

Youth Turkey Hunt On April 25 and 26

New Hampshire's 2009 youth turkey hunt will take place Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, the weekend before spring gobbler season gets underway on May 3. This year marks the sixth annual youth turkey hunt weekend in New Hampshire. During the 2008 youth weekend, young hunters took an impressive 579 gobblers, or 14.1% of the total spring turkey harvest in the state.

To participate in the special weekend turkey hunt, youth hunters must be age 15 or younger and must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult age 18 or older. The adult may not carry a firearm or bow and arrow.

Youth hunters do not need a hunting license, but they must have a valid turkey permit (\$16 resident, \$31 non-resident). Accompanying adults must hold either a current New Hampshire hunting or archery license and a turkey permit. Licenses and permits can be purchased at HuntNH.com.

The special weekend provides youth and mentoring adults a quiet, non-competitive time in the woods, where they can focus on safety, ethics, hunt-

ing methods, and natural science. For more details on youth hunting in New Hampshire, see Wildlife.state.nh.us/Hunting/youth_hunting.htm.

"Nothing generates more compliments, letters of thanks, and photographs of proud parents and beaming kids, than our youth turkey weekend," said Mark Ellingwood, wildlife programs administrator for Fish and Game.

In addition to their special weekend, youth can hunt during the regular spring gobbler season (May 3 through 31), when accompanied by a properly licensed adult age 18 or older. (All youth require a valid turkey permit.)

Enhance your knowledge of and appreciation for turkey ecology and turkey hunting by attending a wild turkey seminar at Owl Brook Hunter Education Center in Holderness on April 18. Pre-registration is required. To sign up for the workshop, call 603-536-3954.

For more information on turkey hunting in New Hampshire and a link to online license sales, go to HuntNH.com/Hunting/Hunt_species/hunt_turkey.htm.

Moose Hunt Lottery Applications Due By May 29

If you want to hunt moose in New Hampshire this fall, enter the lottery and try your luck on the adventure of a lifetime. Applications for the lottery cost \$15 for residents and \$25 for non-residents (nonrefundable) and are available online at HuntNH.com or from any Fish and Game license agent. The deadline for entering the 2009 lottery is May 29. New Hampshire's 2009 moose hunt runs from October 17 to 25.

"New Hampshire offers a variety of quality moose hunting opportunities," said Kristine Rines, Moose Project Leader for New Hampshire Fish and Game. "Whether you're looking for a trophy bull, a wilderness hunting adventure or simply filling your freezer with meat, you can expect the moose hunt to fill your expectations, right here in New Hampshire." The state's current moose population is estimated at about 6,000 animals.

More than 15,100 applicants entered the lottery for the chance to win a permit for the 2008 moose season. Permit holders can choose another hunter of any age to accompany them on the hunt, but only one moose may be taken per permit. Each applicant can enter the moose hunt lottery once each year. A bonus point system improves the chances for unsuccessful applicants who apply each consecutive year. Don't miss a year, or you'll lose your points!

The overall odds of being selected last year were 1 in 22 for residents and 1 in 67 for nonresidents – some of the best odds in the nation for moose hunt-

ing. It is not necessary to have a current hunting license to enter the lottery. Hunters who are offered and accept a permit must buy a \$150 resident or \$500 non-resident moose hunt permit, as well as a New Hampshire hunting license.

If tough economic times have you pondering whether or not to apply, consider the following, says Rines: "New Hampshire has one of the lowest application and permit costs in the nation for both residents and non-residents. If you harvest an adult moose, you can expect an average of about 350 pounds of edible meat. Calculating the cost per pound based upon the permit fee, you are looking at an extremely inexpensive organic, low-cholesterol table food."

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Conservation Commission Hosts Hike To Mountain Brook Falls

By Nan Kaplan
Andover Conservation Commission

The Andover Conservation Commission is sponsoring an early spring hike (before the black flies emerge!) to the waterfalls on Ragged Mountain's Mountain Brook on Sunday, April 26. The hike begins at 10:30 AM at the trailhead on Elbow Pond Road, just east of where Mountain Brook goes under Elbow Pond Road.

This is a moderate hike to a beautiful destination and will be the first of other hikes the Commission will sponsor.

Andover has some nice trails, and we hope to show you more of them as time goes by.

Please call the leader, Nan Kaplan, at 735-5352 to get the final plans, and don't forget to bring water, a snack, good footwear, and bug spray – just in case!

Volunteers Needed To Stock Rivers With Salmon Fry

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is looking for volunteers to help stock millions of inch-long salmon fry (young salmon) into the Merrimack River basin, several rivers and streams in the Upper Connecticut River watershed in northern New Hampshire, and the Monadnock region of southwestern New Hampshire's Connecticut River watershed.

The stocking plays a vital role in restoring runs of salmon to New Hampshire's waterways. Fry released in these river systems and their tributaries stay and grow in the rivers for about two years before migrating to the ocean. When the salmon are about four years old, they will try to return to these rivers to spawn.

Volunteers will release close to 1.1 million salmon fry in the Merrimack River watershed on April 7, 9, 14, 16, 28, and 30. Another batch of fry will be released in the Merrimack watershed on May 5 and 7. Approximately ten volunteers are needed for each day of stocking.

If you can lend a hand with the Merrimack watershed effort, contact Vikki Leonard at 271-2501 or Fishes@wildlife.nh.gov. Please leave your name, home address, and e-mail address, telephone number, and which days you might be available.

For more information about the Andromous Fish Restoration Program in New Hampshire, visit FishNH.com/Fishing/Anadromous_Fish_Program.htm.

RABIES CLINIC

The Andover Fish and Game Club is sponsoring a rabies clinic at our clubhouse in East Andover on April 25 from 1 PM to 2 PM. The price is \$10 for each dog, cat, etc.

The rabies shots are provided by the **Pleasant Lake Veterinary Hospital**.



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