

New Hampshire Wildlife

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The Mission of the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation is the preservation and protection of hunting, fishing, and trapping; and the conservation of and access to fish and wildlife habitats and resources.



Stinson Mountain Outfitters, LLC
Rumney, NH

Photo: David Poole

Spring 2016

NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE FEDERATION 2016 MEETING DATES

All meetings are held at the Conservation Center, 54 Portsmouth St, Concord, NH, beginning promptly at 7 p.m.

January 16, 2016 – Annual Meeting, NH Fish & Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord beginning at 9:30 a.m.

February 22, 2016 – Board Meeting

March 28, 2016 – Board and Delegates Meeting

April 25, 2016 – Board Meeting

May 23, 2016 – Board and Delegates Meeting

June 27, 2016 – Board Meeting

July and August – no meeting

September 26, 2016 – Board and Delegates Meeting

October 24, 2016 – Board Meeting

November 28, 2016 – Board and Delegates Meeting

December 19, 2016 – Christmas Social for Board and Delegates 6:30 p.m.

Does your employer match charitable gifts?

Completing a matching gift form is the easiest way to return more to the resources that sustain your passion as a hunter and angler.

Simply contact your employer (or former employer, if you are retired), requesting a matching gift form, and mail, email, or fax it to New Hampshire Wildlife Federation. Forms need not accompany your gift to be eligible; you may send them to NHWF at any time, and even request that gifts you have already given be matched. By using your matching gifts programs, you may double or even triple your contribution to the promotion and protection of hunting, fishing and trapping as well as the conservation of, and access to, fish and wildlife habitats.

Email: ed@nhwf.org

Fax: 603-226-7147

SHARE YOUR WILDLIFE & HUNTING STORIES & PHOTOS!

We want to hear about your hunting and fishing adventures. Be a reporter for the Northern or Southern areas and be published in our newsletter!

We LOVE photos of your outings, please send them in!!

Call the Editor at 603-224-5953 or email: ed@nhwf.org.

We truly welcome your comments, suggestions, and articles, and letters to the Editor. To be considered for our quarterly publication, please submit to ed@nhwf.org or contact Janice Boynton Exec. Director at 603-224-5953.

Submission deadlines: 1/15, 4/15, 7/15, 10/15.

Seeking Reporters: We are looking for a Northern and Southern Reporter for conditions and activities in your area. Short articles welcome—photos a plus!

Editor's policy: New Hampshire Wildlife is edited for the members of the NHWF. Publishing and editorial decisions are based on the editor's judgment of quality of writing, timeliness of the article, and potential interest to our readers. The views expressed in New Hampshire Wildlife are those of the authors and may not reflect the official policy of NHWF. No endorsement of those views should be inferred unless specifically identified.

NHWF 2016 Officers

James E. Morse, *President*
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Mark Edwards, *Treasurer*
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By James Morse

I am happy to say that the 2016 Legislative season is going well for the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation (NHWF). At our annual meeting our delegates and board members voted on a list of LSRs to be put in for House Bills and Senate Bills. At this point we have had every bill go the way we voted.

NHWF has redone our webpage (www.NHWF.org) and provided a way for you to access up-to-date information regarding the legislative bills relevant to the Federation this season. The new site is also a great place for following upcoming events. If your club is having an event, send us a note and we will be happy to post it on our site. At the Shop, the most asked for events are Hunter safety and Women on Target, so keep that in mind if you are having one in the near future.

This year's 34th Annual Conservation Banquet was a success and as you may know it is the major money raiser for our organization. We had a great turnout this year. We thank all those who donated gifts, guns and trips and everyone who managed to join us and bid in the auctions.

At our monthly board meetings, one topic always on the agenda is, "how to fund our organization." One way is through continued support from our members like you. We ask you to remember we are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which allows donors to reduce their respective taxable incomes by deducting donations. Specifics should be discussed with your tax advisor as every one's situation is different. This also allows us to continue doing the work we do to support and promote hunting, fishing and trapping. Please consider a donation to the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation when you are looking for causes worthy of your consideration.

Thank you and hope you have a nice spring.

Jim Morse, President

UPCOMING NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE FEDERATION EVENTS

May 5 – 18, 2016 – New Hampshire Wildlife

Federation Charitable Gaming days at the Lakes Region Casino, Belmont, NH. If you enjoy going to the Casino, these are the days to go. NHWF makes a percentage of the take on these days.

Check our website for other activities as they come up.

A WIN AND A LOSS

By Bob Dufresne

Beginning 2016 the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation (NHWF) had what I would consider a "win" and a "loss." The win was a suspension of a gas pipeline project by energy infrastructure developer, Kinder Morgan. The proposed routes were through the southern tier of the State. This issue faced many headwinds and the Federation opposed it because much of the plan chose to cut through conservation lands and forests. Our opinion was that if a pipeline was in the best interest of the citizens of New Hampshire, we would prefer it to stay within existing right of ways and existing traffic corridors. The opposition looks like it won the day.

Where I think the sportspeople of New Hampshire lost was over the outcry regarding re-introducing a very limited bobcat hunting and trapping season. I hope sportspeople will recognize this for what it was; a successful attempt by anti-hunting and anti-trapping activists to turn fellow sportspeople against science and against each other. In the many months since the NH Fish and Game Commissioners voted to re-introduce the seasons we saw well known people within our sporting community come out against the commission, against science and against sportspeople often with publically proclaimed lies and half-truths. The culmination of which was a "kangaroo court" held by our legislators at the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR). After allowing 14 citizens to speak in opposition to the rule, they only allowed four of us to speak in favor of the rule and while I presented written testimony and requested to speak on your behalf, the Chairperson chose not to hear from the state's largest conservation group. Please remember who your conservation friends are when it's election time.

AFFILIATE CLUB EVENTS

Farmington Fish and Game Club, 64 Old Bay Road, New Durham, NH

Sunday, May 15: Kids Fishing Day. For kids 5 to 12 years old. Fishing from 8 AM to 11 AM. Registration 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM. Bring bait, fishing equipment and smiles. (Bait can often be bought at a nearby store.) Prizes for various reasons until gone. Free lunch for kids at 11:15. Lunch available for others at small cost.

Saturday, June 4 AND Saturday, July 16. 3D Archery shoot. 8:00am rain or shine. \$10.00 entry fee (13 & under FREE). 4 Classes: Open, Traditional, Women's, Youth. \$50.00 prize each class. For more info contact: Barry Carr @603-755-1175

New Hampshire Bear Hunters Association

May 28th 2016. 2nd Annual Big Game Field Trials in Errol, NH. It is being held at the Umbagog Snowmobile Association club house on Route 26. Gates open at 7 am. Bench show, dash race, tree contest, and mechanical bear bay. Pig roast and smoked turkey with all the fixins. Raffles, give aways, prizes. Alcohol free. Family event. For more information contact nhbearhuntersassoc@yahoo.com or Rick Lausier, President, at 603-482-3328.

Watanic Bowmen Merrimack NH

April 24 AND May 29, 2016 3D Archery Shoots
For more information call John Hall at 603-440-5697

Monadnock Rod and Gun Club, PO Box 82, Jaffrey, NH

May 10th: Archery Tuesday Weekly Tuesday Archery Shoot Series 5PM till dusk **EVERY TUESDAY THROUGHOUT THE SEASON UNTIL AUGUST 30TH** always check mrgci.com online calendar

May 11th: Iron Sights Shoot Weekly Wednesday .22 Rimfire Shoot Series 6:00PM practice 6:30PM till dusk **EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM MAY 4TH UNTIL AUGUST 31st** always check mrgci.com online calendar

May 15th: CANCELLED: for RWVA Event Archery Sunday Weekly Sunday Archery Shoot Series 8AM till 1PM **EVERY SUNDAY FROM NOW UNTIL LATE FALL** always check mrgci.com online calendar

May 14th-15th: RWVA's Project Appleseed One or Two-Day Rifle Marksmanship Clinic and Revolutionary War history course - beginner to advanced 8:00AM to 6:00PM.

May 21st: NRA Firearms Safety in the Home Course 8:00AM to 12:00PM this is a FREE course.

May 22nd: Granite State Bowhunters Members and Public Shoot - all welcome, but only GSB Members compete for points 7:00AM registration begins, all archers must start course by 10:00AM.

June 4th: 69th Annual Robert C. Heywood Memorial Children's Fishing Derby 9AM-till 12 Noon....prizes and trophies follow, Open to all area children from 2-15 free fishing, free food and drinks, and free prizes for all participants - Club closed to other activities until Derby activities are concluded, all ranges closed for duration of event.

June 18th: 5th Annual NES Dave Hanan Memorial Car Shoot Private Rental - NortheastShooter's Green Member Shoot - All Ranges and Pond Closed Club closed until 5:00PM . - registered NES Green Members and their guests.

June 25th: Al Straitiff Memorial Celebration The first part of the day will be open for the family and by invite, and the remainder will be open to all Members and invited guests 10AM-5PM hours may change - Firearms Range will be open for the duration of the event See the online Event Calendar for details.

June 30th: CMARS Shoot Crotched Mountain Therapeutic Recreation Shoot Series day 1 of 5 Sturm-Ruger/Access Outdoors New England 5:00PM till 7:00PM, Pre-Registered Public is Welcome - Range is closed for the duration of the event.

July 9th: Women's Outdoor Adventure Day 8AM-till 6PM The public is welcome to register. This will be a day of opportunity to learn and participate in archery, firearms, fishing, and related outdoor-type events taught by seasoned instructors and followed by an evening BBQ get-together. Information to follow regarding scheduled events and registration.

July 16th: Member's Day 9AM-till 11PM Members and Public for morning Sturm-Ruger shooting portion, thereafter Members Only BBQ/ Live Band A free day of fun for the Membership.

July 23rd: NRA Firearms Safety in the Home Course 8:00PM to 12:00PM. This is a FREE course.

July 24th: Granite State Bowhunters Championship 3D Shoot - Members and Public Shoot - all welcome, but only GSB Members compete for the Championship. 7:00AM registration begins, all archers must start course by 10:00AM, Vendor Prize Giveaways ...Gold Tip plus, Pelletiere's Sports Shop Sponsorship.

July 28th: CMARS Shoot Crotched Mountain Therapeutic Recreation Shoot Series day 2 of 5 Sturm-Ruger/Access Outdoors New England 5:00PM till 7:00PM, Pre-Registered Public is Welcome - Range is closed for the duration of the event.



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LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2016

Volunteers from NHWF spend considerable hours each year over at the Legislature working to ensure sportsmen and women maintain their right and abilities to hunt, fish and trap. Following are the results of some of the Bills the Wildlife Federation was monitoring this past session.

Bills voted ***Inexpedient to Legislate*** (ITL) is defined as a defeated Bill voted not to pass. Bills can be ***retained*** which are Bills held by the different assigned committees to be worked on at a later date. Bills can be ***Laid on the table*** defined as a Bill that has been placed on the table as a result of a floor motion and the Bill will remained held until a floor vote takes it back off the table. And finally a Bill can be assigned to ***Interim Study*** meaning a Bill was sent back to the committee that heard it for further study. These Bills will be worked on in between the annual legislative sessions. ***Ought To Pass*** is a Bill supported by majority vote and sent on to be considered for law.

HB 1100—Relative to licensure of Guides by the Fish and Game Dept. This Bill added requirements for persons applying for a guide license issued by the Fish and Game Department and established criteria for cancellation and revocation of a guide's license. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation and this Bill was voted to ITL in February of 2016.

HB 1106—Relative to days on which fishing is permitted without a license. This Bill would allow the Fish and Game Department to have a second day each year, in the winter, on which fishing is permitted without a license. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation and to support a second Bill allowing for this same action. This Bill was voted ITL in January 2016.

HB 1132—Relative to carrying a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle. This Bill allows a person to carry a rifle or shotgun loaded in a motor vehicle, ATV, snow machine, boat, aircraft or other vehicle. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation. It was voted OTP in the House and is scheduled for a hearing in Senate Transportation.

HB 1176—Relative to nomination and qualification of Fish and Game Commissioners. This Bill changes the manner in which commissioners are nominated and the background requirements for applying. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this Bill and it was sent to Interim Study in February.

HB 1177—Relative to permission required for baiting on the property of another. This Bill requires that a person baiting on private property obtain written permission to place the bait but eliminates the requirement to file the permit with Conservation Officers. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation and the Bill was voted ITL in February 2016.

HB 1178—Relative to the taking of black bear assisted by a licensed guide. This Bill provides that a guide licensed by the state shall not be limited in the number of bears they may assist in taking. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation and this Bill was voted ITL in February 2016.

HB 1191—Relative to establishing an exotic game license for hunting in a game preserve. This Bill would allow for an

exotic game license to be issued by the department allowing for the hunting of elk or wild boar in a game preserve. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation and the Bill was voted ITL in February 2016.

HB 1267 and HB 1268—Relative to changes in the Hike Safe Volunteer hiking programs. These Bills would expand the definition of a "Family" to include adult children with disabilities so they too, would be covered by a Family Hike Safe Card. It would also allow for the ability of the Fish and Game to bill reckless and negligent hikers. The Federation voted to **Support** this legislation and these Bills passed both the House and Senate.

HB 1286—Relative to days when fishing without a license is permitted. This Bill would allow for a second day of fishing without a license during the ice fishing seasons. This would not include any person participating in a fishing derby. The Federation voted to **Support** this legislation and it was voted OTP in January of 2016.

HB 1298—Relative to damage to private property. This Bill creates a cause of action for a landowner whose land is damaged by pollution, OHRV use or litter. The Federation voted to **Support** this legislation and it was voted OTP in both the House and Senate after an amendment.

HB 1368—Relative to firearms owners being required to have liability insurance. This Bill requires the seller, purchaser and owner of a firearm to be covered by a qualified liability insurance company.

HB 1388—Relative to expanding crossbow season into muzzleloader season. This Bill would allow a person who has purchased a muzzleloader license to hunt with a crossbow. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation and this Bill was voted OTP in the House in February 2016.

HB 1519—Relative to the season for baiting bear and using dogs set by the Executive Director of Fish and Game. This Bill would not allow dog hunters to overlap with bait hunting for black bear. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation and this Bill was voted ITL in February of 2016.

HB 1524—Relative to repealing Fish and Games authority to regulate Fees established by rulemaking. This Bill would eliminate the Departments authority to set fees for licenses or services they currently provide. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation and the Bill was voted ITL in January of 2016.

HB 1536—Relative to repealing the current funding source for Search and Rescue and applying a family type fishing license all at Fish and Game. This Bill would change the funding sources in the current Search and Rescue budget and allow a family fishing license for people to use during the season. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation and this Bill was voted ITL in January 2016.

Continued next page

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

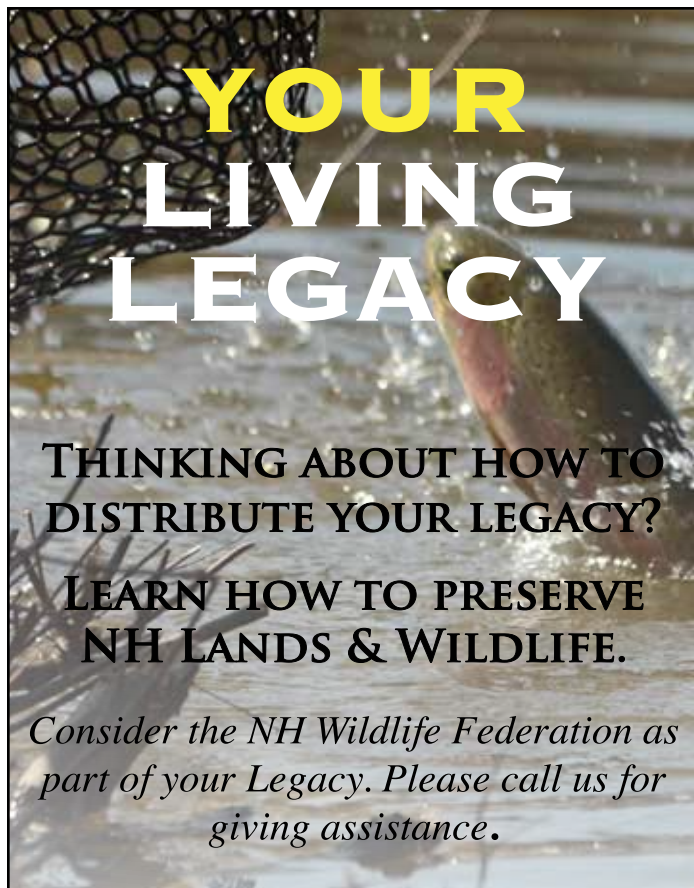
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HB 500—**Relative to repealing the prohibition on silencers to allow for hunting.** Left over from last session. This would allow for silencers and suppressors to be used to hunt game. The Federation voted to **Oppose** this legislation. This Bill was passed by both the House and Senate by narrow margins and is now in the Governor's office.

Administrative Rules:

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department put forth a proposal to allow a limited hunting and trapping season for the taking of Bobcat as their populations had rebounded in the state. The Federation voted to **Support** this legislation. After many debates this administrative Rule was voted ITL in the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. (JLCAR).

This past session was challenging as others have been but I am very happy to report that we were successful in almost every one of our positions on these pieces of legislation. The New Hampshire Wildlife Federation works diligently to support and defend the rights of all sportsmen and women in the state. It is important today that all of us with interest in hunting, fishing and trapping come together to be one voice at the legislative level. An organization such as the Wildlife Federation represents a number of constituents and votes and we have found the Legislators will listen to our concerns. It is important for all of us to maintain these commitments and it is more important than ever that we all speak with one voice as members of an active and responsive New Hampshire Wildlife Federation.



**YOUR
LIVING
LEGACY**

**THINKING ABOUT HOW TO
DISTRIBUTE YOUR LEGACY?
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NH LANDS & WILDLIFE.**

*Consider the NH Wildlife Federation as
part of your Legacy. Please call us for
giving assistance.*

BARRY CONSERVATION CAMP AWARDS

The following received Awards to help them attend Barry Conservation Camp this summer:

Bethany Fulton, Cameron Poulton, Christina Asher, and Brodyn Varney will attend the Jr. Conservation Officer Session.

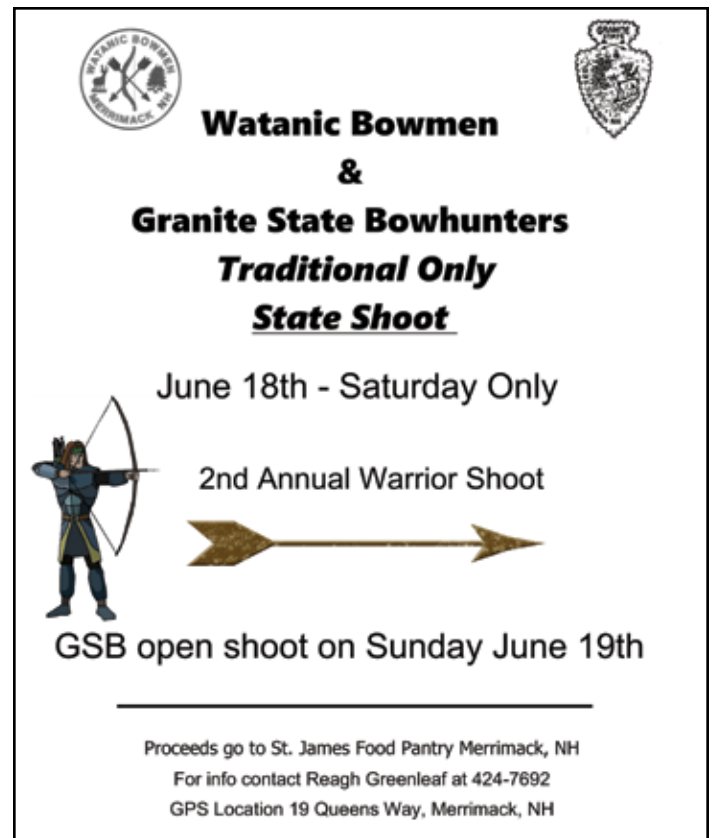
Zachary Demers will attend 4-H On the Wild Side Session.



Colin Noyes is going to attend the Hunter Education week.

These winners were chosen from the 17 applications which we received, many more than received in previous years. We will be hearing from them about their experiences at camp.



The two 2016 New Hampshire Wildlife Federation Scholarships were presented to Andrew Jolin, Intervale, NH and John Sojka, Hudson, NH by Scholarship Committee Chair Charles Williams.





 **Watanic Bowmen** 

**&
Granite State Bowhunters**

**Traditional Only
State Shoot**

June 18th - Saturday Only

 2nd Annual Warrior Shoot 

GSB open shoot on Sunday June 19th

Proceeds go to St. James Food Pantry Merrimack, NH
For info contact Reagh Greenleaf at 424-7692
GPS Location 19 Queens Way, Merrimack, NH

SPRING IS THE TIME TO DETERMINE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT ON YOUR PROPERTY

Most areas naturally fill in with some sort of vegetation, but where erosion is a possibility or there are just a few fruiting trees, shrubs or perennial plants, planting can enhance wildlife food and cover. Before planting, take an inventory of what is already growing on the land. Determine if supplemental plantings might be done along hedgerows, fence rows, or along the edges of fields and wooded areas.

Know the site and the plants you choose. Some plants prefer wet to dry soils or a sunny location to one that gets considerable shade. Plan your plantings to create a diversity of low and taller growing plants and include both those that provide food and/or cover. Some good trees to select would include crabapples, black cherry, red & white oak, mountain ash, and hawthorns. Some shrubs to choose would be blueberry, dogwoods, sumac and most of the viburnums.

Here are some suburban, rural and farm land habitats used by all sorts of wildlife.

ABANDONED FIELDS are a transition zone consisting of young or overgrown trees and shrubs such as juniper, aspen, alder, cherry, birches, and white pine.

CULTIVATED LAND provides cover and food for both game and non game birds and animals before and after harvest. Establishing food plots or leaving some standing

corn or other grains are also good practices.

EDGES are the borders between two different types of habitat such as field and forest or areas along farm or woods roads that are favored by many types of wildlife.

HAYFIELDS or tall grassy areas provide cover for ground nesting birds and insects for hungry young broods.

HEDGEROWS, wind breaks and fencerows are used for food, cover and perch sites and serve as wildlife corridors

ORCHARDS and stands of fruit plantings with a grassy floor offer seasonal food and cover.

“UPLAND” FIELDS are typically too wet, dry, or rocky to cultivate and are often used for pastures for livestock.

WOODLANDS value can be improved for wildlife by selective thinning or pruning and creating openings.

WHERE TO GET ADDITIONAL HELP AND INFORMATION

Your local county UNH Cooperative Extension office: for agricultural, forestry and wildlife information.

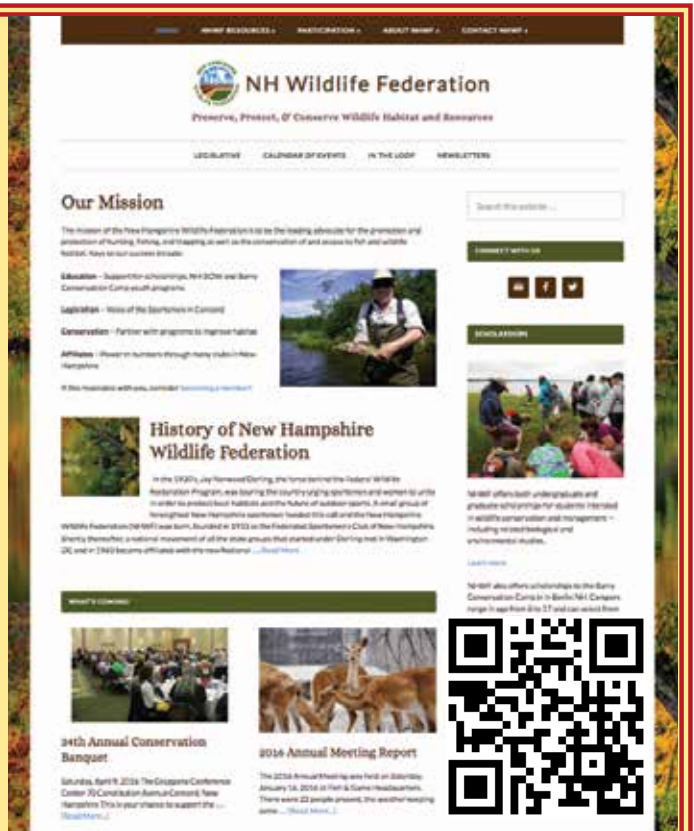
NRCS offices: technical and possible financial aid.

Your county conservation district office: for conservation information and assistance.

We've launched a new website to improve getting our message out to members and affiliates. The new site is easier to update so we can get information out quickly. It is compatible with smart phones and iPads as well as your home computers. We've added a Legislative page including links to the current status of bills we've reviewed and our position.

Looking for things to do outdoors? There is a new Calendar of Events to keep you informed of activities of our affiliates and of interest to New Hampshire outdoor enthusiasts. What to contact a Fish & Game Commissioner? Check out our Resources page. Have you convinced your fishing buddies to join? They can join on the website, and buy a soft denim long sleeve shirt with the NHWF logo.

We are always looking to promote our mission as well as our affiliate clubs, sponsors and donors. Let us know if you or your club has an upcoming event, topic of interest, or even a story to share, please send it in for consideration to our website or newsletter. Use Quick Response Code below from your smartphone to jump to the site at www.nhwhf.org.



Culinary Corner

By Nancy P. Adams

Each year the state stocks nearly a million various species of trout as well as landlocked salmon in New Hampshire's water bodies. For many fishermen, there are those special places where native brookies are still to be found. Others may prefer warm water fish such as bass, horn-pout and perch. Or seek out those big lake trout, northern pike or walleye. Whatever floats your boat, be sure to get outdoors this spring and enjoy some fine fishing and good eating.

2-Smoked Fish Appetizer - fire up your home-smoker (or ask a friend to help you out here) and prepare some smoked trout. Your friends are sure to enjoy these tasty rolls with their favorite beverages and toasted baguette slices. Or serve them on lettuce leaves for a simple salad with some deviled eggs and good pickles.

Ingredients:

2 smoked trout, about 1/2 lb. each
8 slices smoked salmon, store-purchased, about 7 oz. in all
3 tablespoons sour cream
1 heaped teaspoon horseradish
1 teaspoon lemon juice
black pepper
a few sprigs fresh dill (or 1/4 teaspoon dried)
1 lemon for garnish

Remove the flesh from the smoked trout; take care to remove all the bones as well. Mash it in a dish with the sour cream, horseradish and lemon juice; season with some freshly ground black pepper and chop in about 1 tablespoon of the dill. Spread the slices of smoked salmon flat; if they are big, cut them into smaller pieces. Put some of the trout mixture at one end of each smoked salmon slice and roll it up. Arrange the rolls on a serving dish and decorate with some dill sprigs and lemon slices. Serves 4. Note: If you have your own home-smoked salmon, by all means use that!

Grilled Fish Fillets - a coating of egg yolk and rice wine give these fish fillets a delicious and different coating. You can use dry sherry instead of rice wine if desired. Any firm white fish can be grill-broiled in this simple, oriental manner.

Ingredients:

8 fish fillets, about 2 lbs.
sea salt
2 egg yolks
1 tablespoon dry rice wine (or dry sherry)
black pepper
cayenne pepper

Rub a little sea salt into the fish fillets and let them sit for 10 minutes. In a shallow dish, beat the egg yolks with the wine and season with black and cayenne peppers to your taste. Arrange the fish pieces in an ovenproof dish and brush them with half the egg mixture. Grill them under a medium heat for 5 minutes; turn, brush with remaining mixture, and grill 5 minutes longer or until cooked. Note: If the fillets are quite thin, it may take a little less time on both sides. Serves 4.

Fish Chowder - instead of cooking this Spanish-inspired dish in a pan, this there's nothing like a hearty fish chowder on a chilly, damp day. Enjoy the taste of fresh leeks, potatoes and locally-caught fish in this warming chowder. If you like, add a cup or so of frozen corn kernels at the same time as the milk.

Ingredients:

1 lb. boned and skinned fish such as landlocked salmon, walleye, pike, bass, lake trout
3 tablespoons butter
2 or 3 leeks including some of the green, cut into very thin strips
1 large potato peeled and diced
2 cups fish stock (or light vegetable stock or water)
4 cups milk
2 cups whipping cream
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Melt the butter in a large pot over low heat. Add the leeks and let them soften but not brown. Stir in the potatoes. Pour in the stock and simmer over low heat for 15 minutes. Add the milk and cream. Continue simmering the soup for another 10 minutes, but don't allow the soup to boil. Add the fish and simmer until it is cooked, about 5 minutes more. Season with salt and pepper and serve with chowder crackers. Serves 6.

Nancy P. Adams has been cooking and writing about food for over 40 years. A long-time resident of Hancock, she enjoys gardening at home, as well as hunting and fishing with her husband throughout New Hampshire. Nancy welcomes suggestions and recipes at: nancobb22@gmail.com

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Jim Morse

Southwest Region Report

By Jack Zeller

Read Jack's deer camp blog at: longridgedeercamp.blogspot.com



This was a remarkable winter, and appears to be a remarkable spring...the winter for never having arrived, and spring, for being totally normal here in the Southwest.

The deer herd in SW New Hampshire has not enjoyed a winter like this in a generation or so. I remember a winter, I believe in 1984 where we got no snow, but that was a very, very cold. This year, no snow, and no cold. Oh, it hit -20 one night, but nothing lasting. All that fat we saw on the field dressed deer in the fall, was more than enough to allow comfortable survival this winter.

During my deer census, I noted on my blog that coats and condition of deer remained shiny and healthy all winter. They are STILL eating last years' acorns as I write this on tax day. I cut some fifty five trees for next year's cordwood during the winter. Habitually, I lay the trees down during December and January (mostly maples) and let the deer strip them of their life giving buds. This winter, ho-hum, maybe we'll eat a few... and maybe not. No snow, easy to travel, tons of food, no thanks. Even the corn I put out in December and January was boring to the herd.

Upshot. Lots of deer this fall. Tons of them. Be sure to buy an archery, muzzle loader and firearms tag!

Second issue. I have game cameras out all over the land. I used to get bobcat and coyote pictures constantly. Things have changed though, because I have not had a coyote on camera for over six months. Just one Bobcat. I am right on ground zero for where Bobcats were collared and released, and if you look at the



GPS space shots, of their travels, it is here. Starting about a year ago, they simply disappeared. Gone! One picture in 12 months (about some 4000 pictures) I do not have an explanation for this, but it did cause me to take the position of a firearms season for Bobcats only. No trapping, no hounds, until we know a little bit more. As for coyotes, we are absolutely coyote free in my neighborhood. There are none. By that I do not mean that one does not travel though occasionally, but they do not exist on a day to day basis. Thank you neighbor, I love your method, and your attentiveness. So do our fawns.

Bears are another matter. Plentiful, and active. Thirty eight taken in this region in the fall, and there are still lots around. Just this evening a neighbor called us to alert us to a bear in a pasture close to the barn enclosure. We raise sheep, and bears love sheep. They do however dislike very much, electric fences. The sheep were in a fright, but when I went down, the bear had left. I am thankful, because the last time a bear got caught up in our temporary electric fencing I found fiber rods thrown fifty feet in every direction!

Turkeys. Wow. My wife brought home a video she took on her phone a few weeks ago, of a flock crossing in front of her a mile from the farm. I stopped counting at 150, and a dozen or two continued after that! A huge flock. Right here at the farm we have a regular visit by a flock of twenty, and busy BIG toms. Step out the front door at 6 AM and it sounds like a rookery! I hope for a dry and warmish May and June for a great hatch-out. If we get one of those, you'll have to watch your step in the woods or you'll step on a turkey!

So, the upshot? I predict that this year we will see the big bucks back. I predict a harvest of over 11,000 deer. Seem impossible? Not at all. Winter kill was negligible. Herd healthy. Plenty of food. No reason to expect more than normal road kills. Buy your tags folks, it is going to be a good one!

Jack Zeller is an avid hunter, a Benefactor member of NRA, a part time trapper, member of GONH, and a career police officer. Jack posts a deer camp blog at Longridgedeercamp.blogspot.com He hosts yearly deer camps in the Connecticut River Valley, and can be reached at jackzeller@myfairpoint.net Comments and questions are welcomed!

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NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE FEDERATION 34TH ANNUAL CONSERVATION BANQUET

APRIL 9, 2016

The 34th Annual Conservation Banquet was held on April 9, 2016 at the Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH. Over 200 guests were in attendance and made for a lively evening. Congressman Frank Guinta appeared briefly, visiting with the guests saying a few words. Miss New Hampshire attended as guest of the New Hampshire Trappers Association and helped parade the Live Auction items.

Five members of Horseshoe Fish & Game Club bought the winning ticket for the \$10,000 grand prize. Alan Bouillard, Bradford Parkhurst, Carla Rodriguez, Jeff Price and Kevin Southwick each took home \$2000. Tom Staples won the Browning BAR Short Trac .308 on the Special Gun Raffle and Frank Bolton was drawn as the winner of the Spring Firearm Raffle, a Savage .270 Axis II XP. There were three winners drawn on the Sponsor Member Raffle. Rick Lemay chose the Browning X-bolt carbon fiber .308, Jim Morse took home the Browning X-bolt hunter .223 and Shirley Johnson received the American Rifle 30-06 w/Vortex Scope. Bonnie Morse took home the Kayak. In the 4 Seasons Raffle Sharon Guaraldi won the Winter Package, Will Livingston took the Spring Package, Lars Traffie won the Summer Package and the Fall Package was won by Nathan Somero. Adam and Christine Roy of Manchester, NH and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Dionne of Amherst, NH will be going on Photo Safaris to South Africa.

Continuing the Kennedy Family tradition, Oscar Kennedy Stirling, grandson of Lifetime Member "Stretch" Kennedy, is our 31st Lifetime Member. His plaque will be presented at next year's banquet.

The Banquet Committee wishes to thank Mike Nolan for being our Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer again this year. Mike keeps the program moving along so that we get out at a reasonable hour.

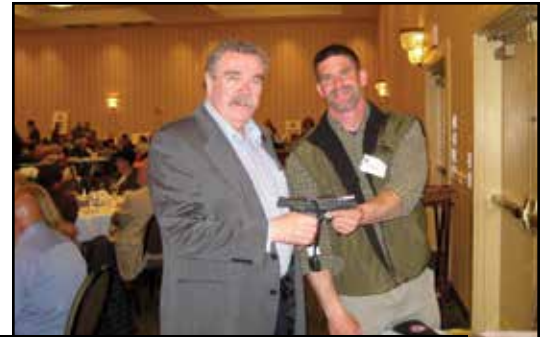
We would like to thank the following volunteers for their hard work the night of the banquet as well as rounding up prizes before the banquet.

Sam Demeritt, Chair of the Banquet Committee for several years. NHWF Board Members on the Committee are Ron Sowa, Dan Dockham, James Morse, Mark Edwards and Brian DeNutte.

Following are volunteers from our membership and some friends of the Federation who set aside the day to help every year: Bruce and Debbie Howell, Chuck Howell, Rebecca Boynton Erickson, Stephanie Edwards, Kimberly Rumrill, Jamie and Mackenzie Wiggin, Larry and Sharon Guaraldi, Luke Guaraldi, Carter Heath, John Klucky, Frank Harrison, Lee Holliday, David Selvis, and Frank Grzasko. Helping for the first time this year were Wayne Howell, Mary Holliday, Jennifer Sousa, and Trisha Heath. I know I have forgotten to name someone so please excuse me in advance. Without these friends we would not be able to do all that we do for the banquet.

Plan on joining us next year on **Saturday, April 8, 2017** at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH for our 35th Annual Conservation Banquet.

Please consider donating an item for the banquet next year or volunteering a few hours of your time that night. You will be helping us fulfill our mission and meeting some great folks as well.



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