



Compliments of the Hunter Education Program

It's November and that means there is one thing on the mind of Vermonters: the quest for the elusive White-tailed Deer. Our instructors have been working all year for this opportunity—sighting in rifles, scouting spots, buying a new treestand, checking game cameras. Well, that time is upon us. Please remember to wear hunter orange in the woods, and spread the word on to hikers, bikers, horseback riders, dog walkers, etc. Let's In this issue you will find press releases, articles relevant to the program, and a few columns written by Hunter Ed staff members and volunteer instructors. Enjoy!

Can Technology Enhance Hunter Education?

By Travis Casper, North Carolina HE Coordinator

Hunter education professionals and volunteer instructors are charged with two main objectives, to reduce hunting-related injuries and fatalities and to ensure the future of all hunting traditions. Can technology assist in achieving these objectives?

The answer is yes and this article will attempt to clarify how technology can enhance the hunter recruitment process and benefit students in the hunter education classroom.

Hunting is built on tradition and technological evolution, but hunters have always looked at technology with questions. With the influx of technology, there have been questions on whether society's new gadgets have been a hindrance or a benefit to the outdoor experience. (Continued on next page)



North Carolina Hunter Education Coordinator Travis Casper instructs an introduction to rifle segment. Photo courtesy of Travis Casper

Can Technology Enhance Hunter Education?

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In 2008, Richard Louv explored the effects of limited exposure to the natural world on children and society. He wrote "Children between the ages of eight and 18 years old spent an average of nearly 6.5 hours a day plugged in electronically - 45 hours a week." About a quarter of this time young people were engaged in the use of more than one electronic medium simultaneously, leading him to call them "Generation M," with the "m" standing for multitasking. It also reflects the shift in how discretionary time is spent.

If hunter education professionals are serious about reaching Generation M, technology must be embraced and explored. It was reported by a marketing firm in attendance at the 2009 Archery Trade Association Education summit that 95 percent of travel and recreation decisions being made by consumers are researched via the internet. People are using the internet as an information source to make informed decisions. The existence of a wildlife agency or a volunteer instructor organization on the web only increases the online presence of hunter education and increasing the likelihood of this information being found by interested individuals.

Many hunting forums and videos on video sharing software platforms are on the internet. A recent search of "deer hunting" on YouTube returned about 684,000 results. So, this medium is being used by hunters and could be a source of information for individuals interested in exploring hunting.

Traditionally the knowledge of hunting has been passed down within a family or by close personal friends. Hunting is a tradition and in some areas the passing of the heritage is a rite of passage. Today's society is mobile. Careers, life, and other personal pursuits have made it more transient than society was just a few years ago. Individuals are not around their nuclear family for traditional knowledge to be passed down. If a child from Ohio is now living in North Carolina and he/she wants to learn about turkey hunting where would they turn for the basic knowledge? Short video vignettes might be a solution.

Today's generation is attached electronically. Short how-to videos on the types of calls, equipment, decoy set-up, and safety information can be basic knowledge that is easily conveyed through video.

Technology does not just have its place in recruiting new hunters; it can be beneficial in the hunter education classroom as well. Students and adults alike are conditioned to learn via many different delivery methods now. Many hunter education classes are taught through lecture distributed by a few DVDs and some practical hands on activities. One simple way an instructor can use to enhance their presentation is by implementing video, PowerPoint presentation or other formats during the course.

Taken from an excerpt of an academic paper by Travis Casper, North Carolina Hunter Education Coordinator.

CWD Discovered in Ohio Deer

Hunters reminded of VT rules on importing deer and elk

The Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources confirmed on October 23 the first positive case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the state in a captive deer herd in Holmes County.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department issued a reminder to hunters traveling outside Vermont to hunt that the regulation restricting the importation of deer and elk carcasses, which is designed to protect Vermont's wild deer from chronic wasting disease, remains in effect.

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.



Photo courtesy of Chief Instructor, George Bosworth

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CWD Discovered in Ohio Deer

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Photo courtesy of VTFW

Vermont's CWD importation regulations apply to hunters bringing in deer or elk carcasses from the following states and provinces, which now includes Ohio:

Alberta, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, 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.”

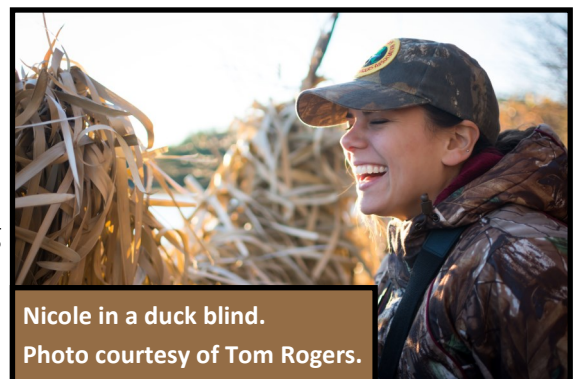
“Hunters bringing deer or elk from any of the CWD-listed states or provinces into or through Vermont simply have to get them processed according to the regulation before doing so.”

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.

FAQ with Nicole

Q: What’s this I hear about topographic maps for instructors?

A: One of our technicians, Corey Hart, is currently taking your orders for topographic maps! Pick a map that you want, and let him know by December 15th. We will be ordering them on December 20th, so place your order for a map as soon as possible! Maps will be mailed out around the beginning of 2015, or given out at the banquet.



Nicole in a duck blind.
Photo courtesy of Tom Rogers.

Vermont's Rifle Deer Season Starts Saturday, November 15

Hunters are gearing up for the start of Vermont's statewide traditionally popular 16-day rifle deer season that begins November 15 and ends Sunday, November 30.

A hunter may take one buck during this season with at least one antler having two or more points one inch or longer. A point must be one inch or longer from base to tip. The main beam counts as a point, regardless of length. Spike-antlered deer, mostly yearlings, are protected during this season.

"Vermont's pre-hunt deer population is estimated at approximately 135,000 this year with the greatest numbers of deer found in the southwest, east-central, and northwestern regions of the state," said Deer Project Leader Adam Murkowski.

The 2013 Vermont Deer Harvest Report, available on the Fish & Wildlife Department's web site (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) has a wealth of information to help plan a hunt, including the number of deer taken in each town. Click on "Hunting and Trapping" and then "Big Game" to download a copy of the report.

Vermont's regular hunting licenses, including a November rifle season buck tag and a late season bear tag (for Nov. 15-23), cost only \$25 for residents and \$100 for nonresidents. Hunters under 18 years of age get a break at \$8 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents. Licenses are available on Fish & Wildlife's web site and from license agents statewide.

Hunters are reminded of a new law prohibiting shooting a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow while on or within 25 feet of the traveled portion of a public highway. An exception is a Class 4 public highway where it is illegal to shoot within the travelled portion. Class 4 roads are designated on town highway maps.

The new law also prohibits shooting a firearm, muzzleloader, bow and arrow, or crossbow over or across the travelled portion of a public highway.

Fish & Wildlife urges hunters to wear a fluorescent orange hat and vest to help maintain Vermont's very good hunting season safety record.



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Hunters preparing for Vermont's traditionally popular Nov. 15-30 rifle deer season are urged to wear a hunter orange hat and vest.
Photo courtesy of VTFW

Vermont's Rifle Deer Season Starts Saturday, November 15

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A 2014 Vermont Deer Hunting Guide can be downloaded from the department's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. The guide includes a map of the revised Wildlife Management Units (WMUs), season dates, regulations, and other helpful information.

Contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department for more information. Telephone 802-828-1000 or Email fwinformation@state.vt.us.

Hunters who get a deer on opening weekend of rifle season can help Vermont's deer management program by reporting their deer at one of the biological check stations listed below that will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on November 15 and 16:

Marty's Sports & Gunsmithing, Inc. – Bennington

Jericho General Store – Jericho

St. Marie's, Inc. – Swanton

Wright's Enterprises – Newport

Keith's Country Store, Inc. – Pittsford

R&L Archery – Barre

Guilford Country Store – Guilford

Being Safe is Not Enough

by Volunteer Instructor Bob Lajoie

As a hunter safety instructor I am proud each fall when there is a report of few or no serious hunting accidents. The lessons we teach are vital but they are not enough to sustain our heritage. A huge part of maintaining our heritage comes from our ethics as well as how we interact with other outdoors users.

Last weekend my hunting partner and I were on our way to our stands when a group of women came into sight with their dogs. We stood to the side of the path to let them pass. I absentmindedly put my hand down for the first dog to sniff. The dog's body language said, "He is ok, let's play."

The women took his word for it and we swapped pleasantries. As they disappeared from sight I started thinking that we presented ourselves well as hunters.

If I had projected a hostile attitude I am sure the meeting would have been much different.

We need to teach our students that we have a legitimate role in the natural world but others may want to be outdoors as well. They have as much right to be in the woods as we do. By mutual respect we can all enjoy nature in our own way.

Popular Wildlife Management Area Sees Broad Expansion

A central Vermont wildlife management area popular with birders and waterfowl hunters has nearly doubled in size, thanks to a donation of land by the Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO).

The Pomainville Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Pittsford, Vt, has added two sections of land that will increase the total area from 360 acres to 572 acres. The additions include a small section of floodplain forest along Otter Creek and a large parcel of softwood forest on the east side of Route 7.

The WMA was originally purchased by Ducks Unlimited in 2004 and was donated to Vermont Fish & Wildlife a year later. The lands were purchased in order to create a forested buffer along Otter Creek and to restore 46 acres of formerly drained wetlands, the largest wetland reserve project ever completed in Vermont at that time.

“The grasslands at Pomainville WMA are beloved by birders looking to spot grassland birds such as bobolinks,” said Jane Lazorchak, land acquisition coordinator for Vermont Fish & Wildlife. “The new additions to the WMA include a large area of important deer wintering habitat, which also serves as a travel corridor for wildlife looking to cross Route 7. There is also seasonally flooded forest along Otter Creek that supports nesting wood ducks and other wetland wildlife such as otters.”

The restoration project along Otter Creek has turned what were at one time seasonally flooded hayfields into productive wetlands and natural fish ponds. The ponds fill with water when Otter Creek floods in the spring, bringing in fish that use the ponds as spawning grounds before returning to the main flow of the creek. The young fish remain relatively protected from predators as they grow in the ponds and are able to return to the main flow of Otter Creek during the next flood cycle. The increase in fish provided by these natural ponds benefits local anglers, and additionally serves to keep mosquito numbers down as the fish prey on mosquitoes and their larvae.

“These ponds are just incredible in terms of the amount of fish they produce for the Otter Creek system,” said Shawn Good, fisheries biologist for Vermont Fish & Wildlife. “We sampled the ponds again this fall and found that they were once again loaded with northern pike, along with many other fish species.”

The new lands were purchased by VELCO in 2004 as part of a mitigation agreement with the understanding that they would turn the lands over to the Fish & Wildlife Department within ten years.

“VELCO has once again been a fantastic partner in helping to conserve wildlife habitat in Vermont,” said Lazorchak.

Seasonal flooding at Otter Creek (pictured here) supports nesting for wood ducks, otters, and will aid in fish spawning. Photo courtesy of VTFW.



Vermont Moose Hunters Had a Successful Season

Vermont moose hunters had a successful hunting season according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. A record bull was taken in the October 1-7 archery moose hunt, and the regular moose hunting season was October 18-23.

“A preliminary count shows that by October 28 the department had received official reports of 22 moose being taken by 54 hunters in the archery season and 147 moose taken by 289 hunters in the regular season,” said Cedric Alexander, Vermont’s moose project leader. He said a few additional reports may still be sent in from other reporting agents.

“Vermont’s moose population is being managed scientifically, according to a plan

developed on sound wildlife biology and input from the public,” said Alexander. “The overall regular season hunter success rate reported to date is 51 percent, down slightly from 54 percent last year.”

Hunters in northern Vermont enjoyed higher success rates, ranging from 68 to 72 percent in Wildlife Management Units in Lamoille, Orleans, Caledonia, and Essex Counties. Hunters in central and southern Vermont had lower success rates.

Of note, for the second year in a row, biologists who surveyed for winter tick larva on harvested moose found them much reduced. Tick loads were 41percent lower than last year, perhaps due to a late snowpack last April. These reduced loads should help moose come through this next winter in better shape than in previous years.

After applying for more than 22 years, Kevin Rice of South Pomfret, Vermont finally received a moose permit and maximized his rare opportunity to harvest a moose. Using his hunting knife and black spray paint, Rice fashioned a cardboard cow moose decoy from a refrigerator carton.

On opening morning of the archery season Rice and his hunting partner, Steve Schaefer, of Hartford, tried using a moose call with no luck. But later that morning a huge bull moose Rice had previously seen while scouting saw the decoy and came running straight in.

“He was swaying his antlers from side to side, grunting and drooling,” said Rice, who stood up and drew his bow when the moose was 15 yards away. “He kept coming, anyway,” Rice remembers. “My opportunity for a good shot came when he was just seven yards away.”

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Kevin Rice of South Pomfret, VT with his archery record 919 pound bull moose (antler spread 52 inches) he took on opening morning of Vermont’s archery moose hunt. This is the 15th largest moose taken with a bow in VT since moose hunting began in 1993. Photo courtesy of Steve Schaefer.

Vermont Moose Hunters Had a Successful Season *(Continued from previous page)*

The dressed moose weighed 919 lbs. with an antler spread of 52 inches and was easily the largest bull moose ever taken in a Vermont archery season and the 15th biggest of all moose taken since moose hunting started in 1993.

“All the effort was worth it,” said Rice. “We have a freezer full of delicious moose meat, and it truly was a hunt of a lifetime.”

A final report on Vermont’s moose hunting season will be available in January when all of the 2014 data have been received and reviewed.

Some Moose Magic



Photo courtesy of Jamie Smith

Just days after he was married, Chief Instructor Jamie Smith was lucky enough to get out during moose season and bag a beautiful cow. With the help of guide Nora Oliver, he tracked the moose, and Ken Denton helped haul it out of the woods (all three are former GMCC Buck Lake staffers!). Ken is also a retired Lieutenant VT Fish & Wildlife game warden from the Northeast Region. Jamie’s dad was the second shooter. Congratulations to Jamie and everyone who helped make that cow possible!

The moose was taken in Woodbury, VT at 7:47 am on 10/22/14. She weighed in at 526 pounds.

Gov. Shumlin, F&W Commissioner Porter Unveil Three New Conservation License Plates



Governor Shumlin, F&W Commissioner Porter, and D.M.V. Commissioner Ide unveiled the new license plates at the statehouse.

Photo courtesy of Tom Rogers.

Gov. Peter Shumlin, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles today unveiled three newly designed conservation license plates, responding to public demand for a revamp of the popular plates.

The new designs include a loon, a brook trout and a white-tailed deer plate. The new plates will replace the old catamount and peregrine falcon plates. They can be ordered online at www.tinyurl.com/VtConservationPlate and picked up at the Montpelier DMV.

"These new plates allow Vermonters to show their support for Vermont's wildlife and wild spaces year round," said Gov. Shumlin. "I encourage Vermonters to sign up for one the next time they are registering their vehicle."

"We wanted to do something to get people excited about our conservation plates again," said Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. "I see these plates on vehicles throughout the state, so I know they are popular with Vermonters. I'm sure that these new plates will be a big hit."

The image for the brook trout plate was painted by former Fish & Wildlife commissioner Patrick Berry just before he stepped down as commissioner earlier in 2014. The deer and loon images were painted by Berlin (Vermont) artist Linda Mirabile.

"We are delighted to be offering these handsome new plates to Vermonters," said Robert Ide, Commissioner of DMV. "Although I admire the trout and deer, my personal favorite is the loon."

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Gov. Shumlin, F&W Commissioner Porter Unveil Three New Conservation License Plates (Continued from previous page)

Funds from the sale of the plates go to the Nongame Wildlife Fund and the Watershed Grant Fund. The Nongame Wildlife Fund protects animals such as lynx, loons, bats, turtles, and bald eagles. The Watershed Grant Fund gives money to projects such as managing stormwater runoff to protect local streams, creating canoe access on rivers, and developing wetland education programs for children. Funds raised from the sale of plates in excess of the needs of the current programs will go to the Green Mountain Conservation Camps, where kids ages 12 to 16 learn about ecology and the outdoors.

The loon was chosen by the public to replace the peregrine falcon through an online poll conducted by the Fish & Wildlife Department. Brook trout were chosen to represent the Watershed Grant Fund because they require clean water and intact habitat to thrive.

A third option, the white-tailed deer plate, was added to the lineup due to popular demand and also to raise funds for these programs.

Conservation plates have raised over \$2 million since they were first released in 1997. Donations can also be made to the Nongame Wildlife Fund online at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Hunter Education Program Staff Contacts

A friendly reminder for how to find us!

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Grants Available to Help Vermont Lakes, Rivers and Habitat

The 2015 Vermont Watershed Grants Program is now accepting applications for funding projects that help Vermonters protect, restore and enjoy the state's watersheds. The applications are due no later than Friday, November 21.

"Watershed grants are available to municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and water-related citizen groups," said Rick Hopkins of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC). "Many types of watershed projects are eligible, including those that protect or restore water quality, shorelines or fish and wildlife habitats."

"In light of the damage and lessons learned from Tropical Storm Irene and other recent Vermont floods plus our ongoing efforts to better manage runoff containing nutrients and sediment, we are very interested in projects that implement practical measures or involve education affecting stream habitat protection, restoration, flood resiliency and related topics," added Hopkins.

Rod Wentworth, of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, explained that watershed grants provide a way for local people to make a difference.

"This program, now in its 17th year, is a great opportunity for sporting clubs or watershed groups to undertake a project to help their local stream or lake, such as planting trees or developing a watershed conservation plan or outreach program," said Wentworth. "We are blessed with many wonderful lakes and rivers in Vermont, and practices such as restoring vegetation along shorelines, removing old abandoned dams and improving storm runoff management can help improve their health and value for fish and wildlife."

Vermont Watershed Grants Program, a joint project of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and VTDEC, is funded by sales of Vermont Conservation License Plates. The program has funded close to 336 watershed projects statewide dating back to 1998. For the 2015 program, \$100,000 is available to fund three categories of projects. The three categories and the maximum amount for each project type are: education and outreach (\$7,500), planning, assessment, inventory, monitoring (\$5,000) and on-the-ground implementation (\$15,000).

"When Vermonters purchase a Conservation License Plate they're helping protect healthy streams and lakes as well as conserving wildlife and important habitats for future generations," said Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. "Proceeds from the sale of Conservation License Plates fund the Watershed Grants program and help support the Fish & Wildlife Department's Nongame Wildlife Fund."

A Watershed Grants application guide and application forms are available from the Watershed Management Division of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources – Tel. 802-828-1535 – or from their website (www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/lakes/htm/lp_watershedgrants.htm).

Applications for the Vermont Conservation License Plate are available on the Fish & Wildlife website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com/support_plates.cfm and at offices of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Combat Veterans Find Solace in Hunting

This article originally appeared in USA Today on 11/9/2014.



Photo courtesy of VTFW

They cleared roads for troops in Afghanistan until a year ago. Head on a swivel. Inspect every groove in the dirt road. Study every rock.

Bomb hunters, they called themselves.

Such was the job's importance and risk that regular Army guys called the Reserves in the 402nd Engineer Company of Des Moines something else:

"Rock stars," said Patrick Perkins — or foolish.

Perkins sat on a pickup truck gate Monday near Guthrie Center, guzzling a huge can of Monster energy drink. Nick Mason, his brother in arms with the U.S. Army Reserves, put in a big chew of tobacco. They painted their faces and put on camouflage gear.

This time, they were hunting deer, not bombs.

Hunting helps them. It's helped a lot of combat veterans coming back home, and it's why a growing number of organizations are taking veterans out to hunt, including Perkins' nonprofit, Heroes Hunting.

They can talk to each other about the day a bomb exploded. Or how they felt when they came home and their girlfriend introduced them as a combat vet, and people treated them like they had cancer or expected them to explode with rage, said Perkins, 39, of Grimes.

If he told his parents some of what he saw or laughed at in the war, said Mason, 27, of Des Moines, this is what they would say: "What is wrong with my son?"

Nothing is wrong that you can see. Neither Mason nor Perkins suffered serious physical injuries. But they changed.

"When does normal happen?" Perkins said. "Well, that's gone."

"You're thinking you are the same," Mason added. "You look the same. You aren't."

So Perkins was going to take Mason out in the woods to hunt.

Read the full article online here:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/11/09/combat-veterans-find-solace-in-hunting/18743509/>

Vermont anglers enjoy expanded year-round open water fishing opportunities



Photo courtesy of VTFW

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is reminding anglers of the new year-round fishing opportunities now available to anglers on various waterways throughout the state.

In effect since the beginning of this year, revised state regulations have opened up 11 new river sections to catch-and-release trout fishing with artificial flies or lures outside of the normal trout season.

The change in regulation has resulted in over 70 additional miles of river now being open to year-round trout fishing.

“The regulations were intended to provide expanded fishing opportunities for trout while limiting the potential impact to populations,” said Rich Kirn, fisheries biologist with Vermont Fish & Wildlife. “The changes will give interested anglers the opportunity to take advantage of any mild days in late fall and early spring.”

A section of the Walloomsac River in Bennington was also designated as a trophy trout stream with the changes and is being stocked with two-year old brown and rainbow trout – both with a daily limit of two per day.

Additionally, the state’s bass catch-and-release open water angling opportunities (not ice fishing) - also with artificial flies and lures only - have been expanded to include all lakes, ponds and reservoirs not listed as “seasonally closed waters.”

A complete list of seasonally closed waters is available on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife website, www.vtfishandwildlife.com. Under the “Fishing” tab, click on “Law Digest and Guide” for more information.

Bob Shannon, owner of The Fly Rod Shop and Fly Fish Vermont Guide Service in Stowe, says the expanded fishing opportunities have been appreciated by anglers.

“From the feedback I’ve gotten, many local anglers – primarily the hardcore, avid type - are really excited about the increased options in terms of fishable waters,” said Shannon. “Additionally, we’ve seen a rise in the non-resident interest in these opportunities and that should certainly provide a boost in visits from those outside of Vermont.”

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Vermont anglers enjoy expanded open water fishing opportunities

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The sections of streams listed below are open to year-round trout fishing according to these rules:

1) Only artificial flies or lures may be used, except during the open season for trout (2nd Sat. in April – Oct. 31).

2) Catch and release only (trout must be immediately released where caught), except during the open season for trout.

3) During open season for trout, follow normal size restrictions, daily limits and possession limits.

-- Black River: From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Howard Hill Road Bridge in Cavendish.

-- Deerfield River: From the Woods Road (Medburyville) bridge in Wilmington upstream approximately 2 miles to the VT Route 9W bridge in Searsburg.

-- East Creek (Rutland City): From the confluence with Otter Creek upstream (approximately 2.7 miles) to the top of the Patch Dam in Rutland City.

-- Hoosic River: From the Vermont/New York border upstream to the Vermont/ Massachusetts border.

-- Lamoille River: From the Lake Champlain boundary (top of Peterson Dam in Milton) upstream to the top of the Cady's Falls Dam in Morristown.

-- Lewis Creek: From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the State Prison Hollow Road (TH#3) bridge in Starksboro.

-- Missisquoi River: From the top of the Swanton Dam in Swanton to the top of the Enosburg Falls Dam in Enosburg Falls.

-- Moose River: From the confluence with Passumpsic River upstream to the downstream edge of the Concord Avenue bridge in St. Johnsbury.

-- Ompompanoosuc River: From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Union Village Dam in Thetford.

-- Otter Creek: From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the Danby-Mt. Tabor Forest Road bridge (Forest Road #10) in Mt. Tabor..

-- Passumpsic River: From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of Arnolds Falls Dam in St. Johnsbury.

-- Waits River: From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the Central Vermont Power Dam in Bradford.

-- Walloomsac River: From the Vermont/New York border in Bennington upstream to the top of the former Vermont Tissue Plant Dam (downstream of Murphy Road) in Bennington.

-- West River: From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the Townshend Dam in Townshend.

-- White River: From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the bridge on Route 107 in Bethel.

-- Williams River: From the Connecticut River boundary upstream to the top of the dam at Brockway Mills Falls in Rockingham.

-- Winooski River: From the Lake Champlain boundary upstream to the VT Route 2/100 in Duxbury and Waterbury.

Watershed Grants Application Deadline is November 21

It's not too late to apply for a 2015 Vermont Watershed Grant to fund projects that help Vermonters protect, restore and enjoy the state's watersheds. Applications are due to the Vermont Watershed Grants office by Friday, November 21.

"Watershed grants are available to municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and water-related citizen groups," said Rick Hopkins of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC). "Watershed grants can be awarded for projects that protect or restore water quality, shorelines or fish and wildlife habitats and may include planning, assessment, inventory, monitoring, on-the-ground implementation and education.

"In light of the damage and lessons learned from Tropical Storm Irene and other recent Vermont floods plus our ongoing efforts to better manage runoff containing nutrients and sediment, we are very interested in projects that implement practical measures or involve education affecting stream habitat protection, restoration, flood resiliency and related topics," added Hopkins.

Rod Wentworth, of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, explained that watershed grants provide a way for local people to make a difference. "This program, now in its 17th year, is a great opportunity for sporting clubs or watershed groups to undertake a project to help their local stream or lake, such as planting trees or developing a watershed conservation plan or outreach program," said Wentworth. "We are blessed with many wonderful lakes and rivers in Vermont, and practices such as restoring vegetation along shorelines, removing old abandoned dams and improving storm runoff management can help improve their health and value for fish and wildlife. The more we can do to spread the word about how to best protect both our waters and our property, the better."

This grant program is a joint project of the Fish & Wildlife Department and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Since its inception in 1998 the program has paid for 336 watershed projects statewide. Proceeds from the sale of Conservation License Plates fund the Watershed Grants program and help support the Fish & Wildlife Department's Non-game Wildlife Fund. For the 2015 grant program, \$100,000 is available for funding.

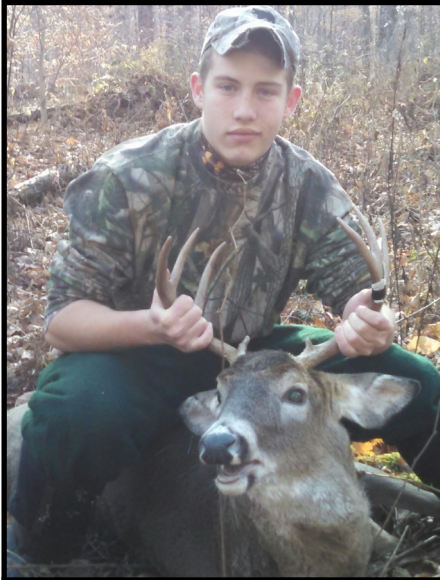
"When Vermonters purchase a Conservation License Plate they're helping protect healthy streams and lakes as well as conserving wildlife and important habitats for future generations," said Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. "Now that three new conservation plates have become available, we hope that sales will increase and allow us to fund even more great projects in the future."

The Watershed Grants application guide and application forms are available on the web at: www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/lakes/htm/lp_watershedgrants.htm

Applications for the Vermont Conservation License Plate are available on the Fish & Wildlife website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com/support_plates.cfm and at offices of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Youth Deer Season 2014

Here's a roundup of some photos we received from kids around the state!



Kody Rhodes, age 15 of Sharon, VT harvested this 8 point buck on 11/8/14. The buck weighed 160 lbs.



Shaun Bolio and the doe he harvested on his first youth hunt. The doe weighed in at 110 lbs.



Thanks to Ali Freeman for this photo of three cousins excited to go out for youth season!



Brandon harvested this 115 lb, 3 point buck over the youth weekend in Vermont.



This picture of these two youth hunters showing off their orange on youth weekend was sent in by Amy Shopland.

If you or someone you know deserves to be in next month's newsletter, submit the photo and a short story to Nicole at Nicole.Corrao@state.vt.us

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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