



Compliments of the Hunter Education Program

So it's finally feeling like fall around here! The leaves are changing, the temperatures are dropping, and the tourists are mobbing the scenic byways of the state. Hopefully you are taking some time to do some scouting, or maybe you've already had the opportunity to get out with your bow, or to do some duck hunting. We hope to get out in the woods once it slows down in the office! This issue of our newsletter includes press releases and articles written by staff. If you have any articles, pictures, or comments, please e-mail them to Nicole.

Greetings from Your Training Coordinator!

The Pitfalls of Lecturing



Well, all I have to say is...WHEW. Another year of Hunter Education Instructor Evaluations have nearly come to an end. I want to thank all the instructors that allowed me to come to their classes. I think that you all agree that in the end, it is pretty painless to have a class evaluation done. I have come away from this year's evaluations with a

confidence that all of our instructors are equipping our students with the tools to become safe, responsible hunters!

Having observed dozens of classes, it still seems that there are a number of instructors that have been using the lecturing style in teaching our students. It has been proven that students, children especially, learn much better when they see, hear, say, and do things in the classroom. This is easily incorporated in facilitating a discussion among your students during class. I notice the lecturing, especially, in traditional courses, and particularly during firearms handling. Most instructors, typically on opening night of class, cover the topics of firearms nomenclature, actions, and safe handling. They demonstrate the actions, and the parts of a firearm, as well as safe handling and muzzle control. So, what am I proposing as an alternative to all this? Easy. Get them up and handling the firearms.

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The Pitfalls of Lecturing

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Students explain the action type, the parts of the firearm, and display proper muzzle control all during one exercise that gets them up and out of their seats, and lets instructors take a break from lecturing.

Photo courtesy of Nicole Meier.

An easy way to get students involved is to divide the class equally. There being 5 firearms actions, have the students get into groups of five. Have the students line up facing an instructor. Have an instructor quiz the student in front of the line on which action it is, then have the student name each part of the firearm. Once this is done, safely hand the firearm to the first student, after them asking if the action is open and the safety is on. Then have the student turn, quiz the second student on the action, and have them name each part of the firearm. Continue this until all the students have handled the action. Then switch firearms so each line has a new action. Voila!! Students are seeing, hearing, saying, and doing. You get a break from lecturing, and the students are up and excited about handling firearms.

Remember that when holding a traditional course in the middle of the week, students have been in school or at work all day. They are tired, and having them up and taking a part in class is the best way to keep them alert and paying attention.

If you have an idea or suggestion based on what you do in your class, share it with us! We are always looking for ways to improve on our teaching styles, and most of all, better ways to teach safe firearms handling in a way all students will understand.



Photo courtesy of VTFWD

New Protocol for Instructors Teaching at Kehoe

Lots of our instructors utilize the beautiful education center and .22 range at our Kehoe Conservation Camp. We encourage the use of this facility as much as possible, but want instructors to be aware of some changes to protocol for classes there, and some changes to staffing at Kehoe.

Corey Hart is the new facility/camp coordinator down at Kehoe. As many of you already know, Corey is great. You probably worked with him last winter when he was working for the Hunter Education Program. Now that Corey is with Green Mountain Conservation Camps, he has new duties, and has instituted some new guidelines for the use of Kehoe.

The new use guidelines are as follows:

- 1) When planning a course, please contact Corey first in order to ensure that Kehoe is available for you. Let him know if you need the education center, the range, or both.
- 2) **Corey will have no hunter education equipment regularly at Kehoe.** If you need equipment for you class, please make arrangements with us directly (802-828-1193) and we will ensure that the materials are either at Kehoe or delivered directly to you before the class. If you plan on picking up materials at Kehoe, you will have to go one extra step and call Corey to make sure he is there when you want to pick up your class materials. Although Corey lives at Kehoe, he isn't always around. His job includes regular travel between Kehoe and Buck Lake, as well as other meetings as necessary. There have been a few times when instructors have gone to Kehoe and Corey hasn't been there. We feel terrible about that, so to make sure it doesn't happen again, please just call to make sure Corey will be there. You can contact Corey on his cell: 802-461-6487 or at the Education Center: 802-265-2279.
- 3) If your class is planning on ordering food from the general store around the corner, please let the store know at least an hour in advance. They are having trouble with being flooded with orders all at once, so if you can call in an order ahead of time, things can run much smoother. I've gone there the morning before a class to let them know we will have people ordering, and they were more than happy to give out menus so that students were able to pick out what they want and order it ahead of time.

Important phone numbers for Kehoe:

Corey Hart (Kehoe Facility/Camps Coordinator)

Cell: 802-461-6487 **E-mail:** Corey.Hart@vermont.gov

Kehoe Education Center: 802-265-2279

Hunter Education Program Main Line: 802-828-1193

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us or Corey directly. Thanks for your cooperation!

New Visitor's Center at Dead Creek Needs Help from Hunters!

By VTFW Biologist Amy Alfieri

As many of you know, we are working on completing the Dead Creek Visitor Center which will be in the old refuge manager's residence. Interior renovations of the public space have been completed, and this fall/winter the display cases, shelving, and structures will be built. Once those are in, we can start filling the displays which will include educational panels, mounts, pelts, skulls, artifacts, and more.

Over the coming year and probably beyond, I will be soliciting contributions to help fill the displays. At this point, I am requesting specimens of common species of mountable quality.

Here is a list of our needs at this time:

<u>Game Animals:</u>	<u>Non-Game Animals</u>
Adult bobcat	(incidental takings such as road-killed, etc):
Deer fawn	Marsh songbirds (red-winged blackbird, etc)
Male turkey	Wading birds (heron, bittern, etc)
Bear cub or small bear	Garter snake
Gray fox	
Drake and hen wood ducks	
Canada goose	
Fish for the mantle (any native species)	

Thank you in advance and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Amy Alfieri
Dead Creek WMA
Addison, VT
802-759-2398

FAQ with Nicole

Q: When is the instructor banquet happening for 2016?

A: In place of the instructor recognition and training meeting (aka the banquet), Vermont is hosting the 2016 International Hunter Education Association Conference. Workshops will be available for instructors, there will be plenty of opportunity for networking, and it will be a week of information you won't want to miss. The conference will be held the week before Memorial Day Weekend (May 23-26, 2016) at the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes, so mark your calendars! For more info on IHEA, visit <http://ihea-usa.org/>

We Train Them Well

By Chief Instructor, Mike Kolsun



Kody's bull weighed in at 417 pounds.
Photo courtesy of Jeremy Rhodes.

Father and son Jeremy and Kody Rhodes took our Hunter Ed class over eight years ago and we've stayed in touch. Instructors from our teaching team may remember that they traveled down from Bethel to attend our class in Putney. Jeremy and Kody continued to send photos throughout the years, which we've added to our Hunter Ed class album. Jeremy has been very proud that his son, Kody, has surpassed his hunting success.

The AMAZING part about this hunt is what Dad mentioned via email:

"Kody was notified a few days after his 16th birthday of his lucky moose tag draw, seven days prior to hunt because another hunter gave up the tag. We had to scout while we hunted because of the short notice. Was not sure we would pull it off, but we got lucky and he did a great job shooting!"

As instructors, we are all proud of the impact we had, and continue to have on those who go through our 2 day intensive course. Stories like this are the payback for why we teach. For me, I'm grateful for all the help from the Fish & Wildlife Department, old hunting friends who became co-instructors, and young students who flourished through hunting, and then came back to teach with us!

Looks like it's time to get those Rhodes men certified as instructors!!!!



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Rhodes.

Record Moose Taken by Fairfax Woman Bowhunter

Archery record set last year broken by Miller's bull moose

Pre-season scouting in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom paid off on the second morning of the state's archery moose hunt for Tammy Miller of Fairfax, Vermont.

Using a compound bow, Miller took a 931 lb. bull moose with an antler spread of 53 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches on October 2 while hunting in Norton with her husband, Eric. Miller's huge bull topped the 919 lb. previous archery record moose taken last year by Kevin Rice.

"Five weekends of hard scouting enabled us to be hunting in an area with good moose trails and scrapes," said Miller. "After being in the area for a few minutes Friday morning, we heard the bull raking branches not far away, but it seemed to be moving away. Eric raked some nearby

branches with a moose scapula and called by mouth to imitate another bull moose. Fifteen minutes later the bull appeared about 15 yards away, presenting a nice shot."

Tammy Miller of Fairfax with her 931 lb. bull moose she took on the second day of Vermont's archery moose season. Her bull topped the previous archery record 919 lb. moose taken last year by Kevin Rice. Photo courtesy of Eric Miller.



Kevin Rice of South Pomfret, VT with the 2014 archery record 919 lb. bull moose he took last year during VT's archery moose hunt. Photo by Steve Schaefer

"It was the hunting experience of a lifetime," she added.

Vermont's archery moose season began October 1 and ends October 7. The regular moose season is October 17-22.

"A total of 225 regular firearms moose season permits and 40 archery moose season permits were issued for Vermont's 2015 regulated moose hunt in order to sustain Vermont's moose population in balance with available habitat," said Cedric Alexander, Vermont's moose biologist. "Congratulations to Tammy Miller for a well-planned hunt and taking a new archery record Vermont moose."

Vermont's Big Game Reporting Stations for 2015

Hunters who take a bear, deer, turkey, or moose during the Vermont hunting seasons must bring the animal within 48 hours to the nearest game warden or to the nearest Vermont Fish & Wildlife reporting station. Below is a list of wardens and reporting stations for 2015. The list also appears on Fish & Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

ADDISON COUNTY

State Wardens

Josh Hungerford, Middlebury – 989-7484

Spc. Dale Whitlock, Middlebury – 388-4875

Deputy Wardens

Eugene Stearns, Addison – 759-2944

Reporting Stations

Bridport Town Clerk, Bridport – 758-2483

Buxton's Country Store, Orwell – 948-2112

C & S Hunting Supplies, Middlebury – 388-8401

Green Mountain Trails End LLC, Bristol – 453-4679

Jerusalem Corners Country Store, Bristol – 453-4056

Lake Hortonia Country Store, Hubberton – 273-3445

Lincoln General Store, Lincoln – 453-2981

Panton General Store, Panton – 475-2431

Rack N Reel, New Haven – 453-2000

Vermont Field Sports, Middlebury – 388-3572

Village Green Market, New Haven – 453-2163

West Addison General Store, Addison – 759-2071

BENNINGTON COUNTY

State Wardens

Sgt. Travis Buttle, Shaftsbury – 442-4383

Greg Eckhardt, Landgrove – 824-5785

Lt. Paul Gaudreau, West Rupert – 394-2973

Richard Watkin, Wilmington – 368-7302

Cody Jackman, Dorset – 867-7012

Deputy Wardens

Wynn Metcalfe, Shaftsbury – 447-7877

Brendan Reilly, 518-682-7085

Reporting Stations

Bennington Fish Culture Station, Bennington – 447-2844

Gun Supply of Vermont, Bondville – 375-5183

H N Williams Store, Dorset – 867-5353

JJ Hapgood, Peru – 824-4800

Lost Target Shooting Supplies, Bennington – 442-8953

Manchester Town Clerk, Manchester Center – 362-1315

Marty's Sports & Gunsmithing, Inc., Bennington – 442-8826

Sherman's Store, West Rupert – 394-7820

Stamford Town Clerk, Stamford – 694-1361

Tiff's Trading Post, Woodford – 753-7941

Vermont's Big Game Reporting Stations for 2015

CALEDONIA COUNTY

State Wardens

Dennis Amsden, Danville – 751-7695
Lt. David Gregory, Lyndon Center – 626-4390
Spc. Russell Shopland, East Hardwick – 472-3040

Deputy Wardens

Marc Luneau, East Hardwick – 563-2352

Reporting Stations

Alley's Market, South Ryegate – 584-4416
Paul's Whistle Stop, McIndoes Falls – 633-4189
Rick's Gun Shop, East Burke – 626-1014
Riteway Sports, Inc., Hardwick – 472-5916
The Village Sport Shop, Lyndonville – 626-8448
Upper Valley Grill, Groton – 584-3101
Wheelock Village Store, Wheelock – 626-8030
West Barnet Quick Stop, West Barnet – 633-2624

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

State Wardens

Robert Currier, Colchester – 497-2136
Dana Joyal, Charlotte- 425-4506

Reporting Stations

Dattilio's Guns & Tackle, South Burlington – 862-5516
Dockside Outdoor Supply, Colchester – 891-9249
Hinesburg General Store, Hinesburg – 482-2820
Jericho General Store, Jericho – 899-4661
Lakeshore Ace Hardware, Colchester – 863-4910

ESSEX COUNTY

State Wardens

Sgt. Trevor Szymanowski, N. Concord – 695-1314
Randy Hazard, Bloomfield – 962-3492

Reporting Stations

Barnie's Market, Concord – 695-8133
Holmes Gulf Station, Canaan – 266-8900
Lunenburg Variety, Lunenburg – 892-1147
Northern Wildlife, Island Pond – 723-6290

FRANKLIN COUNTY

State Wardens

Lt. Curtis Smiley, Fairfax – 849-2156
Dustin Snyder, Fairfax – 849-9980
Matthew Thiel, Highgate – 868-6257
Sgt. Carl Wedin, St. Albans – 868-9110

Reporting Stations

Back Country Sports, St. Albans – 782-8270
Byam's Quick Stop, Franklin – 933-4100
Fletcher General Store, Cambridge – 849-6292
Franklin General Store, Franklin – 285-2033
Georgia Market, Georgia – 527-1100
M&R Guns & Ammo, Highgate Center – 868-4288
Pauline's Quick Stop, Sheldon Springs – 933-4810
4C's, Ste. Marie's, Inc., Swanton – 868-3538
TJs Country Store, Inc., Montgomery – 326-4104
West Enosburg Country Store, LLC, Enosburg Falls – 933-5001

Vermont's Big Game Reporting Stations for 2015

Wetherby's Quick Stop, Inc., Richford – 848-3550

GRAND ISLE COUNTY

Deputy Wardens

Benjamin Rooks, Grand Isle – 578-0580

Reporting Stations

A&B Beverage, Inc., Grand Isle – 372-4531

Isle LaMotte Town Clerk, Isle LaMotte – 928-3434

LAMOILLE COUNTY

State Wardens

Ethan Coffey, Morrisville – 888-2964

Deputy Wardens

Ronald Audet, Morrisville – 279-7875

Reporting Stations

Cambridge Village Market, Cambridge – 644-2272

Elmore Store, Lake Elmore – 888-2296

Fly Rod Shop, Stowe – 253-7346

Ingalls Market & Deli, Eden Mills – 635-2692

The Old Fishing Hole, Morrisville – 888-6210

Wolcott Store, Inc., Wolcott – 888-3792

ORANGE COUNTY

State Wardens

Sgt. Keith Gallant, East Braintree – 728-9215

Mark Schichtle, Wells River – 757-2121

Jeffrey Whipple, Vershire – 685-7813

Reporting Stations

Coburn's General Store, Inc., South Strafford – 765-4421

East Corinth General Store, East Corinth – 439-5525

Farm 'N Country Hardware, Williamstown – 433-1158

Fifields Auto Repair, West Fairlee- 333-3022

Flanders Market, Chelsea – 685-3085

Floyd's General Store, Randolph Center – 728-5333

Middle Branch Market & Deli, East Randolph – 728-5750

Mid State Sports, Randolph – 728-3100

Newbury Village Store, Newbury – 866-5681

North Tunbridge General Store, Chelsea – 889-3312

Robert's Country Store, Williamstown – 883-2220

Snowsville General Store, Braintree – 728-5252

Thetford Center Village Store, Thetford – 785-4655

Wing's Market, Fairlee – 333-9568

ORLEANS COUNTY

State Wardens

Jason Dukette, Derby – 334-2904

Jenna Reed, Newport Center – 334-1215

Mike Scott, Barton – 525-5501

Reporting Stations

Bob's Quick Stop, Irasburg – 754-2104

Vermont's Big Game Reporting Stations for 2015

C. Village Store, Craftsbury – 586-2554
Currier's Market, Glover – 525-8822
Degre Auction Service, LLC, Westfield – 744-2427
E.M. Brown & Son, Inc., Barton – 525-3422
Evansville Trading Post, Brownington – 754-6305
Green Mountain Sporting Goods, Irasburg – 754-6165
Lanoue's General Store, Orleans – 754-6365
Mister O's Sporting Goods, Newport – 334-5525
Smith's Grocery, Greensboro Bend – 533-2631
The Lucier Store, Newport Center – 334-8056
Wright's Enterprises, Newport – 334-6115

RUTLAND COUNTY

State Wardens

Lt. Justin Stedman, Wells – 325-9333
Wesley Butler, West Rutland – 797-8172
Timothy Carey, Mt Holly – 259-9533
Robert Sterling, Fair Haven – 265-4602

Deputy Wardens

Brendan Reilly, Wells – 518-682-7085

Reporting Stations

Belmont General Store, Belmont – 259-2292
Benson Village Store, Benson – 537-2041
Corey's RV Supplies, Wallingford – 446-1049
Engine Joe's Guns & Bows, Hydeville – 265-8155
G & L General Store, Inc., Benson – 537-4041

Grant's Village Store, Middletown Springs – 235-2251
J A B Restaurant (Bruno's), West Rutland – 802-342-0330
Junction Store & Deli, Brandon – 247-3794
Keith's Country Store, Inc., Pittsford – 483-6489
Kelley, Betsy A, Poultney – 287-5800
Mart's Sporting Goods, Poultney – 287-9022
Otter Creek Campground, Danby – 293-5041
Swiss Farm Market, Pittsfield – 746-9939
Tinmouth Town Clerk, Tinmouth – 446-2498
Wooden Barrel Country Store, Chittenden – 775-5355

WASHINGTON COUNTY

State Wardens

Chad Barrett, Waterbury Center – 244-1680
Paul Brown, Northfield – 485-4432
Sean Fowler, Plainfield – 454-9919

Reporting Stations

Harry's Hardware, Cabot – 563-2291
Kenyon's Hardware & Farm Supply, Northfield – 485-9676
Marshfield Village Store, Marshfield – 426-4321
Mountain Deer Taxidermy, Northfield – 485-7184
Parro's Gun Shop & Police Supplies, Inc., Waterbury – 244-8401
R&L Archery, Barre – 479-9151
Roxbury Country Store, Inc., Roxbury – 485-8857

Vermont's Big Game Reporting Stations for 2015

Maplefields, Plainfield – 454-7111

Village Grocery, Waitsfield – 496-4477

WINDHAM COUNTY

State Wardens

David Taddei, Townshend – 221-4066

Kelly Price, Brattleboro – 251-2171

Reporting Stations

C&S Beverage and Dairy, Wilmington – 464-8062

D&R General Store, Cambridgeport – 869-2372

Exit 4 Sunoco Station, Putney – 387-2234

Guilford Country Store, Guilford – 490-2233

Grandma's Garden and Country Store, Vernon – 802-380-0920

Mike & Tammy's Main Street Market/Deli – 824-8100

Route 5 Shell LLC, Bellows Falls – 463-0701

Wardsboro Country Store, Wardsboro – 896-6411

Barrows Trading Post, Quechee – 295-1050

Bridgewater Corners Country Store, Bridgewater Corners – 672-6241

Chester Hardware, Chester – 875-2693

Chester Town Clerk, Chester – 875-2173

Joe's Taxidermy, Reading – 484-7221

Locust Creek Outfitters, Bethel – 234-5884

Singleton's Store, Proctorsville – 226-7666

Singleton's Store, Quechee – 698-8675

Springfield Professional Firefighters, Springfield – 885-4546

Steve's Bait Shop, North Hartland – 296-7331

Teago General Store, South Pomfret – 457-1626

The Hardware at Rochester, Rochester – 767-4200

Tracy's Midway Station, Sharon – 763-8177

Tyson Village Store, Ludlow – 228-2284

WINDSOR COUNTY

State Wardens

Jason Gravelle, Hartland – 484-7435

Stephen Majeski, Brownsville – 457-1488

Deputy Wardens

Roni Johnson, Royalton – 763-8451

Kevin McAllister, Windsor – 674-5410

Reporting Stations

Ascutney Farm Stand, Ascutney – 952-9557

Hunters Urged to Wear Orange

Keep up Vermont's new hunting tradition: wear hunter orange.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department points out that last year was the second time in three years there were no hunting-related shootings in the state. So far, 2015 is also accident-free and smart hunters can help keep this flawless record going by choosing to wear fluorescent "hunter orange," according to the department.

"2014 was a fantastic year for Vermont's 65,000 licensed hunters," said Chris Saunders, Vermont Fish & Wildlife's hunter education coordinator. "Credit goes to both the hunters and our 380 volunteer hunter education instructors. However, we can't rest on our laurels. Every year should be accident-free, and wearing at least a hunter orange hat and vest can go a long way to ensuring that."

Hunters moving into the line of fire of other hunters and mistaking other hunters for game are two of the three most common causes of the state's accidents. Both types involve visibility problems, and both underscore the need for hunters to be seen, especially during the firearms deer season.

"Waterfowl, turkey and archery deer are exceptions," said Saunders. "But we still recommend hunter orange when you are going to and from your blind, treestand or calling spot."

Concerns that deer are scared by hunter orange are unfounded. A deer's vision is based on movement, patterns, and color variations. Unlike humans, deer do not have multiple color receptors in their eyes. They can see color, but their spectrum is limited. This means deer must rely heavily on their ability to detect movement over the ability to interpret color variations and patterns.

Regardless of how well deer see orange, ample anecdotal evidence suggests they aren't bothered by it. Yearly deer harvests in many of the states that require hunter orange exceed the size of Vermont's deer herd.

Remember, hunting in Vermont very safe and you can help keep it that way by choosing hunter orange.

Hunt smart. Hunt safe. Wear orange.



Vermont Fish & Wildlife urges wearing fluorescent "hunter orange" hat and vest while hunting.
Photo courtesy of David Englander.

Hunters Looking Forward to Start of Vermont's Archery Deer Season Oct. 3



Vermont's archery deer season starts October 3 this year.
Photo courtesy of Tom Rogers.

Hunters are enthusiastic about Vermont's upcoming October 3-25 and December 5-13 split archery deer hunting season, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

A hunter may take up to three deer in Vermont's two-part archery season with three archery licenses. No more than one of the deer taken during archery season may be a legal buck. No antlerless deer may be taken in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) E1 or E2, where antlerless deer hunting is prohibited in 2015.

In Vermont a hunter may take up to three deer in a calendar year in any combination of seasons (Archery, Youth Weekend, November Rifle Season, December Muzzleloader). Of these, only two may be legal bucks, and only one buck may be taken in each season. A "legal buck" is a deer with at least one antler having two or more points one inch or longer. All three deer in the annual bag limit may be antlerless deer.

In order to purchase an archery license, the hunter must show a certificate of satisfactorily completing a bow hunter education course, or show a previous or current bow hunting license from any state or Canadian province, or sign an affidavit that they have previously held an archery license. Hunters are reminded that affidavits will be cross-referenced by wardens against existing databases for accuracy.

Hunters must have a standard hunting license in order to purchase an add-on archery deer hunting license, except that nonresidents may purchase an "archery only deer license" costing just \$75. Licenses may be quickly and easily purchased on Fish & Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Hunters planning their first Vermont archery deer hunting trip or looking for new hunting areas should get a copy of the **2014 White-tailed Deer Harvest Report**, which gives the number of deer taken in each town in last year's deer hunting seasons. It's available on Fish & Wildlife's website (vtfishandwildlife.com).

For more information, download the [2015 Deer Season Guide](#) on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website. You also can call 802-828-1000 or Email (fwinformation@state.vt.us).

Archery season regulations change next year:

Several regulation changes are effective in 2016, including lengthening the October portion of the archery season five days, lowering the number of deer that may be taken in archery season to two (only one of those may be a buck), allowing crossbow use by hunters age 50 and older, and prohibiting the use of urine lures.

Hunting is one way Vermont keeps the deer herd in balance with available habitat. "We continually work to conserve deer wintering areas and young forested areas that provide excellent habitat for deer and grassland birds," said Mark Scott, Fish & Wildlife's director of wildlife. "Deer hunting ensures the deer population does not overwhelm the landscape or impact other animal populations. It also provides healthy food for many local families."

Tree Stand Safety Tips for Hunters

Tree stands get hunters out of sight and smell of wary deer, but they can also get hunters into trouble. Here are some tips from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department to help stay safe and get the most out of your tree stand hunting experience:

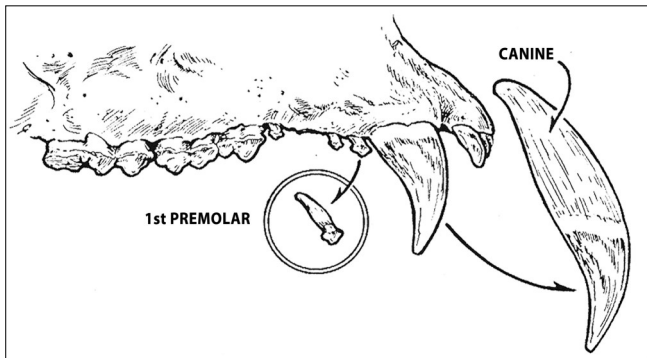
- **Choose a live, straight tree.**
- **Buy smart.** Only use stands certified by the Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA). Inspect them each time you use them.
- **Know the rules.** On state lands, it is illegal to place nails or other hardware into trees or to build permanent structures. On private 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.



Falling from tree stands is a major cause of hunting injuries. VT Fish & Wildlife urges hunters to always follow these safety tips when using a tree stand.

Photo courtesy of Tom Rogers.

VT Fish & Wildlife Seeks Bear Teeth from Hunters



VT F&W asks hunters to send in the first pre-molar tooth from their bear to help in monitoring the age and health of the bear population.
Photo courtesy of VTFWD.

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

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

"Successful bear hunters have a real opportunity to give back to our management of this magnificent big game animal," said Forest Hammond, bear project leader for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. "The premolar tooth we're asking hunters to extract is actually small and easy to loosen with a knife. Directions for removing the tooth are on the back of the envelope provided by the check station, and a short video showing tooth removal is linked on our website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Vermont has two bear hunting seasons. The early bear hunting season, which requires a special bear tag, starts September 1 and continues through November 13. The late bear season begins November 14 and continues through November 22. The limit for bears remains one per calendar year.

"Carefully regulated hunting plays a very important role in wildlife management by helping to control the growth of Vermont's bear population now estimated at about 6,000 bears," 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."

Composting and Bears: Adjusting to Vermont's Universal Recycling Law

Bears in Vermont are already thinking about winter, and are currently in search of easy calories to fatten up. Residential trash bins, bird feeders, pet food, and beehives can become bear attractants if not properly secured. Composting in bear country may also be an issue, and many residents wonder how to compost without enticing curious bears.

While food scraps left outside in trash cans or composters may attract hungry bears, Vermonters can take a few measures to minimize conflicts, according to Forrest Hammond, bear project leader with Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

“With more Vermonters choosing to compost, we want to help them prevent any potential problems with bears,” said Hammond. “People can effectively reduce the chances of bears causing damage to their property and protect the bears as well.”

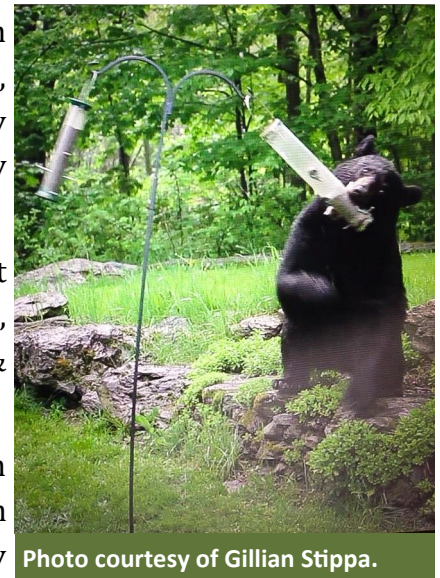


Photo courtesy of Gillian Stippa.

Hammond recommends that people maintain a compost bin that is as scent free as possible, which will help avoid attracting bears with their powerful sense of smell. This can be done with regular maintenance of the pile by adding three parts carbon-rich ‘brown’ materials like dry leaves, straw, or ripped up paper for every one part food scraps or ‘green’ materials.

Additionally, turning the pile every couple of weeks and burying fresh food scraps down in the pile helps reduce their attractiveness. Residents interested in home composting should know that Vermont’s Universal Recycling law, which will be fully implemented in 2020, does not require them to compost meat and meat-related food scraps when the food scraps are composted by a resident at home.

However, if bears are already common in your area, Hammond says there are other options. “If you believe that bears may become a problem, consider taking your food scraps to your local drop off facility or composter that accepts food scraps.” Other methods could include burying food scraps deeply in your garden, known as trench composting, or using a home solar digester such as the Green Cone or Algreen’s Solar Digester.

Compost is not the only food source that may interest bears. “If you live where bears are common, your trash and pet food bins must be properly secured, using a bear-proof container if necessary.” said Hammond.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department also recommends that bird feeders be removed between April 1 and November 30, and that beehives and chicken coops should be secured with electric fencing in bear country.

Because bears make a habit of feeding on human food sources once they find them, Hammond says that residents should carefully manage and secure all trash, bird feeders, pet foods, and compost.

Composting and Bears: Adjusting to Vermont's Universal Recycling Law

(Continued from previous page)



“It is extremely difficult to relocate a nuisance bear,” said Hammond. “Sadly, these bears sometimes need to be put down in order to protect human health. In Vermont we treasure our wildlife and we want to ensure our children have a chance to enjoy experiencing these animals well into the future. It’s up to people to avoid attracting bears before a bear becomes an issue.”

Residents are now required by law to remove bear attractants and are prohibited from killing problem bears without first taking extensive non-lethal measures.

For more information on living with black bears, visit the “Living with Wildlife” page at vtfishandwildlife.com. For more information on Vermont’s new Universal Recycling Law, including the Materials Management map of local composting facilities, go to recycle.vermont.gov.

Vermont’s New Deer Biologist Starts Sept. 14

Vermont Fish & Wildlife has hired a new biologist, Nicholas Fortin, to lead the state’s deer management program.

Fortin is currently conducting disease research for both the Washington and Idaho Departments of Fish and Wildlife. He will start work in Vermont on September 14. Fortin has previously done research and assisted in management of moose and deer in New Hampshire, mule deer and moose habitat in Wyoming, and deer wintering areas in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom.

“We look forward to having Nick Fortin join our team of wildlife scientists in doing research and management to help conserve Vermont’s wildlife and their habitats,” said Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. “Nick will be the lead person on the deer project with collaboration from other biologists on the big game team and from different regions.”

Fortin grew up in Derby, Vermont, before getting an associate’s degree in fish and wildlife technology at Paul Smiths College in New York, a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife ecology at the University of Maine, and his Master of Science degree in natural resources-wildlife at the University of New Hampshire.

“I’m super excited to get this job, being able to return to my home state of Vermont and working on a wildlife species, white-tailed deer, that I am passionate about,” said Fortin. “This is a great opportunity to work for the Fish & Wildlife Department and interact with the state’s hunters and others who care about deer.”

Vermont's Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons Are Announced

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board approved the 2015 migratory bird hunting season dates at its August 12 meeting in Montpelier.

A printable copy of the regulations can be downloaded from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com). A printed version also will be available from license agents and post offices in early September.

A statewide Vermont open hunting season for Canada geese will occur September 1-25. The daily bag limit is five Canada geese in the Connecticut River Zone and eight in the rest of the state during this September season. The purpose of the September season is to help control Vermont's resident Canada goose population prior to the arrival of Canada geese migrating south from Canada.

A second Canada goose hunting season, for resident and migrant birds, will be held October 10-November 28 with a daily bag limit of three Canada geese in the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones.

In the Connecticut River Zone, the Canada goose season will be October 6-November 5, and November 15-December 23 with a daily bag limit of three Canada geese.

Duck season this fall opens on Saturday, October 10 in the Lake Champlain and Interior Vermont Zones, and on October 6 in the Connecticut River Zone. The Lake Champlain Zone has a split season (October 10-14 and October 24-December 17). The Interior Vermont Zone is a straight season (October 10-December 8). The Connecticut River Zone is a split season (October 6-November 5 and November 15-December 13).

Vermont's youth waterfowl hunting weekend will be September 26 and 27. Resident and nonresident hunters 15 years of age or younger may hunt ducks and geese statewide during this season while accompanied by an adult 18 or older. Both must have Vermont hunting licenses. The adult may not hunt or carry a firearm. The youth and the adult are not required to hold state or federal duck stamps on this weekend.

Woodcock hunting season is October 1- November 14 statewide with a three-bird bag limit.

In addition to a hunting license, a waterfowl hunter 16 or older must carry current federal and Vermont duck stamps in order to hunt waterfowl in Vermont. Federal stamps are sold at post offices. State duck stamps are available on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) and from license agents. The hunter must sign the federal duck stamp.

All migratory game bird hunters must also be registered with the Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.) in each state they hunt. You can register on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website or call toll-free 1-877-306-7091. After providing some basic information, you will receive your annual H.I.P. registration number, which you then need to record in the H.I.P. section of your hunting license.

The hunting season dates, bag limits and related regulations for all migratory birds are set annually in August within a framework established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and in coordination with New York and New Hampshire.

Waterfowl season dates and bag limits are set in three zones: Lake Champlain, Interior Vermont, and Connecticut River are set by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department sets the season dates and bag limits for the Connecticut River Zone.

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.

This list, which may be updated during hunting seasons, is available on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Tim Nichols Granville, NY 518-642-3012 802-353-6020

Tom DiPietro Jericho, VT 802-899-4479

Christine DiPietro Jericho, VT 802-899-4479

Ben Broe Jeffersonville, VT 802-598-1235

Travis Nichols Granville, NY 518-642-3012 518-932-6505

Sally Marchmont Fletcher, VT 802-849-9304

Chris Peacock Burlington, VT 802-658-3423

Tom DiPietro Jr Jericho, VT 802-899-4479

Zack Hill Essex Jct, VT 802-578-3129

Marvin Ainsworth St Johnsbury, VT 802-748-8627

Laura Nichols Granville, NY 518-642-3012 518-932-6506

Kelli Raymond West Rupert, VT 802-394-7862 802-394-7820

Doug des Groseilliers Hardwick, VT 802-472-6177

Jeff Adams Milton, VT 802-324-6316 802-893-4375

Daniel Myers Troy, VT 802-988-4370 802-309-2504

Dennis Roberts Troy, VT 802-988-9632 802-673-5061

Jess Monago Burlington, VT 607-765-0945

Ryan Lewis East Fairfield, VT 802-782-1167

Nicholas Merritt East Fairfield, VT 802-238-3884 802-922-2515

John Konya Bradford, VT 802-439-3838

Kayla Konya East Thetford, VT 802-333-4278

Jacquelyn Magoon Morrisville, VT 802-279-6578

Brandon Sweet Fairfax, VT 802-318-2829

Cody Barnum New Haven, VT 802-458-7070

Mandi Fecteau Orleans, VT 802-323-3536

*Calls will be taken at the handlers discretion and at the availability of the handler.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept Announces Strategic Plan to Conserve Wildlife



Vermont's new Wildlife Action Plan lays the framework for conservation efforts necessary to restore populations of wood turtles and other species of concern.

Photo courtesy of VTFWD.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has released a draft Wildlife Action Plan that lays out the state's strategic vision for conserving species during the next ten years. The plan assesses the health of Vermont's wildlife and wild lands, identifies the problems they face, and outlines the actions needed to conserve them for the long term.

The plan's goal is to keep common species common while promoting additional conservation actions for species on the brink, to prevent them from slipping towards threatened or endangered status.

"This Wildlife Action Plan provides strategies to conserve the diversity of species that Vermonters cherish," said Vermont Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. "To succeed in conserving wildlife for future generations, this challenge must be shared among government agencies, our nonprofit partners, landowners, businesses, and taken up by all Vermonters."

This draft of the Wildlife Action Plan updates a previous version of the plan that the department and its partners have operated under for the past ten years. The plan continues to focus on habitat conservation as the most effective and efficient strategy for protecting wildlife, in addition to boosting Vermont's economy and quality of life. It also emphasizes collaboration and partnership with agencies, municipalities, and conservation organizations.

Newer challenges to wildlife conservation outlined in the Action Plan include a changing and unpredictable climate, emerging infectious diseases such as white-nose syndrome in bats, and additional threats to pollinators like bees and butterflies.

"Vermonters care deeply about wildlife and our natural landscapes," said Commissioner Porter. "Whether we are working to maintain healthy populations of common species such as moose or trying to recover lake sturgeon and other species in need, we call on the citizens of our state to join in this important effort."

The draft Wildlife Action Plan is now available for public viewing at www.vtfishandwildlife.com. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is seeking public comments on the plan until November 8, 2015.

The 2016 Vermont Fish & Wildlife Calendar is Available



The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and Vermont Life Magazine are announcing the release of the colorful 2016 Fish & Wildlife calendar. This year's edition of the calendar maintains the popular large format and includes inset images, matching the format of Vermont Life's other popular calendars.

Filled with spectacular photos of Vermont wildlife, the new Vermont Fish & Wildlife calendar also features striking scenes of people enjoying the state's vast fish and wildlife resources. This year's calendar includes photos by many well-known Vermont photographers including Roger Irwin, Jim Block, and Kurt Budliger.

"Vermont's working landscape and thriving fish and wildlife populations are a testament to the foresight of citizens who care about the state's natural heritage," said Susan Warner, Vermont Fish & Wildlife's director of outreach and education. "The fish and wildlife calendar provides a yearlong celebration of Vermont's commitment to conservation and habitat protection."

The calendar includes hunting, fishing and trapping season dates for each month – along with beautiful photography, makes the perfect gift for any hunter, angler or wildlife enthusiast! These calendars usually sell out early, so get your copy today.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife calendars can be ordered online from Vermont Life's website at www.VermontLifeCatalog.com or by phone (1-800-455-3399).

Be Alert to Avoid Moose on the Highway

Drivers need to be alert and cautious because moose are on the move, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

Moose are more likely to be crossing roadways at this time of year, especially after dark or early in the morning. The peak of their breeding season is late September and the first two weeks of October.

"Seeing a moose is one of the most treasured wildlife memories for many Vermonters, an experience they will take with them the rest of their lives," said Vermont Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis

Porter. "We want you to enjoy seeing them from a distance. But keep in mind that moose are very active this time of year, and they will be crossing highways more often."

Moose are a threat to motorists, but there are measures you can take to avoid hitting them, according to Fish & Wildlife:

- Always be aware of the danger -- moose cross the road randomly, as well as at their regular crossings.
- Increase your roadside awareness and reduce your speed when you see MOOSE CROSSING signs along the highway. When on secondary roads, the recommended speed is 40 mph or less in these moose crossing areas.
- Drive defensively and don't overdrive your headlights. Moose are more active at night and early morning, and they are difficult to see because of their dark color.
- If you see a moose ahead, slow down or stop. Trying to speed past them before they move can be a serious mistake.

Vermont highway sections most frequented by moose:

- Rt.105 from Island Pond to Bloomfield.
- Rt.114 from East Burke to Canaan.
- Rt.2 from Lunenburg to East St. Johnsbury.
- Interstate 91 at Sheffield Heights.
- Interstate 89 from Bolton to Montpelier.
- Rt. 12 from Worcester to Elmore.
- Rt 118 near Belvidere Corners and the Rt. 109 intersection.

Last year, 65 moose were involved in collisions with motor vehicles or trains in Vermont (44 so far this year). Eighteen people have died in motor vehicle collisions with moose on Vermont highways since 1985.



Moose are more likely to be crossing roadways at this time of year, especially after dark or early in the morning.

Photo courtesy of VTFWD

Loons, peregrine falcons post record year for nest success

Ten years after they were removed from Vermont's endangered species list, two of Vermont's most cherished bird species continued to expand their populations in 2015. Loons and peregrine falcons both nested in record numbers this summer.

On the shores of Vermont's lakes and ponds, 87 nesting loon pairs hatched a total of 69 chicks that survived the 2015 season.

Loons faced dramatic declines in the 20th century due in large part to shoreline development and human disturbance of their habitat. However, following decades of collaborative recovery efforts by biologists from Vermont Fish & Wildlife and the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, as well as by many citizen volunteers, loons were removed from Vermont's endangered species list in 2005.

"The return of loons to Vermont represents a true conservation success story," said John Buck, nongame bird project leader for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, "and it would not have been possible without our partners and volunteers. Going forward, all of us will be responsible for ensuring loons remain lasting residents of our lakes and ponds by protecting important shoreline nesting areas and keeping a respectful distance."

Vermont also saw strong nesting success in peregrine falcons this year with 44 cliff-nesting pairs producing a record 67 chicks. "The peregrine's recovery is directly tied to our ongoing partnership with Audubon Vermont and the many, many citizen volunteers who monitor falcon nests during the nesting season," noted Buck. "Continued monitoring and habitat conservation, such as temporary cliff closure to hikers and climbers during the critical nesting season, will help ensure the falcon's continued success."

Bald eagles continue to hold steady in Vermont, but have not yet recovered enough to be removed from Vermont's endangered species list. They produced 16 fledglings this summer, lower than the recent record of 26 fledglings in 2013. "The 2015 winter was especially severe in March and early April when most eagles are incubating their eggs, which likely had a negative impact on nesting success," said Buck.

"While we can't influence the weather, we can assist bald eagle recovery by identifying and protecting the critical habitat that is essential to their survival," said Buck. "Bald eagles usually nest and feed near open bodies of water. Conserving these sites, especially nests, will help to ensure the eagle population makes a successful comeback to Vermont."

Vermonters can help researchers in their effort to conserve birds by donating online to the nongame wildlife fund at www.vtfishandwildlife.com or by purchasing a newly redesigned conservation license plate.



Warden Randy Hazard rescues a loon chick that became hooked and entangled in fishing line.

Photo courtesy of VTFWD

Contact Us!

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1 National Life Drive

Dewey Building

Montpelier, VT 05620

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