

From the President's Podium

With this year's 98th Annual Banquet fast approaching, it seems hard to believe that our Association will arrive at our 100th Annual Banquet in two short years. The following year (1920-2020) we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary as an Association!

The A.V.F. & G. Assoc. began in 1920 with a handful of individuals who had a vision and believed in a grassroots idea to nurture and weave a way of life into the fabric of our lives. This was intended to be something truly meaningful for countless generations yet to come...such has been the history of the Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Assoc.

If only our founding fathers could see the fruit of their labor today! Their simple philosophy of ensuring the great way of life has been safeguarded and passed on to their children and great-grandchildren. I am sure they would be pleased and proud of their accomplishments.

This area we all call home has experienced many changes over the years and the people have adjusted and kept going, due in part to their resolve to ensure our wonderful way of life is not lost and forgotten. At times the challenges have been daunting, yet when we ask ourselves "what kind of legacy do we want to leave our children?" Is it one of despair and defeat or is it one of hope and promise for the fabulous way of life that we have grown accustomed to? We are so fortunate to live, work and play in one of the most beautiful regions of our great land.

May their legacy live on in each one of us by these simple yet profound words...

***"We did not inherit this place from Our Forefathers...
We are merely borrowing it from Our Children"***

Sincerely,
Roland R. Turgeon
AVF&G President

***Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Association
98th Annual Banquet
April 28 at Saint Annes Hall
School St., Berlin***

**Tickets are available at the Berlin Mills Variety Store, Riverside Dr., Berlin
(after April 1st)**

Many Door Prizes and Raffles will be drawn during the Banquet

Archery Committee:

Welcome fellow sportsman! We hope you are all as ready as we are for spring to set in so we can start off our archery season.

Our archery committee has some new faces ready to help and keep our shooting range more active and kept up, and many new plans in motion. New 3D targets are on the way! Plans

on having some organized shoots, as well as competitions are in the works and we welcome all of you to join us. There will be more info on this updated into our website as soon as possible. Feedback is great, so we can see how many people are interested in doing these shoots and whatever recommendations you may have. We hope to see enough activity to start a once a week group shoot, and also hope to see just regular use of the range. So any of you who just want a place to have some fun shooting or, like some of us, could always use the practice... come on over.

Don't forget, when you purchase a range pass, you gain access to both the shooting and the archery range. You can get your passes and key from the Milan Luncheonette, and Berlin Mills Variety Store. When using the archery range please adhere to the Shooting Range Rules and Regulations. You can also find me and I can get you whatever information you may need.

So let's get this 2017 season started. We hope to see you all out there and good luck this season!

Brandon Marois - Archery Committee Chairperson

Boat Committee:

Welcome to the 2017 Fishing Season!

Spring Fishing in New Hampshire is just around the corner. Hope you all had a nice winter. The A.V.F.&G. Boat Committee made no changes to the boat list or boat locations this year. Boat Passes will be available for purchase again at Gord's Corner Store in West Milan, for \$30.00. We wish to thank Gordy and Janet for their efficient management of our Boat Program, and all they do for our Association.

Don't forget to register your fish at Gord's for a chance to win a prize in our annual Fishing Contest. The Fishing Contest runs from March 1st, 2017 thru February 28th, 2018. Fish must be caught in NH and must be weighed at Gord's Store to qualify. (For the sake of keeping their facilities clean, please have your fish in some type of protective container or wrapper when you bring it/them in.)

Thank you for your continued support of our Boat Program, and best of luck for the upcoming fishing season. Be Safe and take a kid fishing.

The following is a list of locations where we keep boats:

Gord's Corner Store; Cedar Pond; Millsfield Pond; Dummer Pond (2); Long Pond (Millsfield); Long Pond (Errol); Androscoggin River (Pontook Dam); Munn Pond (2); Sessions Pond; Success Pond and Big Greenough Pond.

Mitch Dumont ~ Boat Committee Chair

Buildings and Grounds Committee:

The volunteers on the Buildings and Grounds Committee work feverishly to make your Range experience safer and more fun. From the construction of 25 and 50 yard ranges to the resurrection of the archery range, to the construction of shooting benches and picnic tables, the evidence is everywhere. The most recent project, completed last fall, is the construction of an information kiosk prominently marking the entrance to the AVFGA Range facility.

If you are passionate about shooting sports and wish to help improve the range, please contact the committee chair by emailing AVFGAsecretary@AVFGA.org.

Roland Pinette ~ Building & Grounds Committee Chair

~ **Hunter Education/Outdoor Safety** ~

2017 Course Schedule: September 8th, 9th, & 10th
White Mountain Community College, Riverside Dr., Berlin

The Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Association's Hunter Ed Team, in cooperation with the NH Fish & Game Dept. will be offering its **annual** Hunter Education Course, "**as usual**," the weekend following Labor Day. It will be held at the White Mountain Community College, 2020 Riverside Dr. in Berlin...

Friday evening, **Sept. 8th, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**. Saturday, **Sept. 9th, 8:00 am to 2:30 pm**.

Range Day will be Sunday, **Sept. 10th, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm** at the A.V.F.&G. Shooting Range, East Milan Rd, Milan, NH. (Students must attend all 3 sessions to be certified)

All Registrations must be completed on line @ www.wildlife.state.nh.us

Minimum age to attend: 12

Cost: \$5.00 (Five Dollars)

Since 1962 (Berlin's inception of the Hunter-Ed Program) a total of **4072** students have successfully completed Hunter Education Training in Berlin.

In 1989 the A.V.F. & G. Association, with the guidance of the NH Fish & Game Dept., formed its own **all volunteer** "Hunter Education Team." From that point on **1913** students have been certified through the efforts and dedication of the A.V.F.&G. "Instructor Team."

As Chief Instructor, I would like to thank each and every Instructor and all the Support Staffs, who were involved with our 2016 Class.

They...are the reason for the program's continued success.

It is an **Honor** to be associated with such professional, knowledgeable and giving "Special People," for without these devoted "Team Members" there simply would not be a Hunter Education Program in existence in the Berlin area. Be Safe...Get Certified!

Listed alphabetically: Sherry Anderson ~ Ron Croteau ~ Russell Douglass ~ Keith Enman ~ Steven Gordon ~ Tim Hayes ~ Paul Lafleur ~ Eddy L'Heureux ~ Claude Morin ~ Paul Partenope ~ Bob Pelchat ~ Cheryl & Roland Pinette ~ Mike Riendeau ~ Michael Turgeon.

An added word of thanks to the following: White Mountain Community College staff, the Berlin Police Dept., and from the NH Fish & Game Dept.. C.O. Glen Lucas and Eric Flurette.

Roland R. Turgeon, Chief Instructor, A.V.F.&G. ~ "Hunter Ed Team"

Legislative Committee:

During this past year your AVFGA has been working on many fronts to "up our game" as far as being a voice for the Sportsman. With help from our Board of Director's, we have put together a team that has specialized skills and vested interests in many of our traditional methods of hunting, fishing, trapping and shooting sports. With so many "ears to the ground" this allows us to stay tuned to what is important to our membership and keep track of any potential threats lurking on the horizon.

I am proud to say our voice has continued to grow stronger as a leading Sportsman's advocate. Why? Because there is strength in numbers and your AVFGA is growing! In the past two years we have seen a tremendous spike in our membership. (We currently have over 600 members.) This is why as your Legislative Chairman and delegate to the NH Wildlife Federation I was asked, and am currently serving, on their Legislative Team. This team works in coordination with a newly hired NHWF lobbyist to improve our voice in the halls of Concord.

In addition to this coordinated effort to oppose certain legislation we, the AVFGA, are also trying to become more proactive and push for positive change. Regarding deer hunting, AVFGA has received a lot of input regarding implementing of an "anterless permit system". Our website currently has a page in which we are soliciting comments. Please take the time to voice your opinion. Regarding fishing, we have received a petition from many of our members opposing the change of "wild trout" regulations that has been implemented on the Magalloway River. We are currently working with NHFG to modify these rules to accommodate fishermen targeting warm water species.

Of course, these are just two examples of many issues we, as an Association, have a vested interest in. Many others surely exist. So, if there is a particular issue of concern to you, please let us know and we will do what we can.

Douglas Gralenski: Legislative Committee Chair

Newsletter:

Once again we are seeing our yards and woodlands open up after a healthy winter in the North Country. I, for one, am happy to consider the prospect of spending some time out fishing and ATVing, and maybe trying my hand at some Trap Shooting this summer.

As we prepared our membership lists, adding Boat Pass and Range Pass holders to our growing list of Banquet attendees from the past couple years, we were surprised to see that over 600 families and individuals have chosen to be a part of our Association.

This is your Newsletter! This is your Association!

Those of you who have shared your email addresses with us will continue to receive occasional emails when there is pending legislation of importance, or anything of interest comes to our attention regarding changes proposed for Fish & Game matters. You can help us with this by keeping us posted if you hear of something you believe should be made known. Go to the webpage or contact Doug Gralenski, our Legislative Committee Chair (603) 915-3155.

David Canter, Newsletter Chair

Nomination Committee:

The Nomination Committee was recently formed to help recruit candidates for the AVFGA Board of Directors, whose values align with the mission of the organization. To be eligible, candidates must be an Associate Member. Becoming an Associate Member is as simple as purchasing a Range Pass or a Boat Pass, or by attending the AVFGA Annual Banquet.

Energetic individuals, who are passionate about promoting our sportsman heritage and willing to volunteer their time as a Director are encouraged to contact the Nomination Committee. You may do so by emailing AVFGAsecretary@AVFGA.org. More information about becoming a Director can also be found on our home page at www.avfga.org.

Roland Pinette: Nomination Committee Chair

Roland Chabot annual Kids Fishing Derby:

The Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Association and the Gorham Recreation Dept. held the annual Roland Chabot Kids Fishing Derby at Libby's Pool in Gorham. This was the first year we partnered for this event. There was a huge turnout, as over 100 youngsters participated. The weather was perfect and the fish were slow at waking up, but the activity picked up as the day wore on.

Numerous prizes were raffled off, thanks to the generous donations by local businesses and Jeff Stewart of the Gorham Rec. Dept. The day finished off with a cookout sponsored by Remax. A big THANK YOU to all the A.V.F. & G. Directors; Jeff & Jennifer Stewart; Remax and the parents, for making this day a big success.

The 2017 Fishing Derby will be held on June 3rd, from 9:00 thru 11:00 am. Registration will be at 8:30 for kids 5 to 12 years-old. Door prizes will be drawn at 11:00 am, followed by the cookout. Stay tuned for more info on our Web Site (avfga.org) and look for the ad in the paper. If you have any questions, please call Mitch Dumont @ 752-2303.

Mitch Dumont ~ Fishing Derby Committee Chair

Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Association ~SHOOTING RANGE~

To Use the A.V.F. & G. Range You Must Purchase a Pass!

(Or Risk Arrest for Criminal Trespass: under RSA 635:2)

By purchasing an annual Range Pass this becomes Your Range Too!

Range Passes and Gate Keys are available at:

**Berlin Mills Variety Store ~ 1725 Main St. Berlin
The Milan Luncheonette ~ Rte. 16 in Milan Village**

**Single Pass \$30.00 ~ Family Pass \$50.00
Valid May 1st ~ April 30th**

~RANGE RULES & REGULATIONS~

- 1) **Range Hours:** 9:00 am till Dusk!
- 2) ***NO Alcohol or Drug Use*** while on Range premises: **Subject to Arrest and Prosecution!**
- 3) **Must be able to present a Valid Range Pass while using Range Facility!**
- 4) **While on Range Premises, Pass Holders and Guests Willfully Consent to:**

- a) Use Range at their own risk
 - b) Assume Full Liability for their actions
 - c) If injured....Hold Harmless the A.V.F. & G. Assn., its Board Members & Landowner
 - 5) The Police Range is not part of our facility. (Please Stay Clear of it!)
 - 6) Must be a minimum of 18 years old to purchase Range Pass.
 - 7) Single Pass Holder: Allowed one (1) guest, and assumes full liability for guest.
 - 8) **Must present I.D. and Range Pass** to sign out key. (May 1st ~ Nov. 30th)
 - 9) Keys will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.
 - 10) **Close & Pin Unlocked Gate** behind you upon arriving... to allow 1st Responder Vehicles access in an emergency. The last person departing Range **Must Lock Gate!**
 - 11) **Gate Key must be returned same day signed out!** (Or privileges may be revoked!)
 - 12) **All Firearms** are to be discharged downrange into the 25, 50 or 100-yard backstops!
 - 13) Firing of any type of firearm in full automatic mode is not allowed!
 - 14) Paper Targets Only! Prior to leaving, carry out what you carried in. (Targets, Brass, etc.)
- ~Please Report Any Suspicious Activity by dialing 911~*

Roland Turgeon ~ Range Committee Chair

2017- AVF&G Trap Range Schedule...

Every Tuesday Evening From
June 6th Thru Sept. 26th
5 PM to Sundown
Rain or Shine!

\$5 Dollars Per Round ~ Open to the Public

Sporting Dog Committee:

The NH Bear Hunters Association was formed in 1979 by a small group of bear houndsmen in the state. Two of those founding members, Bruce Cairns and Dan Dockham are still active members today and both are still avid houndsmen. The assoc. is dedicated to preserving the heritage of hunting with hounds in the state of New Hampshire.

Three years ago, we started an annual event, our big game field trials. This event is held in late May (this year it is May 27th) in Errol, NH. It is a huge attraction for houndsmen all over the USA and Canada. Each year we send two youth to Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin. We work close with our local fish and game with nuisance bear complaints, donating funds to the bear abatement fund, and occasionally using hounds in certain situations. We also donate funds yearly to Ben Kilham in raising our states orphan bear cubs.

DID YOU KNOW!!

1. Bears shed their foot-pads in the den!
2. Their feet are opposite of ours. Their big toe is on the outside, which aids in tree climbing!
3. Bears don't eat, drink, or defecate for the 6 months they are in a den!
4. It takes 5-years for a female bear to reach sexual maturity, and about 5-years to reach 100 lbs.!

5. Females give birth from 5 to 25 years old. (Their prime is 10-18 years!)
6. Bears are very social in times of plenty, but will not tolerate with low food availability!
7. Bears are delayed implanters. They breed early summer, the egg is fertilized, but does not implant in the uterine wall until October. Cubs are born in January.

For more information on the NH Bear Hunters Association feel free to contact Kelly Irwin at 603-915-6694

The Northern NH Bird Dog Club was formed in 1988 by a group of local bird dog owners. Since then the club has grown to host many regional and national bird dog events.

This past November, we hosted the Grand National Grouse Dog Championships in Kilkenny (we have a special use permit from the National Forest), this is the world series of grouse dog competitions! We ran 72 dogs from all over the US and Canada and it took a week! We also run our spring trial on our Phillips Brook Grounds (Paris Field), this year we are running April 28, 29, and 30. The New England Open Grouse Championship is another major event we host every fall in Kilkenny. This fall it will begin Sept. 18th.

Our club likes to encourage folks with their bird dogs. We help each other in training and hunting, plus we are involved with habitat improvement.

For more information feel free to contact Lloyd Murray at 603-636-2959 or 603-752-5517

Lloyd Murray & Kelly Irwin ~ Sporting Dog Committee Co-Chairs

Trapping Committee:

A View from a Trap Line:

I want to thank the A.V.F. & G. Association, along with other sports-minded groups around the state, who have acted to further the interests of sportsmen and women. Whether you hunt, fish, trap, or enjoy shooting sports, we must continue to band together and help protect the rights we enjoy in the conservation and sustainable harvesting of our wildlife.

I offer the following update to what we bring to the table in support of trappers in New Hampshire. We have a legislative voice in Concord and Lancaster; we support the interests of trappers and a balanced harvest through humane and acceptable practices; and we spend time and resources in the training of future trappers to perpetuate the sport.

The NH Trapper Education Courses are available on various dates around the state. There is one scheduled for August 25 and 26, to be given at the Belmont, NH Fairgrounds, and another scheduled for September 9th at the Barry Camp. The best way to search for a class in your area is to go to the NH Fish & Game website.

Please support our local merchants as they support us!

Dick Lafleur ~ Trapping Committee Chair

Winter Deer Feed Program:

We welcome everyone to the 98TH annual A.V.F & G. Assoc. banquet, Friday, April 28!

As many of you are aware, the A.V.F & G. Assoc. sponsors a Winter Deer Feed Program. This program has been set up to aid the deer population through a time when their natural food is unavailable, such as during rough New Hampshire winters. It is very hard for

Whitetails to find enough food when it is often buried under deep snow and ice. We urge you to be aware of the spots that you choose to feed and try not to pick spots that will encourage the deer to cross roads. Also, please keep in mind that if you choose to start feeding them, the deer will then depend on you to continue until the end of the winter season.

We would like to thank Sean Kelley, and The Milan Luncheonette of Milan and Gord's Corner Store of West Milan, which have been kind enough to work with us this year with the program, and to ensure that A.V.F & G. A. members purchasing deer feed in their area receive a discounted price per bag. Anyone who would like to purchase deer feed at a discounted price can do so at the 3 locations with a proof of A.V.F & G. A. membership.

Daniel Ramsey, Winter Deer Feed Committee Chair

Woman's Firearm Familiarization Committee:

This year will mark our 10th anniversary for the A.V.F. & G. Association's annual Woman's Firearm Familiarization Program. The date set for this year will be May 20th, 2017. It will be held at the A.V.F. & G. Assoc. Range, off East Side River Rd. in Milan. This program is taught by a dedicated team of Directors from our Association. Each individual willingly volunteers their time, enjoying the opportunity to pass on information and knowledge they have accumulated on the safe handling and use of a variety of firearms.

This program is designed for women who have little or no experience in the safe handling or use of firearms. We welcome those who are eager to learn the proper and safe handling of firearms. This course is ***not*** a Hunter Education, Marksmanship, or Self-Defense Course.

The morning session of the course is devoted to an explanation and demonstration of proper use and handling of actual firearms, explaining the differences and similarities between rifles, shotguns and handguns, utilizing a variety of actions. Whether they be a "break-action," bolt-action," pump-action," lever-action," or semi-automatic-action," we discuss proper handling, loading and firing. We also touch on safety features, sighting and sight alignment; as well as basic safety techniques and the proper way to carry a firearm.

The afternoon session is a live-fire session, where the students will be firing 22-caliber rifles and handguns from benches at 9 different stations, utilizing a variety of actions. The final station (the 10th) is set up at the trap range, giving each student the opportunity to try their hand at trap shooting with a 12-Ga. Shotgun. **All firearms will be provided by the Association or its Directors.**

The A.V.F. & G. Association is looking forward to this year's program. Our scheduled date for this program is Saturday, May 20, but we will reserve the next day, Sunday, May 21st as a rain-date if needed. Women may sign up for the training by visiting our web-site, www.avfga.org. Participation is limited to the first 20 women who sign up (first come ~ first served).

We would like to thank Mr. Paul Partenope for the inspiration he provided to get this program started, and being the driving force behind the first ten years of training completed. **Thank you Paul.**

**Eddy L'Heureux, Woman's Firearm Familiarization Committee Chair & Chief Instructor
752-3863**