



Compliments of the Hunter Education Program

Oh boy! Did the summer fly by for anyone else? The last instructor newsletter was sent out in April—what have we been up to since then? Well, as you probably know, we have had the International Hunter Education Association Conference (hosted by us and attended by a bunch of our instructors!), tons of spring classes, trainings, and a number of fall classes, seminars, and other special events. This issue of the newsletter is filled with updates from the Hunter Education staff, as well as Green Mountain Conservation Camps (GMCC) staff, and Let's Go Fishing (LGF) staff. Please be sure to fill out the survey in this issue, too!

Hope you all enjoyed the summer and are looking toward a safe (and hopefully fruitful!) hunting season!

Fall/Spring Instructor BBQ or Potluck?

We had told a few instructors that we were trying to coordinate an instructor wild game potluck for this fall. Unfortunately, with all the happenings we had going on over the summer, we weren't able to schedule something in time. I know, I know, a bummer. The Hunter Education Program staff and volunteers worked really hard to put on the IHEA Conference and banquet, and tried to promote it to instructors as an alternative to the regular spring banquet at the Capitol Plaza Hotel (thanks so much to those who came!).

We have received some feedback about wanting to change the banquet format. We have a few possible options open to us. We can hold a spring potluck or barbecue at Kehoe (our Conservation Camp in Castleton), have an instructor potluck or barbecue in the early summer at Kehoe or Buck Lake (our Conservation Camp in Woodbury), or we can have the regular banquet at the Capitol Plaza in Montpelier in the late winter/early spring.

Although it is unfortunate that we couldn't put something together for this year, we get an opportunity to gather some feedback from you all and make our gathering exactly what you want it to be! All types of gatherings would incorporate a training and update component. We still do care about you!

To let us know what you want at the 2017 instructor gathering, please respond to our survey: <http://tinyurl.com/VTinstructorsurvey>

New Online Requisition Form!

For a time, the Hunter Education Program used paper requisition forms as a way for instructors to request equipment. A few years ago, when Event Manager first came on the scene, we had an online requisition form, but it didn't work so well, so we had instructors just call or e-mail us to request equipment. Online requests via e-mail is really convenient and helpful for staff—it allows us to have an electronic record of all requests made by instructors, and we realized that we had to update the requisition process.

In the winter of 2015-16, Dylan Brooks and Nicole Meier worked with IT to create an online requisition form that instructors could use to request equipment from anywhere—no e-mail address needed. When an instructor presses “submit,” the instructor will get an e-mail confirmation. This means that the equipment for the class was successfully requested. From there, the equipment request is automatically sent to the whole Hunter Education team, and then the magic starts.

This week alone, the Hunter Education team has packed over 15 classes to be mailed to instructors, and delivered to at least three others. The online equipment requests have helped us to streamline the process of mailing out class materials—all equipment requests are in one place, easy to read, easy to see, and easy to access. Best of all, no paper for us to accidentally lose (it happens a lot).

After we review an instructor equipment request, we will contact the instructor if there is anything requested that can't be mailed (guns, action sets, 3D targets, bows, traps, etc), otherwise, all materials will be shipped via USPS.

The basic process from start to finish should look like this:

- 1) Instructor posts class on Event Manager.
- 2) Hunter Education staff approves class, and it goes live online for student sign up.
- 3) Hunter Education staff sends a confirmation e-mail to instructor with a link to their class page. In this e-mail will be a link and password for the online requisition form and a due date that for the material request.
- 4) Instructor requests equipment using the online requisition form.
- 5) Hunter Education staff sees requisition form, and contacts the instructor to set up a date/time to meet with any items that can't be mailed (guns, action sets, 3D targets, bows, traps, etc), otherwise, all materials will be shipped via USPS.

Pretty simple. There have been a few hiccups, but luckily IT has been working hard to help us with any bugs or changes that need to be made. If you have any suggestions, or if you notice something is missing on the form, please let us know!

If you haven't already checked out the new online requisition form, you can check it out at <http://tinyurl.com/VTMuzzleControl> and enter the password VTMuzzleControl when prompted.

Let us know if you have any recommendations or improvements for the form!

Target Your Advertising



Photo courtesy VT Fish & Wildlife

A lot of instructors have reached out asking for help advertising their classes. Here are some helpful tips from the Outreach Division:

- **Make sure you give students enough time**—You can't register a class on Friday and have it start on Saturday—it doesn't give people enough time to actually see the class advertisement, check their schedule, and then sign up. Try registering and advertising your class about a month and a half before the first day of the course. You can advertise further out, but about a month and a half before the class gives people enough time to plan but still puts on a little bit of pressure to sign up now.
- **Think about their schedules**—Although everyone is off during a holiday weekend, it may not be the best idea to have a course on Labor Day or Memorial Day weekend. Lots of people like to camp or visit family during those long weekends. If you are trying to get a lot of kids into your class, weeknights after school may not be the best option. Kids today have a lot of commitments, including sitting in school all day, then possibly an after school club, and then maybe a sport, and by then it might be dinner time... or time for their Hunter Education class. If you have kids dozing off in your Wednesday night class, just think about all they've done so far today! The homestudy class format works great for kids—they get a bunch of foundational learning done at their own pace, and then get to put their skills to the test during the dynamic and hands-on field day. Alternatively, try more hands-on activities and less lecturing if you notice kids starting to snore in your class.

Target Your Advertising

(Continued from previous page)

- **Advertise where your students are**—Potential students may not already be at the local rod and gun club, or if they are, they likely already know about the course. Think about your audience and who you want in your class. Want mostly adults? Try advertising at your local gym. How about people motivated by local, natural, organic food? See if the local co-op has a community board. Be sure to add the link to sign up. We can provide posters for your classes if you need.
- **Use of Social Media**—The tasteful use of social media is a great tool to advertise for free! You can post your class link, and maybe a fun photo from a past class. If you don't have a Facebook page, ask a friend or family member to post the link to your class for you. Remember to be respectful and tasteful in your posts—no use of foul or inappropriate language!
- **Front Porch Forum**—Vermont is now part of a fun e-mail list called Front Porch Forum. This is an e-mail version of the local community board in town, where people can list anything from garage sales, available apartments for rent, community events, or conversation. You can post your Hunter Education Class on your local FPF, and it will go out in an e-mail to all the people in your community. To investigate Front Porch Forum, check out: <http://frontporchforum.com/>
- **Ask Us!** -- We can post your class details on our Facebook and Twitter page! Just ask us.

Do you have any advertising tips that have worked for you?
Share them with us by e-mailing ANR.FWHunterEd@vermont.gov

Capturing Moments with an Intern

For one month this summer, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Outreach Division hosted intern Brian Gosselin from Norwich University. Brian is a senior working on a B.S. in Communications. While working with the division, he produced educational videos as well as a recruitment video for the Hunter Education program. Brian also learned about the public relation issues directly related to wildlife management, especially when it comes to the use of social media and media coverage of department press releases.

Brian created three videos. Feel free to use them in your classes or for your own use. You can view all of our videos on YouTube by searching for our channel [Vermont FishWildlife](#) (two words, not three!), or by clicking on the links below:

Field Dressing Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWWgslCsyng>

Deer Butchering Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiW02YfkuOg>

Deer Skinning Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNAsalozLUM>

Become an Instructor Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWqbZ3mgqk4>

Instructor Training Graduates: June 2016

On June 25, 2016, the Hunter Education Program held a New Instructor Training at the Randolph Fish & Game Club. A lot of fun was had, and we were lucky enough to enjoy some venison burgers while learning and creating some wonderful new instructors in the process!

The following is a list of newly trained instructor “apprentices” who are waiting to mentor teach with a certified instructor. If you are interested in asking one of these apprentices to help out with your class, please contact the Hunter Education Program at 802-828-1193 or by e-mailing ANR.FWHunterEd@Vermont.gov

Name (First Last)	Town
Ronald Ashley	South Royalton
Toby Bashaw	Randolph Center
Louis Maraget	Chelsea
Mariah Mitchell	Morrisville

The next instructor training will be held in late winter/early spring. We have not yet set a date, but will inform our instructors when we do!



Photo courtesy VT Fish & Wildlife

Sleepovers & Muzzleloaders: A Message from Caroline Blake, Green Mountain Conservation Camp Coordinator



Girls loading a muzzleloader at Buck Lake Camp in Woodbury. Photo courtesy VT Fish & Wildlife.

This season has been particularly special for the GMCC, as we are celebrating the program's 50th year. "Lake Bomoseen camp" - now called Edward F. Kehoe, has been operating since 1966. The Buck Lake camp has been operating since 1973. This program has touched the lives of thousands of youths and their families for years and years.

At GMCC campers hike, camp, fish, learn about firearm and bow safety, canoe, meet foresters, biologists, wardens, and eat good, healthy food with some treats thrown in there too. Basically, they have a really fun and memorable week. In fact a camper

told a staff member this year that it was the best week of her life and that she wants to play outside more. If that is not a success story I do not know what is!

Some big additions to our two camps this year included a new Education Center at Buck Lake along with a Wildlife Garden at Kehoe. We have many more projects lined up in the coming years to continuously build our wonderful program. If you have any interest in getting involved please come join us for our "Work Weekend" in May. This is the opportunity to bring friends and family to help get camps ready for the 2017 summer season. It includes cleaning, building and repairing our cabins and surrounding buildings. It is a great time to get outside and spend time with your family while giving back to a program that we all love.

Game Warden and former GMCC staff Ethan Coffey coaches .22 coaching at Buck Lake Camp in Woodbury. Photo courtesy VT Fish & Wildlife.



DEAD CREEK DUCK & GOOSE CALLING CONTEST



Dead Creek Wildlife Day - Saturday October 1, 2016

Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Route 17, Addison, Vermont

Youth Duck ~11:00AM

Youth Goose ~11:30AM

Adult Duck ~1:00PM

Adult Goose ~2:00PM

Youth contestants are age 16 and younger.

Prizes awarded to the top three contestants in each category.

A fun and friendly competition for all ages and abilities. Come showcase your best calling with this freestyle, "live" format contest.

For more info contact:

Chris Ingram – deadcreekcallingcontest@gmail.com

Dead Creek Wildlife Day is a FREE all-day fun family event full of activities including:

- bird watching
- rocket netting
- nature walks
- working dog demonstrations
- decoy carving
- archery range and so much more!



Come for an hour or stay for the day, and help us celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Vermont Waterfowl Stamp!

www.vtfishandwildlife.com ♦ 802.828.1000

Become a Let's Go Fishing Instructor

Do you love fishing? Do you want to help continue the fishing heritage? Consider becoming a Volunteer Lets Go Fishing Instructor! Lets Go Fishing Instructors educate thousands of Vermonters young and old each year on the basics of fishing. Clinics focus on 4 main themes aquatic ecology, habitat management, ethics and regulations, and of course hands on fishing! On Saturday, September 17th 2016 there will be a Lets Go Fishing Instructor Training at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes from 8:30am to 4:15pm. Lunch is included. To register for the training or learn more about the program and how being an instructor can benefit you contact Corey Hart at letsstofishing@vermont.gov or by calling 802-505-5562.



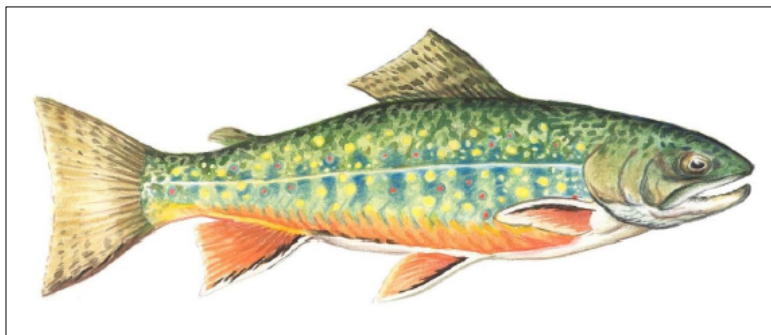
Photo courtesy of Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

Introduction to Trout Fishing Clinic Offered

Instructors from Vermont Fish & Wildlife's Let's Go Fishing Program and Department staff will be conducting a free introductory trout fishing clinic at the Waterbury Public Library on Saturday, September 10th from 9:30am to 1:30pm. The clinic is free to attend!

No prior fishing experience? No problem! In this hands-on clinic, the basics of fishing will be reviewed as we focus on how to target trout with spinning equipment. Topics will include ecology, knot tying, casting, lure making, and much more. At the end of the clinic participants will walk to the nearby Winooski River and practice their skills. A bag lunch is suggested and all equipment is provided.

To register, e-mail LetsGoFishing@Vermont.gov or call 802-505-5562. **Registration is required.**



Online Bowhunter Course is Live!

Over last fall and winter, the Vermont Hunter Education Program worked with Kalkomey to create an online bowhunter education homework similar to the online hunter education homework that is already available (Kalkomey also publishes the Today's Hunter manuals, the online hunter education course, and Event Manager).



We are happy to announce that new bowhunter education online course is now ready to go live! We used a few early bowhunter classes as our “test” classes, and it was well received! The bowhunter education online component includes videos, text, lots of photos, and links to other resources. There is also an option to have the text read to students instead of having to read through it all. We hope the mixed-media format helps students of many learning styles.

What is it?: Just like the online hunter education course, the online bowhunter education course is homework that students complete before their in-person class. This online class is not meant to take the place of an in-person class, but can count as extra hours toward the bowhunter education course. This online class includes new videos, text, and lots of photos. The text in the online course is taken right from the Today's Bowhunter manual, so the content is virtually the same as if students were completing a manual.

Fee: As with the hunter education online course, this online component is free for students to take.

Proof of Completion: As with the online hunter education course, proof of completed homework is the certificate of completion that students receive at the end of the online portion. This proof of homework should be shown to instructors either on paper, or electronically (they can show you the completion certificate on their smartphone, tablet, or laptop, or even e-mail it to you).

In-Person Requirement: Just as with the homestudy hunter education course, students must still pass an in-person class with a certified instructor. The in-person component of bowhunter classes should run about 6 hours in length. Taking the online portion of the class is by no means a ticket to certification, but extra preparation for class. If students do not pass the written exam at the end of the in-person class, or if the student does not display maturity and safety during the class, it is the instructor's prerogative to fail the student, or tell them to come back to the class at another time. We know that giving students this additional option for homework will make completing it more convenient and help students to be better prepared for their in-person class. This will hopefully foster a more dynamic and hands-on field day for students and instructors to enjoy. We encourage our instructors to try the online portion of the bowhunter education course themselves!

Try the bowhunter online class here: <https://www.bowhunter-ed.com/vermont/>

Contact Information for State Employees

Over the summer, the State of Vermont announced new contact information would be in effect for all employees. All employee e-mail addresses now end in **@Vermont.gov**


Here is the updated contact information for us in the Hunter Education Program. Please update your records:

All Hunter Education Staff

E-mail: ANR.FWHunterEd@Vermont.gov

Phone: 802-828-1193

Address: 1 National Life Drive, Dewey Building, Montpelier VT 05620



During our busy time (which is now!) you will have the best chance of reaching us via e-mail. E-mail is a sure way to get a conversation started, and we will have an electronic record of it to look back on.

Alison Thomas

E-mail: Alison.Thomas@Vermont.gov

Cell: 802-371-9975

John Pellegrini

E-mail: John.Pellegrini@Vermont.gov

Cell: 802-272-2909

Nicole Meier (formerly Nicole Corrao)

E-mail: Nicole.Meier@Vermont.gov

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Dylan Brooks

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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? E-mail us at ANR.FWHunterEd@vermont.gov with your suggestions, stories, pictures or other input!.

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Fish & Wildlife: <https://www.facebook.com/VTFishandWildlife>

<https://twitter.com/VTFishWildlife>