

Chantal Adams and Chuck Ellis Win In Moose Hunt Lottery

The adventure of a lifetime is in store for 515 people who have been offered permits to hunt moose in New Hampshire this October. They are the lucky winners in the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's annual moose permit lottery drawing that was held today.

Two Andover residents were among the winners: Chantal Adams and Chuck Ellis. The names of all the 2009 winners and alternates are posted on Fish and Game's Web site at HuntNH.com/Hunting/Moose_hunt/2009_Moose_Winners.html.

Winners were randomly selected by computer from a pool of more than 14,500 applicants. They will be offered permits to hunt moose during the October 17 to 25 season. Each winner is allowed to enlist a guide and one friend or relative to help on the hunt as a "sub-permittee."

More than 140 people – Chantal and her husband Chet among them – showed up at Fish and Game headquarters in Concord today to watch the drawing, swap hunting stories, and hopefully hear their names on the list of winners. Winners hailed from throughout New Hampshire, as well as Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Pennsylvania, New York, Wisconsin, and California.



Chantal Adams

It was a big year for first-time winners in the audience. It will be the first moose hunt for Chantal. Husband Chet will be her sub-permittee. How does she feel about the prospect of moose hunting this year? "Excited!" she said.

First-time winner Mike Sailer of Warner, was there with his good friend Dan Hodgdon, also of Warner, who will be his sub-permittee on the hunt. They readily agreed that the hunt will be the highlight of their year.

Thanks to the recovery of moose populations, New Hampshire has had an annual moose hunt since 1988. That year, 75 permits were issued for a three-day hunt in the North Country. The availability of 515 hunting permits this year, with some issued for every area of the state during the nine-day season, has been made possible by careful management of moose populations. The resulting sustainable annual harvest of moose helps to regulate moose numbers and provides a unique recreational opportunity.

Each permit winner is assigned to one of 22 wildlife management units (WMUs) in which he or she can legally hunt. Three hundred and ninety seven either-sex and 119 antlerless permits were distributed across these units last year.

In 2008, New Hampshire hunters took 333 moose, for a statewide success rate of 65%. Regional success rates for moose hunters last year ranged from 83% in the North Region to 38% in southeastern New Hampshire.

A limited edition 2009 New Hampshire Moose Hunt shirt (short sleeve T-shirt, long-sleeve T-shirt, or sweatshirt styles available) may be ordered at Wild-NH.com/Shop/Moose_hunt_09_shirt_order_form.pdf. You don't have to be a lottery winner or alternate to purchase a shirt!

For more on hunting moose in New Hampshire, visit HuntNH.com/Hunting/Hunt_species/hunt_moose.htm.



Harvey Best at work on the new kiosk at Potter Place. The signage will serve the Rail Trail, the snowmobile club, and the historical society.

Photo: Charles Martin

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

May 20

Condensed from draft minutes

Meeting at Franklin Regional Hospital

Present: Alex Bernhard, Tom Frantz, Craig Heim, Lindy Heim, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Peter Southworth, Bob Ward, and guests Jennifer Codespoti (Trails Bureau), Melissa Rizzo, Mike Loomis, and Dick Chandler (President, Webster Lake Association)

Plans to Extend the Rail Trail into Franklin: Charles Martin reported on the Choose Franklin meeting and plans to present to the Franklin City Council on June 1. Charles discussed the need for Franklin to be the Municipal Manager. Bob noted our need to find a Franklin FNRT board member and asked Dick about attending the Webster Lake Association's August board meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Bob, in place of Steve Darling, reported over \$2,400 in recent donations and \$1,100 from the New London Inn Thursday's Child dinner.

Old Business

Grants Update: The only addition since last month was one grant rejection, and another grant application has been submitted.

Health Initiatives Update: A June 6 Walk New Hampshire event is planned starting at 9 AM from Highland Lake Inn, going one mile toward Dyer's Crossing and back.

Relationship with Trails Bureau: Charles met with Jennifer recently to improve our working relationship. Maintenance for the trail is an issue needing clarification. The Trails Bureau (TB) requested more timely updates and information, and Alex plans to provide monthly reports.

Jennifer spoke to her needs for getting information on any matters involving trail surface and major projects such as bridge work. E-mails specifying the action needed are helpful. Special use permits and insurance coverage can be extended to multiple projects at times.

In regard to trail clearing, we can maintain clearings but not open up views without prior permission.

From Jennifer: TB manages and maintains the trail. An MOA means that

a group like FNRT maintains the surface. TB takes care of everything under the trail, bridges, the sides of the trail, etc.

We discussed vegetation encroaching on the trail, herbicides, etc. We will continue to discuss the best way to move forward with proposals to TB.

Potter Place to Danbury Update: The good news is that the TE Advisory Committee voted today to give us another \$70,000 for bridge railings. Estimated cost is \$87,000. We have to raise the \$17,000 difference. There are six bridges in the eight mile stretch, and the cost is about \$15,000 per bridge to add railings.

The trail material (stone dust) is the other consideration. Alex estimates after we put out for bids we will build trail in 2010 (about one month of work). No stimulus money was available because we weren't "shovel ready."

Potter Place Kiosk Update: The kiosk site was moved a little to be on Andover Historical Society land, and hopefully construction will begin soon.

Lawrence Street Culvert: The sand from the Blackwater Park playground is causing problems. Tom and Alan Hanscom will discuss how to proceed.

New Business

Upcoming Meetings and Events: Andover July 4 table and race
Salisbury Old Home Day August 8
Potter Place Old Time Fair August 2
Fundraiser for Girls Incorporated on Northern Rail Trail

June 6 Work Day: At Blackwater Park to work on sand from playground being washed onto the rail trail, plus a walk to pick up trash.

Port-a-Potty: From Pat Cutter of the Andover Historical Society: There is a proposal for FNRT to share the cost (not to exceed \$350) of the Potter Place Port-a-Potty again. The motion was moved, seconded, and approved.

2009 Annual Appeal: Alex will look for volunteers to make phone calls for the donors who haven't yet responded.

Ragged Mountain Resort: Alex and Bob met with the General Manager of Ragged and laid the groundwork of a future relationship.

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