



October 2019

Green Mountain Conservation Camp

Science, Skills, and Unforgettable Moments

By Alison Thomas, Education Manager

Camp staff are young adults studying to be teachers, scientists, psychologists, and a variety of natural resource professionals. Add to those instructors the game wardens, biologists, botanists, and foresters who come to teach the campers. Many are avid naturalists, anglers, hunters, trappers, and dedicated backpackers with months and miles of wild land and water under their belts. All of these educators are bonded by their love of Vermont's natural world and sharing this enthusiasm with the campers at GMCC. Campers learn from all of these people in the course of a week at camp. Like the campers, the instructors come from different backgrounds and experiences, but it is this diversity of voices contributing to the lessons at camp that enrich the science, outdoor skills, and creative learning that form the GMCC experience.



Trapper education campers learn how to safely set a trap.



Fish & Wildlife Specialist, Joel Flewelling, shows campers how radio telemetry works.



Waking up with the sun, a fishing pole, and good friends at Kehoe.

Coming soon: the **Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Podcast** at: vtfishandwildlife.com GMCC is featured in the first segment!



GMCC by the Numbers: 2019

Basic Session Campers = 514
Advanced Session Campers = 221
Boy Sessions = 589
Girl Sessions = 146
Hunter Combo Certifications = 502

Trapper Certifications = 72
Waterfowl Certifications = 77
Advanced Backpacking = 72
Sponsored Campers = 329

Work Weekends 2019:

Where staff and volunteers come together to make camp great.

Edward F. Kehoe Updates [May 11-12]

Repairing and releveling cabins, cutting down hazardous trees, raking leaves, repairing slate roofs, cleaning buildings, gardening, painting, and more were completed at Kehoe this spring. The list is long and the work is important, but the staff and volunteers always find time to catch-up, eat good food, and enjoy the view of Lake Bomoseen from the Education Center.



Junior Counselors, Jordan Martin (right) and Michael Blais, dedicated weeks of their summer to volunteer at camp, and helped at work weekend by doing the very tough task of taking the heavy mats off of the deck.



Warden Justin Turner and a volunteer help relevel one of the camper cabins to ensure that the building will be sturdy and safe for many more decades at Kehoe!

Buck Lake Updates [May 18-19]

Like most springs at Buck Lake, 2019 was chilly and rainy. That did not stop over twenty volunteers from coming from all over Vermont, and even Massachusetts, to help prepare the camp for another great summer.



Thanks to very skilled Rutland Stafford Tech students, the lumber for the much-needed new woodshed was milled and delivered to GMCC!



Game Wardens Scott, Dukette, Shopland, Jackman, and Schmid dedicated their time to designing and building a beautiful new woodshed.



Working at GMCC

Are you interested in wildlife conservation, working outdoors, and educating youth? Jumpstart your career in conservation while gaining valuable experience.

Positions include:

- Camp Director
- Assistant Director
- Natural Resources Instructor
- Natural Resources Instructor - Medical Coordinator

Positions are posted in early January.

For details and to apply: vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/employment

Interviews begin in February, and positions are filled on an ongoing basis.

Questions, contact:

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Education Manager
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Unplugged, Connected, and Loving It!

Learning and laughing intersect at GMCC where campers, junior counselors, and staff spend each week completely immersed in the joys of summer camp and Vermont's natural resources. What better way to spend a week than playing outdoors and making great memories!



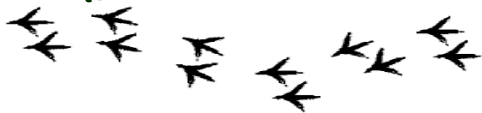
Exploring Buck Lake with snorkels and underwater paper is an experience hard to match...



Here are just a few of the amazing drawings that came from this underwater adventure!



Another way to learn aquatic ecology is to cover yourself in it!



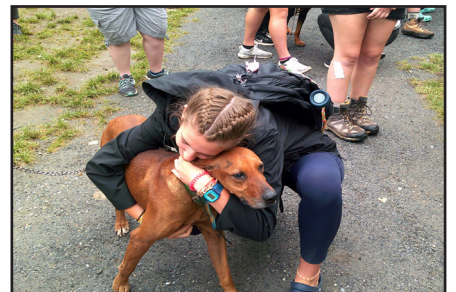
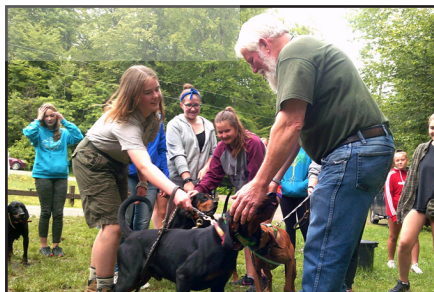
Shooting shotguns safely is an important step in becoming a safe and ethical hunter.



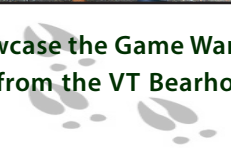
Campers explore the wetlands of Buck Lake by flashlight during an evening barefooting hike.



Seine netting allows campers to briefly capture a variety of fish species for study.



Dogs and outdoor recreation often go hand-in-hand. At camp, dog demonstrations showcase the Game Warden K9 Unit, practice waterfowl hunting skills, and thanks to Butch Spear and Jeff Disorda from the VT Bearhound Association, introduce campers to bearhounds and unique hunting techniques.



THANK YOU to our Junior Counselors

The Junior Counselor (JC) Program provides experienced campers the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills, develop a sound work ethic, and enrich their understanding of Vermont's natural resources. JCs help in so many ways, including: classroom and instruction assistance, cabin duties such as wake-up call and nighttime supervision, kitchen assistance, camp physical improvements, and more!



Junior Counselors provide an invaluable service to the program through hard work and leadership - Always with a smile on their face!



THANK YOU to everyone who make GMCC happen

To the campers, parents and guardians, GMCC staff, Fish & Wildlife staff, Forest, Parks & Recreation staff, and sponsors who made this summer a wonderful outdoor learning adventure for so many children!

Hunter Education

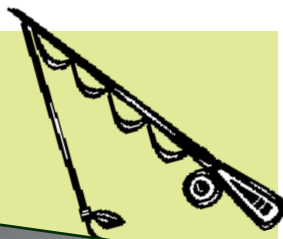
By Nicole Meier,
Outreach & Information Specialist

Why hunt? This is a question I ask (and get asked) frequently. When I ask this question, many answers revolve around tradition or because they were raised doing it and can't imagine a life without hunting; they hunt to spend time with family and friends and reinforce those relationships. Even more tend to say that they hunt because it provides healthy, sustainable meat for their dinner tables, while others say it is the way they prefer to connect with nature.

Hunting connects us to our families and traditions. Putting up treestands together in the fall, scouting hunting spots, and sharing pictures from trail cameras all build up the anticipation, and reinforce the excitement of being in the woods during hunting season. When our families and friends share in our enthusiasm, it's all the better. There is a profound sense of pride that comes with serving a meal that you have provided for your family and friends. Not only is it empowering to harvest your own meat, but putting that meat on the table makes it a meal that is rooted in Vermont – that comes from our own fields and forests, and lived a beautiful and wild life.

Connecting to the landscape, unplugging and absorbing all that nature has to offer that has the ability to make us feel more human and yet more connected to our wild counterparts.

No matter why you choose to hunt, I hope that you celebrate it with each meal, connection with a friend or family member, or when you feel the fall breeze on your cheek.



Fishing



Archery



Fly Tying



Crossbows



.22 Rifles

Let's Go Fishing

By Corey Hart,
LGF Program Coordinator

Campers come to GMCC from a wide range of backgrounds. Some have fished their whole lives while others have never touched a pole. But all campers leave GMCC learning something new, whether it's how to tie a new knot or cast a fly rod for the first time.

One thing that always surprises me is the enthusiasm many campers have about fishing. They just can't get enough! Wake up at GMCC is typically 7:00am, but on select days campers can choose to wake up an hour early and go fishing with staff. That means these teenagers willingly loose an hour of sleep to go fishing! After the busy day it's hard to imagine that we would have many campers willing to wake up an hour early for the chance to catch the big one, but every time we have takers. Some days it's a few campers that just want to watch the sunrise while they cast a line, other days it's the whole camp that's itching to cast a line in. After an hour of fishing they head up to breakfast and meet the rest of the camp to share their latest fish story.

Fishing is so much more than catching fish. It's understanding habitat, ecology, fish behavior, practicing patience, and spending time with others. This blend of science education, recreational skills, and character development is just one way GMCC helps campers make great memories and gain confidence.

Green Mountain Conservation Camp Endowment Fund

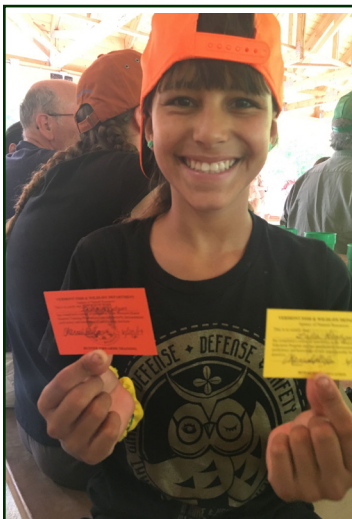
Securing camps for future generations.

The Green Mountain Conservation Camp Endowment Fund is a 501 C 3 non-profit that secures funds for existing GMCC programs, provides maintenance and equipment to the camp facilities, and expands educational opportunities.

The fund helps acquire new canoes, lifejackets, aquatic ecology nets, orienteering equipment, and more.

It's purchases like this that make the fund so important.

The Green Mountain Conservation Camp Endowment Fund Needs Your Support.



A Buck Lake camper proudly shows her hunter education cards.



Songs, dances, stories, and jokes are all a part of campfire connections.

Consider strengthening the fund with your donation.

With your help, we can provide many more generations with the invaluable education offered at Green Mountain Conservation Camps.

Donate today by visiting vtfishandwildlife/donate.com

Attention Educators!

Wildlife Management & Outdoor Education Techniques for Educators One-Week Field Course

Since 1986, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has offered a course that allows educators to go to summer camp, receive professional development, and participate in hands-on learning opportunities about wildlife management. Participants receive 3 graduate-level credits from Castleton University, and earn up to 60 hours of continuing education credits!

This is a one-week course held in mid-July for formal and non-formal educators of all disciplines and grade levels. Educators interested in integrating environmental topics into their curriculum and programs can learn about Vermont's wildlife and fisheries from professional biologists, foresters and educators through hands-on activities.

Contact Ali Thomas, Alison.Thomas@vermont.gov for more information.

For more information: vtfishandwildlife.com > [Learn More](#) > [Conservation Education](#)



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