cannot be overestimated.

Vermonters' passion for the land and our commitment to conservation has led to the extraordinary successes of the past 100 years. The recovery of these once-endangered species is a testament to the importance of a connection to the land and the water in our cultural heritage and to our long-standing engagement with wild animals and places. These experiences are what separates Vermont from other places and has fostered this proud heritage that has helped to make the Act, and the Vermont efforts before and after it, a success in our state. Maintaining our connection to the land will ensure its success for generations to come.



In Vermont, our national symbol, the bald eagle, has gone from zero nesting pairs to 16 known nests that produced 26 young in just over 10 years.

Photo courtesy of Tom Rogers, Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

Boating Infrastructure Grants Available

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is now accepting applications to fund projects that will help improve boating facilities in Vermont.

Grants are given out for marina improvement projects that directly benefit transient boaters, or boaters that stay at one slip for 10 days or less. Funding for the grants comes from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Boating Infrastructure Grant program.

Projects that are approved are given funding for up to 75 percent of the total cost of construction, and most awards are capped at \$100,000. The grant monies are administered by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

"Visitors to Vermont's waterways who boat, fish or just enjoy the scenery are an important part of Vermont's economy," said Mike Wichrowski who oversees the grant for Vermont Fish & Wildlife. "These funds for docks and the associated facilities provide additional opportunities for boaters to enjoy all that Vermont has to offer."

Project proposals in Vermont are typically from marinas looking to construct or upgrade docking facilities to accommodate visiting boats that are at least 26 feet long. Projects that can receive federal funding may include construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of day docks, mooring buoys, floating breakwaters, and dockside utilities.

Anyone interested in applying for these funds is encouraged to contact the Department to obtain application details. Information and grant applications are available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com/boating_grants.cfm. The deadline to apply is August 15, 2014.

Contact Us!

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Sound Off!

This is YOUR newsletter! Have a photo or story you'd like to share? Is there something that's missing in the newsletter? E-mail Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us with your suggestions, stories, pictures or other input!.

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