

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.



Snap & Shoot Photography
Wilmot, New Hampshire
Photo: Carol Weatherbee

Spring 2015

NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE FEDERATION 2015 MEETING DATES

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

January 17, 2015 – Annual Meeting (NH Fish & Game
Headquarters, 9:00 a.m.)

February 23, 2015 – Board Meeting

March 23, 2015 – Board and Delegates Meeting

April 27, 2015 – Board Meeting

May 18, 2015 – Board and Delegates Meeting

June 22, 2015 – Board Meeting

July & August – no meeting

September 28, 2015 – Board and Delegates Meeting

October 26, 2015 – Board Meeting

November 23, 2015 – Board and Delegates Meeting

December 21, 2015 – Christmas Social for Board and
Delegates

UPCOMING NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE FEDERATION EVENTS

September 26, 2015 – Bass Pro New Hampshire Great
Outdoors Expo

April 9, 2016 – 34th Annual Conservation Banquet,
Grapone Conference Center, Concord, NH

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER!!

Renewal notices were sent out in January to those
members whose membership expired December 31, 2014.
Please renew now to continue to receive this newsletter.
We need your ongoing support to represent your interests
in the state legislature, and preserve and improve the lands
on which you hunt, fish and trap. If you have misplaced
your renewal form, use the one on the back of this
publication. Thank you!

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.*

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AFFILIATE CLUB EVENTS

Pemigewassit Fish & Game Club

International Defense Pistol Association (IDPA):

May 16, June 7, June 28, July 18 & 19, August 1 & 2, August 29, September 27, October 31

Silhouette: June 28, July 26, August 22 & 23

Cowboy Wild Bunch Matches: June 13 & 14, July 10, 11 & 12, August 23

High power: June 14, July 5, August 9, September 20, October 3 & 4, October 18

Small bore rifle match: May 24

Biathlon: May 30, July 4, August 15, September 12, October 4

IBO: June 20 & 21

Trap: every Thursday evening and Sunday 8:30 AM, ATA: May 23, ATA: June 27

Women on target: for first time shooters: May 16, October 17

For more details visit their website, pemi.org

Merrimack Valley Chapter NAVHDA

September 19: Youth Upland Hunt including demo on dog training



2015 Barry Camp Wild Game Culinary Adventure

Registration opens in July for the 2015 Wild Game Culinary Adventure, a weekend exploring game preparation and cooking. This hands-on workshop will be held at Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin, N.H., September 25-27, 2015. The registration fee of \$150 includes meals, instruction and bunkhouse lodging. All proceeds benefit the Barry Camp Fund. Applications will be available on the Fish and Game website at <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/barrycamp/game-weekend.html>. The event is sponsored by the N.H. Fish and Game Department, the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation and the Belknap County Sportsmen's Association. The event is open to men and women age 18 and older.



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LEGISLATIVE REPORT SPRING 2015

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 New Hampshire 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 retained 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 336 – Relative to seasons for hunting by crossbows. This Bill requires the Executive Director of Fish and Game to adopt rules for taking by crossbows during any regular firearms seasons. This Bill has passed both the House and Senate.

HB 500 – Relative to the use of silencers to hunt within New Hampshire. This Bill would allow the taking of wildlife with the use of a silencer attached to the firearm. This Bill was discussed at public legislative sessions and some test firing was conducted in an effort to demonstrate how silencers work.

This Bill was voted on by the Fish and Game Committee to be ***retained in committee*** for further study.

HB 298 – This Bill was created to allow hunting over bait for any open season for the taking of wildlife. This would allow baiting during any and all open seasons each year. This Bill was voted ***Inexpedient to legislate***. Essentially killing this proposal.

HB 505 – Another baiting proposal. This would allow an extended baiting season for those people who are disabled. The issue with this Bill was to accurately define ***disability***. This Bill was voted to be ***retained*** by committee as further study is required to accurately define disabilities.

HB518 – Relative to the authority to establish fees for licenses issued by New Hampshire Fish and Game. This Bill will allow the Executive Director to set license fees with the approval of the Fish and Game Commission. This Bill was voted to be ***retained in committee***. HB 2

the state budget has language contained in it to allow for the same practice.

HB212 – Relative to a person convicted of sexual assault while engaged in hunting, trapping or fishing being subject to a 5 year loss of license. This Bill passed the House and is being considered in the senate currently.

SB70 – Relative to allowing for the process and sale of lobster tails. This Bill has passed both the House and Senate.

SB222 – Relative to harassment of hunting, fishing and trapping on public and private lands. This law has passed both the House and Senate and will prevent anyone from intentionally harassing people engaged in these activities.

SB181 – Relative to registration fees for hunter education programs for the Fish and Game Department. This Bill would allow Fish and Game to charge a registration fee to participants looking to sign up on line for these classes. The Bill was voted to be ***tabled by a floor motion*** by the full house.

SB183 – Relative to the authority to allow New Hampshire Fish and Game to offer lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for sale to purchased as gifts for newborns. This is a regular practice in other states. This Bill was voted ***Ought to Pass*** by both the House and Senate.

The New Hampshire Wildlife Federation took positions on Administrative Rules being proposed by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. They were the proposed ban on Chocolate for the use in bear baiting and prohibiting the use of drones and smart rifles for hunting.

The proposals relating to chocolate being used as bait will receive the final vote from the Fish and Game commission in May. The New Hampshire Wildlife Federation voted to not support this ban.

The administrative rule prohibiting the use of drones and smart rifles were approved by the Joint Legislative Committee in April. That vote was to support and create the rule.

The 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 to come together to be one voice at the legislative level. An organization such as the New Hampshire 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.

NEW HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE FEDERATION 33RD CONSERVATION BANQUET

April 12, 2015



The 33rd Annual Conservation Banquet was held on April 12, 2015 at the Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH. Close to 200 guests were in attendance and made for a lively evening. This year's event was held on a Sunday because there were no Saturdays available. This year Governor Maggie Hassen attended, visiting with the guests and addressed us briefly. Miss New Hampshire attended as guest of the New Hampshire Trappers Association and helped parade the Live Auction items.

Lynne Morse of Henniker, NH was the \$10,000 grand prize winner. Tom Spencer won the Beretta 1301 Competition 12 gauge on the Special Gun Raffle. John Hall and Larry Guaraldi were the winners drawn on the Sponsor Member Raffle and they each chose a Savage Model 11 FCNS 308. Allen Austin took home the Kayak. In the 4 Seasons Raffle Rick Lemay won the Winter Package, a guest at the Kennedy table took the Spring Package, Judy Bryant won the Summer Package and the Fall Package was won by Yvonne Kill-Kish.

Continuing the Kennedy Family tradition, Avis Kennedy-Stirling is our 30th Lifetime Member. She will be presented with her plaque at next year's banquet.

The 2015 New Hampshire Wildlife Federation Scholarship was presented to Morgan White by Scholarship Committee Chair Charles Williams. She lives in Henniker and will be attending Unity College, majoring in environmental biology.

Next year we will go back to a Saturday night, **April 9, 2016**. We hope that you will be able to attend and perhaps be the winner or successful purchaser of a great gun, fishing equipment, metal statue of a moose, historical wildlife print or the \$10,000.

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, Michael Nolan, Mary Bosch, Dan Dockham, James Morse, Mark (and Stephanie) 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, Jes Hayes, Carol Weatherbee, Kimberly Rumrill, Johnathan, Jamie and Mackenzie Wiggins, Larry and Sharon Guaraldi, Luke Guaraldi, Carter Heath, Sandra White, Lee Holliday, David Selvis, and Frank Grzasko. Helping for the first time this year were Marcia Devine, Yvonne Kill-Kish, Gloria Chabot, Lorraine Schindler, Mary Lopes, John Klucky and Scott McCarthy. 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.

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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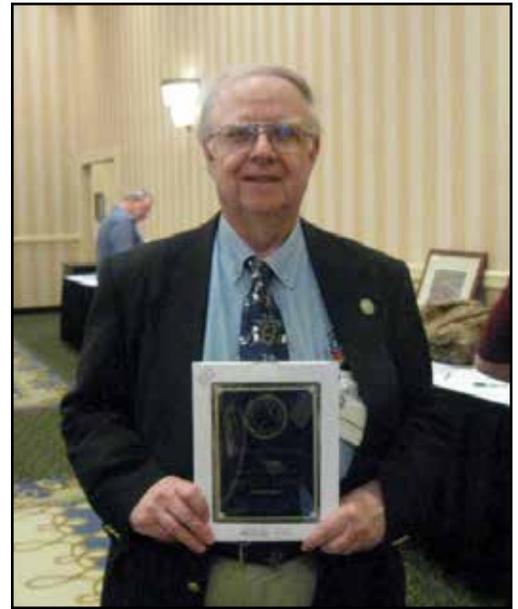
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTED

The New Hampshire Wildlife Federation only presents its Lifetime Achievement Award occasionally. It is intended for those individuals who have dedicated their lives or a major portion thereof to the Federation or its principles.

At our 2015 Conservation Banquet the award was presented to Samuel P.M. Demeritt for his many years of dedicated service. Sam first became involved with the Federation in the mid-seventies as a delegate from Kinnicum Fish & Game Club. He moved directly to Vice President as then President Joe Ezyk needed that position filled. He chaired the project of distributing Wildlife Week Kits for National Wildlife Federation. He has conducted our Month of Prizes Raffle several times and currently conducts the seasonal firearm raffles. He helped label and fold our newspaper for many years and currently he and his wife, Deanna, mail out our current newsletter as well as sending out the mailings for membership, appeals and whatever else needs to go.

He has been our representative on the Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee for the last several years. He has been a Director for many years, also serving as a Senior Director on the Executive Committee. He served as President twice and recently stepped up to take the position of Acting Secretary when the position became vacant. He took on the daunting task of Banquet Chairman about 10 years ago and has spent countless hours traveling around the State collecting donations for our banquet. He also has set up and tended our display at sporting shows and events, almost singlehandedly, for many years now.

To put it simply, whenever there is a job that needs doing and no one else will step up to do it, Sam will. We are indeed grateful for all his many years of service and look forward to working with him for many years to come.



Members, get a new hat and help support the NHWF!



The NHWF needs your continued support...

Please consider upgrading your membership to a **\$100 Sponsor.**

You will receive a high quality embroidered baseball hat and our deep thanks for supporting our mission! Call **224-5953.**



Richard "Stretch" Kennedy Plaque

At our 33rd Annual Conservation Banquet, a plaque was presented to the Richard Kennedy Family in appreciation for his longtime ardent support of the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation and his work in the New Hampshire Legislature supporting our mission. His daughter, Margaret Anne Kennedy accepted the award on behalf of the family.

Southwest Region Report

By Jack Zeller

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



It is late April in the SW region as this is written, and spring is conquering Old Man Winter! The only snow left is on the North facing slopes, under hemlock stands, and it is going fast with the rain this week. What outdoors folks really want to know, is how did the wildlife fare this winter? What are the outlooks, and what are we seeing?

First of all, to say this was a long and bitterly cold winter with tons of snow would be boring. We KNOW that. What is important to note however, that as cold as this year was, last winter was even colder, on average. This winter was made exceptional by the constant and heavy fall of snow. A typical winter like this would have seen flocks decimated, and herds heavily reduced.

That does not seem to have happened in the Southwest part of New Hampshire. First of all, cold in and of itself is not the killer. It and heavy snowfall and snow crust are. That said, the snow right through February remained fluffy, unpacked, and easy (for deer) to move about in. There were no bad crusts excepting the last weeks of March. That meant relatively easy travel for foraging, and it was clear from the deer trails in my area that deer moved all winter and found decent feed. The additional advantage of snow like this is that while deer can move easily in it, coyotes cannot. I suspect a few of them could not find enough food to keep going.

We are avid snowmobilers and toward the end of March began to hear of turkeys being found on trails, dead of course. Turkeys find deep and fluffy snow exceedingly difficult to move in. It got so deep that the only way they could move was to fly, or hang out in trails and roads. To fly, and they had to do that a lot, used huge amounts of energy, and consequently, many starved. There were no open seeps, and mast and other feed were two feet under the snow. They can tree bud for a while, but then they simply get too weak, and fall from the roosts. It was bad enough in this region, that I was ready to ban our



regular hunters from gunning for turkeys here this spring. Then, lo and behold, as the snows melted, and I could put cameras up, I began to see quite a few huge toms, and many turkeys hitting the greenery. I spoke to Ted Walski (NHF&G biologist, and turkey guru of the Northeast) and asked him his take on the turkey winterkill. His feeling is that virtually all turkeys could find a birdfeeder, and took advantage of them to beat the winter. That may be true, though we had none at our feeders this winter. Rabbits, squirrels and small birds. No turkeys. In any case, turkeys seem to have come through, as did our deer population. According to camera action, mostly the canine and predator species were hit this year. We'll keep you posted! But it looks like you had better get online and reserve your turkey and deer tags!

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!

FRIENDS

2014 was not a good year for my hunting pals. Four of them died. Howie Nowell, Bill Ingham, John Krupp and Norman McWilliams were friends, and losing them was soberingly hard to deal with. Some of them knew one of the others, but most knew only me. Each of them had a strong conservation ethic. I have many fine memories of each of these men, but unfortunately, few photos. For the most part we hunted deer, ducks and grouse in New Hampshire and Vermont. We made occasional short excursions to other New England states, but it was meat and potatoes stuff.

All of the men, except Bill, were considerably older than me, but that never slowed us down. Norman and Howie were veterans of WWII and Korea, respectively. John also wore a uniform most of his working life, the uniform of the VT State Troopers, and at 6'6" he commanded respect. Howie and Bill were biologists at the NH Fish and Game Dept. Norman was retired from a career in metallurgy when I met him. Norman didn't teach me a thing about metals, but he was an old-style gentleman who mentored me in the fine art of wing shooting ruffed grouse.

How do you begin to honor such a disparate group of men? Bill was the same age as me, and always kept himself ram-rod thin through high-energy bicycle racing. We shared a passion for cold mornings in duck blinds. I'd bring the Labrador, and he'd bring the coffee. I shared a great duck location with him and he confided a marvelous little stream, loaded with gem stones we call brook trout. He always privately scorned my *alma mater's* hockey team because his [UNH] was a true national powerhouse. We once ventured into the Maine woods to chase big northern bucks. We frightened some white-tails that week but effected no serious damage upon the deer population. We were also single at the time and we occasionally pursued the fairer sex. Trust me; you'd never want a funnier or more perceptive wing-man.

I met John through the then-fledgling North American Hunting Retriever Association. John was one of the founders and a long-time officer. When competing with one of my early Labradors, John was always quick with a good natured joke about the genealogy of my line of dogs. I'd counter with something original like: "Don't get me mad...The bigger they are, the harder they fall." His non-menacing retort usually would be something like: "Correct. But the smaller they are – the further they sail." We both loved ducks, Labradors; but my most cherished memory of John is from a turkey blind on his southern VT farm. I've never been much of a turkey caller, and John was quite accomplished at it. Plus, he was something of a gadget guy... So, on this particular spring morning, with John sharing a double blind, we had a big Tom cautiously

working his way toward us. John was working his magic with several calls, all lined up on a shelf. Eighty yards, sixty yards, fifty yards, forty yards ... then disaster! John bumped a rubber gobbler call and it hit the ground with the most un-natural grunt-woof-cough possible. The long beard merely pirouetted 180 degrees and continued walking, but now he was heading away. Thinking that my AYA side by side 3 ½ inch 10-gauge to be up to the challenge, I slid the gun into my shoulder pocket and ... [Note to self: Never put both fingers on the double triggers of any gun, let alone something that chambers flare-gun sized projectiles]. The inevitable happened; I drew considerably more blood from my knuckles than from the wily old Tom. John, of course, thought all of this to be riotously amusing. For 20 plus years, he never missed an opportunity to remind me of that miscue, and it never failed to elicit a belly laugh from him.

Norm and two of his sons would make annual pilgrimages to the hallowed northern NH grouse coverts with me. I have a weather-tight camp there, and we spent many a night warming beside a wood stove, and many a day following several generations of my beloved Labradors through the alders. I've hunted a lot of animals all over the world, but the single game animal that requires the most and quickest hand-to-eye coordination is our very own ruffed grouse. Partridges are wonderful birds and Norman had faithfully pursued them since the 1930's. He had a battery of fine old guns and stories upon stories to go with each. Norman could, and often did, recite entire poems like "*Dangerous Dan McGrew*" and the "*Cremation of Sam McGee*" by Robert Service around our campfire. I never heard him cuss. Lord, he was a gentle and classy man.

I have a lot of memories of Norman, but one really sticks out in my mind's eye. Imagine a man well into his eighty's standing on the uneven ground of two intersecting tote roads. I emerged from the woods, and Norman was both looking away from me, and from the direction than an errant woodcock was approaching him. You know timber-doodles; even they don't know where they are going. This bird was fast closing on Norman from behind. I yelled at Norman who effortlessly turned to face me, I gave him a left hand signal and shouted "Bird". Norman pivoted 90 degrees left just in time to pick up the woodcock that passed him at that moment, and he deftly folded the bird with the left barrel from his prized Ansley-Fox. It's a pretty thing to watch a senior friend do something that he loves, and do it to absolute perfection. I was both proud to be there and awed to witness such a shooting seminar.

Howie was a mentor to me when I was a budding scientist. We became fast friends when we might have been adversaries... he was the regulator and I was a hired gun. We deer and grouse hunted together in central NH.

Continued next page

Round Two On the Arctic Refuge

By Eric Orff

Once in a while we all have bad dreams that seem to repeat themselves. Maybe we should call them nightmares. Well, looks like we are having one nationally right now.

A while ago, a decade or more, the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation weighed in on opposing oil exploration in the Arctic Refuge, for a number of great reasons.

While we generally focus on state issues there are the few National issues that get our attention. The Arctic Refuge was one of them.

You see the Arctic Refuge is a 20 million acres refuge in northeast Alaska that is even pretty special to us. There are 150,000 or more caribou that navigate each spring to bare their young in the refuge. Some migrate over 1,400 miles across Canada and Alaska to reach the birthing grounds. Throw in a couple hundred bird species that live there and mammals like polar bears, musk oxen and arctic foxes and it is easy to see way it should be protected from oil exploration.

Some places are just too special for us to despoil in the name of the almighty dollar. And that really is the reason as there is currently another push to drive man into this wild area for oil. After all, we currently have a glut of oil nationally. From the Dakotas to Texas and back east to Pennsylvania the US is awash in oil and natural gas and is the world's greatest producer. There is even talk of exporting these now. If we are practically swimming in oil here, then so be it, but let's not make the caribou of the Arctic Refuge give up their caving grounds for a few more dollars.

Just this past fall the Federation voted to oppose pushing the Kinder-Morgan pipeline across conservation lands right here in New Hampshire. Protected conservation lands are set aside for good reasons.

I urge my fellow New Hampshire Wildlife Federation members to voice your concern to our elected officials in DC. And maybe it is time for the Board to send our representative a message that the Arctic Refuge belongs to the wildlife there by voting yet again to oppose oil and gas exploration in the refuge.

FRIENDS

Continued

He loved the simplicity of tromping around on well know covers without pretenses or long term goals. He was one of the best ecologists I ever met. He took his coffee black and his talk – straight. Technically Howie didn't die in 2014, but I didn't learn about it until early in the New Year. Howie took me under his wing when I needed it. He gently showed me how much I really knew, when I thought I knew it all. He died hunting deer with one of his sons in the same Broken Ground area of Concord where he had taught me deer ecology and humility. He went out, his way.

I miss every one of these men; some for different reasons. Biologists know all about nutrient cycles and life/death. That science doesn't ease the human loss of saying a final farewell to good friends. Part of the loss that I feel is the loss of the youthful me. ...The guy who could keep up with the running pheasants being harried by the galloping Labradors, or the guy who could sprint the last 50 yards to the top of some mountain, and not worry about his heart pounding out of my chest. This article isn't about me, it's about men that I loved, and who shaped who I am. If we are all lucky someone will lament our passing someday. Godspeed, Bill, John, Norman and Howie, see ya' soon.

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Jim Morse



Winter Becoming an Outdoors Woman Program

February 14, 2015

The Winter Becoming An Outdoors Woman Program was held on February 14, 2015. Despite the temperatures starting subzero it warmed up nicely with a touch snow in the air. About 60 enthusiastic participants learned about ice fishing, shoe and shoot, snowshoeing and tracking, winter survival and snowmobiling. The program is held at Fish and Game's Owl Brook Learning Center in Holderness. The program is ideal for women who want to learn a new skill or sharpen up on ones they already have.

The Becoming An Outdoors Woman Program provides a supportive, non-competitive environment to share experiences and knowledge. If you or someone you know is interested in learning about this program, please visit the website at www.nhbow.com.



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