

Hunter Education And More From NHF&G Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

Hunter Education

If you're looking to purchase your first hunting license in New Hampshire, you are required to complete a hunter education course before you can hunt. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department offers hunter and bowhunter education classes around the state, as well as trapper education. To find a class, visit HuntNH.com or call 271-3214.

"This is the busy season for hunter education. If you're thinking about going hunting this fall and need to take a hunter education class, you better sign up soon," said Tom Flynn, Hunter Education Coordinator for Fish and Game.

The basic Hunter Education course averages about 16 hours of classroom instruction and field experiences, often including firing on a shooting range. Courses cover safe firearms handling; wildlife identification; game trailing, recovery and care; hunter ethics; outdoor safety and survival skills; and map and compass skills.

Hunter Education instruction and course materials are provided free of charge, though some classes may charge a nominal fee to cover the use of facilities. To receive a certificate of completion in basic hunter education or bowhunter education, participants must be at least 12 years old by the end of the course.

"Over the years, New Hampshire's Hunter Education Program -- coupled with the voluntary use of blaze-orange clothing -- has dramatically reduced the number of hunting-related firearms incidents in the field," said Flynn.

In addition to traditional classes, Fish and Game offers a home-study option that takes about the same amount of time as a classroom course. Participants attend a required field day involving a written exam and field skills testing. There are specific deadlines for signing up for the home study option, and space is limited. For a list of home study sessions, call 271-3214 or visit the Fish and Game website at Wildlife.State.NH.US/Hunting/hunter_ed_homestudy.htm.

Becoming An Outdoors-Woman

The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

fall workshop brochure and registration form are now available at NHBOW.com. You can also call 271-3212 or e-mail aquatic-ed@wildlife.state.nh.us to request an application by mail. Sign up as soon as you can, because registration is first-come, first-served, and this weekend workshop fills up fast.

This year's fall BOW workshop will take place September 8 through 10 at Rockywold/Deephaven Camps on Squam Lake in Holderness. You must be 18 years of age or older. It costs \$295, which includes lodging, meals, instruction, and equipment use. Some scholarships are available; call 271-3212 for scholarship deadlines.

The BOW weekend includes more than 30 outdoor skills courses to choose from, including archery, fly-fishing, hiking, canoeing, handling firearms, outdoor survival, kayaking, campfire cooking, and much more.

Wonders Of Wildlife Volunteers

If you enjoy learning about wildlife, enjoy young people, and can volunteer during the day, consider becoming a Wonders of Wildlife (WOW) educator for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. By becoming a WOW docent, volunteers have the opportunity to present programs about the state's wildlife in elementary school classrooms.

Training courses (11 sessions) for new volunteers will begin in early September in their choice of two locations: either the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, from September 5 through November 14, or the Hillsborough County Complex in Goffstown from September 7 through November 16. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45 AM to 4 PM, with optional Friday field days.

The \$50 course fee includes an extensive resource guide. Some scholarships are available, as is college credit through UNH. After the training ends in November, those deciding to become trained WOW docents for Fish and Game will have some additional training in January.

For more information, contact Pam Doherty at Pam.Doherty@UNH.edu or 629-9494, ext. 120.

By Peter Southworth

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail – Merrimack County was buoyed by a great Fourth of July at our display tent on the Village Green. Members talked with rail trail supporters and interested townspeople, looked at maps of the rail trail, and sold tickets for the bicycle raffle. FNRT members staffing the display table noted more townspeople enthusiasm and awareness of the benefits of the rail trail.

At our July 19 meeting, plans were made for more trail work in late August. This will include completing the third of a mile remaining by Bridge Street, where work was rained out this spring, and continuing east from the Blackwater Park to Switch Road. A grader, vibratory roller, and materials are being donated thanks to the work of Peter Crowell of New London.

More signs clarifying proper use of the trail were posted, and bicycles, horses, walkers, and dogs have been out enjoying the trail this summer.

Charles Martin presented to the Franklin City Council on the rail trail progress and plans – the trail will extend to Franklin – and received a great response as well as prominent coverage in the *Laconia Citizen*. The Franklin City Council will attend the FNRT August meeting.

Look for the FNRT information ta-

ble at the Andover Historical Society's Old Time Fair on Sunday, August 6 and at the Danbury Grange Fair on Saturday, September 9.

The Artists on the Trail art auction and fun walk/run will take place at the Andover Elementary/ Middle School gym on Sunday, October 1, from 1 PM to 4 PM. The bicycle raffle winner will be announced and we hope to celebrate and try out another section of newly improved trail from the Blackwater Park.

The next FNRT meeting is Wednesday, August 16, at 7 PM in the science room of AE/MS and is open to the public.

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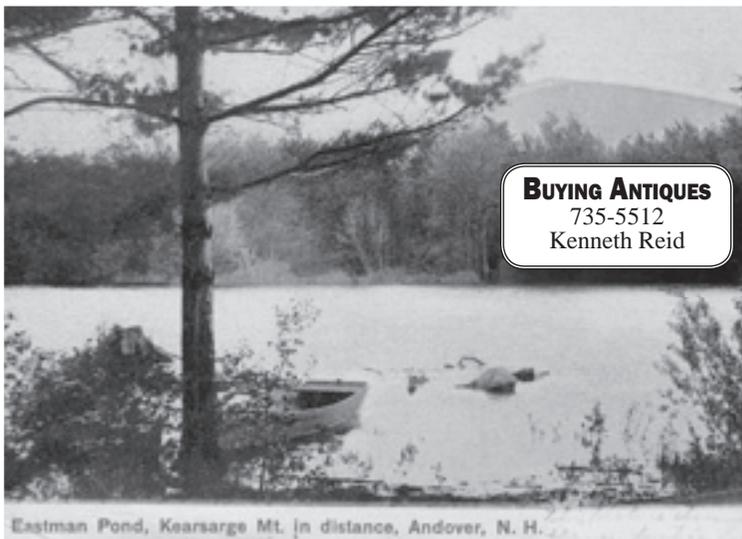


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Eastman Pond, Kearsarge Mt. in distance, Andover, N. H.