



## Compliments of the Hunter Education Program

Leaves are turning, the corn is cut, and there is a crisp bite in the air: fall is finally here! For many of us, autumn is the most wonderful time of the year; it is the time for our volunteers to hang up their teaching hats and put on their camo as we return to the woods for our favorite pastime. As we got back into the swing of teaching this year, we found more than ever that students who take our in-person courses are craving connection with experienced hunters. That's where you, our volunteers, are so vital. Thank you for all you have done this past year. We are compiling the end of year numbers and will have that to you (along with the winter gift) by the end of 2021.

In addition to this newsletter, we are also putting out a call for nominations for instructor merit awards. I'm sure you all know someone who is deserving of recognition. Please be generous in your nominations, and keep in mind that you can nominate more than one person for an award. Winners will be announced this spring at our annual instructor gathering (more info to come). Please see the award descriptions on page 8 of this newsletter, or contact us for more information. We can't wait to read your nominations.

Happy fall! -Nicole Meier

## A Memorable Class for Lily

Big shout out to the Randolph team who helped this eager new hunter get certified this fall. Lily mailed this thoughtful card in appreciation to Bob Raskevitz and Tom Malanchuk and all who helped teacher her proper hunter safety!

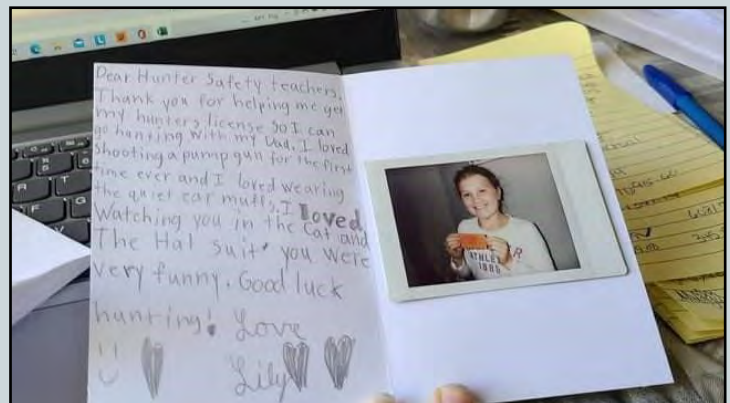
*"Dear Hunter Safety teachers,*

*Thank you for helping me get my hunters license so I can go hunting with my dad. I loved shooting a pump gun for the first time ever and I loved wearing the quiet ear muffs. I*

***LOVED** watching you in the cat and the hat suit, you were very funny.*

*Good luck hunting!*

*Love Lily"*



# A Lifetime Of Achievements



This year, the Vermont Hunter Education Program is reviving instructor merit awards to recognize volunteers that go above and beyond. The program will include honors such as Instructor of the Year, Teaching Team of the Year, and more. The Lifetime Achievement Award is a special award that is presented to an instructor who, during their lifetime, has made outstanding, significant contributions to the Vermont Hunter Education Program. This award recognizes remarkable leaders, innovative teachers, inspiring mentors, and generally, volunteers who have made a lasting impression on hunter education in Vermont.

This recipient of this award is selected by our staff and is only given if there is a volunteer deemed worthy of this recognition. This year, the inaugural year of the award, our staff unanimously decided to grant this highest honor to Herb Meyer. We surprised herb with this award at his class on September 25th at Sportsman Inc. in Guilford.

Herb has been volunteering for the Vermont Hunter Education Program for over 50 years – long before Hunter Education was a requirement in Vermont. Herb knew the importance of teaching firearm safety early on. His decision to teach was largely inspired by a friend who had been involved in a hunting related shooting incident. He believed the injury could have been avoided with proper training.

In 1968, Herb began teaching hunter education, which was then run by the NRA. But Herb felt the NRA course was lacking because there was no evaluation component – so Herb wrote his own exam. Later, when the Vermont Hunter Education Program created its own curriculum and evaluations, we borrowed heavily from what Herb created. He played an integral role in our standards, and as a Chief Instructor, continues to provide vital input including, most recently, editing our new firearm exam.

Herb's son, Jay, was in his first class, and has been involved with most classes since then. All of Herb's co-instructors admire and respect him – he is a role model and active mentor for new instructors around the state, but especially at Sportsman Inc. in Guilford. He has inspired many students to become Hunter Education instructors themselves. Herb's low-key demeanor and deep knowledge of hunting and firearm safety is a winning combination – generations of hunters come to his classes because they know he delivers the highest quality of instruction.

Of course, Herb's favorite part of his classes is the hands-on component, which he feels is the most important aspect of the course.

To say that Herb is an upstanding Vermonter would be an understatement. In 2007, he was awarded Guilford citizen of the year, and was honored for his community leadership in Vernon and Guilford in the 2019-2020 legislative session. As a Korean War Vet, Herb has been active in the American Legion and the VFW, and he was chief of police in Vernon for 14 years. Herb is committed to giving back to his community.

If you have taken hunter education in Vermont in the last 50 years, you have felt Herb's influence. I don't think I can say enough how essential Herb Meyer has been to hunter education in Vermont. Thank you, Herb, for all you have done and all you continue to do.



# Archery Season Begins October 1st.

Hunters are looking forward to Vermont's upcoming October 1- November 12 and November 29 to December 15 archery deer hunting season.

A hunter may take up to four deer (their yearly limit) in Vermont's two-part archery season if they do not shoot any deer in the other deer seasons. The purchase of an archery deer tag is required for each deer. Hunters must have a standard hunting license in order to purchase an add-on archery deer tag. No more than one of the deer taken during archery season may be a legal buck if no buck is taken in the other deer seasons. Antlerless deer hunting is allowed during archery season statewide this year.

In WMUs C, D1, D2, E1, E2, G, I, L, M, P, and Q a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler three inches or more in length. In WMUs A, B, F1, F2, H, J1, J2, K, N, and O a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler with two or more antler points one inch in length or longer.

If you have questions pertaining to archery season regulations, please call licensing at 802-828-1190.



## Instructor Certification Status Update

Most of you probably saw this information in our summer email series, but we wanted to take a moment to remind you of the certification requirements and how COVID has played into these requirements.

**Before 2020**, in order to remain a certified instructor, volunteers needed to teach one class every 2 years AND attend one professional development training every 2 years. The teaching requirement could be satisfied by helping in a class for an hour, or by running your own class. The professional development requirement could be attending a new instructor training, going to our yearly meeting/banquet, or any other workshop that was approved by the Vermont Hunter Education Program. Of course, if something came up that made it unable for you to teach, we just ask that you reach out to us and accommodations can be made.

If instructors did not abide by those requirements, they were sent an inactive letter, informing them that they were no longer active in the program, but that they could become active again by reapplying to the program – all paperwork and training would have to be done again.

Since COVID, that requirement was temporarily suspended.

While we are waiting to see what the Delta variant will do to in-person events this year, we are tentatively re-instating the activity requirement with some additional information.

**Starting January 1, 2022**, to retain certification, a volunteer instructor must teach a course every 2 years AND attend one professional development training every 2 years (same as before). But, if an instructor has not taught a class within the last 2 years, they can either reapply to the program, OR apprentice teach with a currently active instructor OR attend a new instructor training. Before becoming "inactive" we will send out a "check in" letter after one year of inactivity to let instructors know that they could go inactive if they don't teach the following year.

In summary; you don't need to worry about requirements until after January 1, 2022. The first round of "check in" letters will go out in December 2022 if an instructor does not teach/assist in a course in 2022, and then if you don't teach a course in 2022 or throughout 2023, an inactive letter will go out in December 2023.

If you have questions about this please call or email us so we can help clarify.

# 2021 Leashed Tracking Dog Handlers



Name	Town	Phone Numbers	
Tim Nichols	Granville, NY	518-642-3012	802-353-6020
Travis Nichols	Granville, NY	518-642-3012	518-932-6505
Jeff Adams	Highgate, VT	802-324-6316	
Nicholas Merritt	East Fairfield, VT	802-238-3884	802-922-2515
Mandi Harbec	Orleans, VT	802-323-3536	
Kristie Adams*	Pittsford, VT	802-483-6257	802-558-1143
Roger Chauvin	Swanton, VT	802-782-1608	802-868-4953
Bill Gaiotti	Mt. Tabor, VT	802-345-8500	
Brett Kelley*	Poultney, VT	802-287-5800	802-287-0814
John Lingner	Pownal, VT	802-379-7774	802-823-9388
Mark Harbec	Orleans, VT	802-323-3536	
Nick Smith	Groton, VT	802-584-3121	
Matt Bourgeois	Whiting, VT	802-989-2213	
Don Morgan	Charlotte, VT	802-557-5938	802-425-7097
Scott Newell	Groveton, NH	603-631-0477	
Riley Harness	Newbury, VT	802-272-8955	
Crystal Earle	Johnson, VT	802-730-5591	
Courtney Davis	Troy, NH	603-209-6548	
Jason Cassant	Fort Ann, NY	518-796-3215	
Ronald Martin	Enosburg Falls, VT	802-933-9134	802-393-0346
Steven Bourgeois	Bridport, VT	802-989-0026	802-758-2526
Matthew Anderson	Orwell, VT	802-318-0260	
Jamie Hawley	Rutland, VT	802-558-5355	
Steven Hawley	Rutland, VT	802-353-8542	
Jeremiah Gracie	Lincoln, VT	802-349-4587	
Mike Harbec	Orleans, VT	802-754-6371	802-323-4456
Tammy Barrows	Fairfax, VT	802-338-6089	
Gabriel Gervais	East Fairfax, VT	802-370-2288	
Shawn Lambert	Enosburg Falls, VT	802-582-0571	



\*Semi-Active tracker

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

# Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease In the Headlines

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is monitoring the spread of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in the region and investigating possible cases in Vermont. [New York has documented cases](#) in several counties in the Hudson Valley, including counties bordering Vermont.

EHD has never been confirmed in Vermont but may occur here this fall. Vermont Fish and Wildlife is on heightened alert in the Castleton area where several dead deer have recently been reported. Unfortunately, biologists have not been able to examine any of these deer before the samples decomposed.

EHD virus is transmitted by biting midges, sometimes called no-see-ums. The disease is not spread from deer to deer, and humans cannot be infected by deer or bites from midges.

EHD outbreaks can temporarily lower a local population, but they do not have a significant long-term impact on regional deer numbers. EHD occurs regularly in the southern states, so some southern deer have developed immunity. EHD outbreaks occur sporadically in the Northeast, and deer have no immunity to this virus. Consequently, most EHD-infected deer in the northeast are expected to die. The first hard frosts kill the midges that transmit the disease, ending the outbreak.

Deer that contract EHD usually die within 48 hours of showing clinical signs. Outbreaks are most common in the late summer



and early fall when midges are abundant. Signs of EHD include fever, hemorrhage in the mouth or organs, and swelling of the head, neck, tongue, and lips. A deer infected with EHD may appear dehydrated and weak. Infected deer often seek out water sources and many succumb near water. Several sick or dead deer may be found in a small area, particularly around water. There is no treatment or means to prevent EHD. Dead deer do not serve as a source of infection for other animals.

Sightings of sick or dead deer in Vermont should be reported to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department by contacting your local State Police radio dispatcher who will notify the nearest game warden. The department will collect samples from deer and analyze data from deer reports to monitor the extent of the outbreak and determine impacts on the deer population.

For more information on EHD, see the [fact sheet from the Wildlife Futures Program](#) at [tinyurl.com/cyb2cy59](http://tinyurl.com/cyb2cy59) or visit [Cornell University's Wildlife Health Lab](#)

## Welcome New F&W Wildlife Staff



The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is pleased to welcome Dr. Rosalind (Roz) Renfrew as Wildlife Diversity Program Manager and David Sausville as Wildlife Management Program Manager.

Renfrew will lead the department's work stewarding Vermont's biodiversity, which encompasses projects from protecting rare orchids to bolstering bat populations. Her significant, varied experience in research and leadership reflects the many species and habitats under the Wildlife Diversity Program's charge



Sausville will oversee the department's work to manage Vermont's game species, ensuring the biological health and responsible use of wildlife from ruffed grouse to white-tailed deer. He brings a wealth of species and land management experience, as well as supervisory acumen, to the position.

# Compliments From a High School Teacher

We are so happy to share the incredibly positive feedback we have been receiving from students this year. Here is another shout out to the Randolph team. You have made a great impact on your students and have truly set a high standard for all other hunter educators in the country! We know it is not only this group of instructors that excels in educating eager hunters, so we want to take a moment to thank all of our caring volunteers. We as hunter educators should all be proud of the knowledge and confidence our students take away from our courses. You all are truly outstanding in making the woods and fields a safer place for all hunters and outdoor enthusiasts.

“Greetings,

I have recently attended a bowhunter safety course hosted by the Randolph Fish and Game Club and wanted to take the opportunity to share my experience while there. Bob Raskevitz and Tom Malanchuk were my instructors and the class they put on did not disappoint. I teach chemistry at a local high school in Rhode Island and can honestly say I was impressed with the style of presentation they

chose. Each played off the other seamlessly and had excellent transitions, and were very knowledgeable on all topics covered. They were patient while asking/taking questions and did a great job engaging the whole group with their experiences and hands-on activities. We had hunters of all ages in our class and each, young and old, looked genuinely excited to be there!

I enjoy going deer hunting annually at a family cabin located in the Catskill Mountains, NY and have been doing so for about ten years now. Though I feel comfortable hunting with a rifle, I have always wanted to take up the challenge of hunting with a bow or crossbow. I was also motivated by expanding my hunting season and the areas in which to hunt. While muzzle loader and crossbow hunting are legal in my state, regular rifle hunting is not. Thanks to Bob and Tom, I feel confident in my ability to have a safe, rewarding experience while bowhunting. Vermont is truly fortunate to have these two fantastic educators!

Respectfully,

Matt H.”

## Reporting Your Game This Fall

Game	Online	Big Game Reporting Station (BGRS)	
Bear	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>	All Bears must be reported in person to a BGRS or Game Warden.
Turkey	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	May be self reported online or in person.
Deer: Archery and Muzzleloader	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	May be self reported online or in person.
Deer: Rifle, Youth, and Novice	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>	Deer may NOT be self reported online during youth, novice or regular (rifle) season. All deer must be reported to a BGRS. This allows Department biologists to collect important information from deer during these seasons.
Moose	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>	Moose have special reporting requirements and may not be reported at a BGRS

# Roasted Grouse With Red Wine Sauce

- 1 Stick of butter
- 2 whole grouse , feathers and guts removed
- 1 1/4 Cup of red wine
- 1 garlic clove , smashed
- 1 rosemary sprig
- 1 1/4 cup chicken stock
- ½ tbsp redcurrant jelly



1. Heat oven to 350. Put the butter in a roasting pan in the oven to heat up. Season the birds all over as well as inside their cavities with your choice of spices. Once the butter is searing hot, carefully put the birds in the tin, breast-side down, and roast for 15-25 mins, depending on the size of the birds. Internal Temperature should be 155 degrees F.

2. Remove from the oven and rest the grouse on a plate, covered while you make the gravy. Pour off most of the fat from the butter, but keep the roasting juices. Transfer to a pan and cook on high heat.

3. Stir in the red wine, add the garlic and rosemary and cook for 5 mins until reduced by half, then pour in the stock and simmer for 5 mins until the gravy is syrupy. Remove the rosemary and garlic and stir in the redcurrant jelly.

4. Put a grouse on each plate and pour over the red wine sauce. Serve with mashed potatoes and green salad.

## Public Hearing on T & E Species

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will hold a public hearing Tuesday, October 5, on several changes to [Vermont's Endangered and Threatened Species Rule](#) on behalf of the Agency of Natural Resources.

The in-person public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Pavilion Auditorium, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609. In addition to the hearing, public comments regarding the proposed changes can be emailed until October 13 to [ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov).

The proposed changes of listing, delisting and critical habitat designations in Vermont's Endangered and Threatened Species Rule include:

List **Rue Anemone** (*Thalictrum thalictroides* L.) as endangered.

Delist **Canada Black Snakeroot** (*Sanicula canadensis* L. var. *canadensis*).

**Brook Floater** status change from threatened to be endangered.

List the **American bumble bee** as endangered.

List the **Eastern Meadowlark** as threatened.

Delist the **Bald Eagle**.

Designate three small, rocky state-endangered **Common Tern nesting islands** in Lake Champlain as critical habitat.

Designate **Aeolus Cave** in Dorset as critical habitat.

Designate four state-threatened **Spiny Softshell Turtle nesting beaches** as critical habitat.

List **Houghton's sedge** as endangered.



To see why these changes have been proposed visit [www.vtfishandwildlife.com/node/2666](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/node/2666)

# Contact Us!

This is YOUR newsletter!

We want to hear from you!

Have a photo or story you'd like to share?

E-mail us with your suggestions, stories, pictures or other input!

Alison Thomas  
Education Manager

E-mail: [Alison.Thomas@Vermont.gov](mailto:Alison.Thomas@Vermont.gov)

Cell: 802-371-9975

Olivia Bussiere

Hunter Education & Licensing Admin

E-mail: [Olivia.Bussiere@vermont.gov](mailto:Olivia.Bussiere@vermont.gov)

Cell: 802-522-4570

Amanda Preston  
Hunter Education Tech

E-mail: [Amanda.Preston@vermont.gov](mailto:Amanda.Preston@vermont.gov)

Cell: 802-522-4724

Nicole Meier

Hunter Education Program Coordinator

E-mail: [Nicole.Meier@Vermont.gov](mailto:Nicole.Meier@Vermont.gov)

Cell: 802-318-1347

Nathan Lafont

Hunter Education Training Coordinator

E-mail: [Nathan.Lafont@Vermont.gov](mailto:Nathan.Lafont@Vermont.gov)

Cell: 802-522-5580

All Hunter Education Staff

E-mail: [HunterEducation@Vermont.gov](mailto:HunterEducation@Vermont.gov)

Main Office: 802-828-1193

Address: 1 National Life Dr, Dewey Bldg

Montpelier VT 05620



Instructor award nominations can be made here:

<https://tinyurl.com/InstructorAwards21>



Hunt Safe and Check for Ticks!



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