

A.V.F. & G. Association President's Podium

Like Father...Like Son

If there is one important thing that we as parents should all strive to instill in our children...it just might be our Association's adopted motto signifying why I believe we are the oldest Fish & Game organization in existence in our state!

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

In essence, this simple yet profound motto is the leading factor why we are about to celebrate 99 years of tradition at our Annual Banquet celebration on April 20th at St Anne's Hall in Berlin.

Our Association's roots date back to 1920, no doubt because of a group of wise sportsmen with a simple yet profound belief chose to do something to improve the dwindling fisheries and game animal numbers for their children to enjoy much as they did by supporting the NH F&G Dept. goals of ensuring the future of these valuable resources.

Let us lead by example every time we step outdoors to enjoy our chosen activities by practicing the ideals that were instilled in us by our loving mentors as our founding fathers did for their sons and daughters nearly a century ago!

Looking forward to seeing as many familiar faces as possible at our 99th Celebration.

Sincerely,

Roland R. Turgeon

AVF&G President

Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Association, Inc. 2018 Events & Activities

99th Annual A.V.F.&G. Association's Banquet:

When: Friday, April 20, 2018
Where: St. Anne's Hall
School St. ~ Berlin, NH
Time: Doors open at 5:00pm
Tickets: Berlin Mills Variety
Cost: \$30.⁰⁰

A.V.F.& G. Range:

When: Range Passes go on sale on May 1, 2018
Where: Berlin Mills Variety
Cost: Individual Pass ~ \$30.⁰⁰ / year
Family Pass ~ \$50.⁰⁰ / year
Hours: 9:00am till Sunset (Please be respectful of our neighbors)

Archery:

When: Tuesday Evenings ~ June 26 thru September 11
Where: A.V.F. & G. Range ~ East River Road, Milan
Time: 5:00pm till Sunset
Cost: \$5.⁰⁰ (Free For kids under 12)
Contact: (603) 915-6730

Boats:

When: Boat Passes go on sale April 1st, 2018
Boats will be released following ice-out
Where: Boat Passes and Boats are available through Gord's Corner Store, West Milan
Cost: Boat Passes cost \$30.⁰⁰ per year

Hunter Education:

When: September 7th thru 9th, 2018
Where: White Mountain Community College and A.V.F. & G. Range
Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm, Friday, September 7, 2018 (W.M.C.C.)
8:00am - 2:30pm, Saturday, September 8, 2018 (W.M.C.C.)
8:00am - 3:00pm, Sunday, September 9, 2018 (A.V.F.G. Range)
Ages: 12 and over
Cost: \$5.⁰⁰
Contact: (603) 723-8955

Kid's Fishing Derby:

When: Saturday, June 2, 2018
Where: Libby Recreation Complex, Gorham
Time: 8:30am till Noon
Cost: **Free**, to kids from 5 thru 12
Contact: (603) 752-2303

Newsletter:

When: Prior to the Banquet each year
How: E-Mail (this will probably be the last one sent by US Mail)
Cost: Free to Associate Members (by email)
Contact: (603) 752-5773

Trap Shooting:

When: Tuesday Evenings, May 22nd thru September 4th, 2018
Where: A.V.F. & G. Range ~ East River Road, Milan
Hours: 5:00pm till Sunset
Cost: \$5.⁰⁰ per round
Contact: (603) 915-1233

Winter Deer Feed:

When: Following the Deer Hunting Season in December each year thru Snow melt
Where: Gord's Store in West Milan or Sean Kelly in Milan
Cost: There is a \$2.⁰⁰ discount per bag for A.V.F. & G. Associate Members

Women's Firearm Familiarization Program:

When: Saturday, May 26 (Sunday, May 27 is the rain-date)
Where: A.V.F. & G. Range ~ East River Road, Milan
Time: 9:00am till 3:30pm
Cost: \$10.⁰⁰
Contact: (603) 752-3863

Boat Committee:

Fishing Season 2018

It's that time of year again, when we are getting our fishing gear ready and making plans. Again this year our fleet of boats will be ready for ice-out. Our Boat Passes and keys will be available at Gord's Corner Store in West Milan. A big, "Thank You!" to Gordy and Janet for managing the keys and passes, and for their support of our Association.

Annual Boat Passes cost \$30.⁰⁰. Please respect our boats and the land around our boat launches. Good Luck for the upcoming season. ***(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, Chairman

Buildings and Grounds Committee:

The volunteers on the Buildings and Grounds Committee work feverishly to make your range experience safe and fun. From the construction and maintenance of 25, 50 and 100 yard ranges, to the resurrection of the archery and trap ranges, to the construction of shooting benches and picnic tables, the evidence is everywhere.

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, Committee Chair

~ Hunter Education/Outdoor Safety ~

2018 Course Schedule: September 7th, 8th, & 9th

White Mountain Community College (W.M.C.C.), 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. 7th, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**. Saturday, **Sept. 8th, 8:00 am to 2:30 pm**.

Range Day will be Sunday, **Sept. 9th, 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 **4,120** 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 **1,961** 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 2017 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: Jason Coggins ~ Raymond Cotnoir ~ Ron Croteau ~ Tom Dinardo ~ Robert Demers ~ Russell Douglass ~ Keith Enman ~ Steven Fournier ~ 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 Fluette.

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

Kid's Fishing Derby Committee:

Last year's "Roland Chabot Annual Kids Fishing Derby" was a big success. At first the fish didn't cooperate, but as time went on they started biting. A total of 107 youngsters registered for the Derby. A big "Thank You" to our co-sponsors, the Gorham Recreation Department, Jeff Stewart and to all the parents who brought their kids to the event.

The day ended with a cookout sponsored by ReMax. There were numerous prizes donated by local businesses, which were raffled off to the youngsters. A big "Thank You" to the A.V.F. & G. Association Directors and Jeff & Jennifer Stewart, for helping the kids during the Derby. It will be a day to be remembered for a long time by those who attended.

This Year's Derby will be held on Saturday, June 2nd, rain or shine. Registration begins at 8:30 for kids 5 to 12. The Derby starts promptly at 9:00am. Door prizes will be drawn at 11:00, followed by a cookout. You can get more information on our web-site and the Gorham Recreation Department Web-site.

Hope to see you there.

Mitch Dumont, Chairman: 752-2303

2018 Legislative Report:

After a very active 2016 legislative season in which sportsmen where being attacked on several fronts, 2017 has been much calmer by comparison. Yes, we are still on the defensive, and we are still involved in defending our traditional heritages, but it seems many of our biggest battles remain over the horizon.

As such, we are trying to better position ourselves to be able to speak from a position of strength when those who oppose our traditions decide to make their next offensive. We are currently developing a survey system so that we can better poll our membership in a timely manner on matters of concern. We still have a little work to do on this before it is operational. However, when it is up and running it should be a great asset.

When Bills are proposed, or current events dictate, a rapid response is essential to have an impact. As your representatives we try to best represent your views. But with a growing membership of roughly 600 North Country Sportsmen, it would be to our benefit to have some hard data to support our initiatives. We are well positioned to have a positive impact. That being said, please make sure you stop at our booth and sign up, or legibly write your email address on your ticket stubs, so we can add your name to our roster.

Many battles are soon to be fought. With all the recent violence involving mass shootings, legislation surrounding firearms is soon to be debated. On another front, your A.V.F.G. supplements the feeding of thousands of pounds of deer feed through the winter months, yet N.H.F.G. continues to frown upon the feeding of deer. By rule or legislation, they are waiting for the most opportune time to prohibit it by law. These are just two examples of issues that will likely have direct impact on you. Do you have an opinion you'd like to share? If you do, make sure we have your email address.

Douglass Gralenski, Committee Chairperson

Newsletter:

Our Newsletter goes out each spring to coincide with the Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Association's annual April Banquet. This is an opportunity to catch everybody up on the events scheduled for 2018, to encourage our membership to avail themselves of all programs and to communicate what we see happening in NH state legislation that might be a concern to our sportsmen and women. Due to the high costs for printing and mailing our Newsletter will be sent out via email only.

One result of our publication has been an increase in contact information from our membership so we can inform you of developments. We are hoping to be able to poll our internet connected members to get your opinions and concerns going forward. We cannot truly represent your interests if we don't get feedback from you concerning the issues before us.

Please look for our booth at Saint Annes Hall on April 20 when you attend our 99th annual Banquet. We will be reaching out to get contact information on as many individuals as possible, so we can email information as it becomes known concerning Fish and Game matters across the state. We will be sending out questionnaires from time to time via email, polling our membership to see how you feel about the issues before us.

Thank you,

David Canter, Newsletter Editor and Chairperson

Nomination Committee:

The Nomination Committee was recently formed to 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, Committee Chair

Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Association

~Shooting Range~

Family Fun for Everyone!

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

Range Passes and Gate Keys available at: Berlin Mills Variety Store ~ 1725 Main St., Berlin

Pass holders may sign-out a Gate Key for the day (Key must be returned the same day it is signed out, or risk losing Range privileges) to access the Range and drive to the shooting tables with their firearms and related equipment, May 1st thru Nov. 30th to enhance their shooting experience.
(Foot Traffic Only: December 1st thru April 30th / Road not maintained for winter use.)

We are truly fortunate to have such a wonderful facility to enjoy shooting sports and archery. It is utilized all summer long for Trap Shooting, Archery and general target shooting by our members. In September it is a crucial part of our Hunter Education "Hands-On - Field Day" portion of the program. Our facility offers our members 3-D Archery Targets. On Tuesday evenings in the summer we will hold Archery and Trap Shooting. We provide sturdy shooting tables for a 25, 50, and 100 yard Rifle/Pistol range, well suited to sight in Rifles, Handguns and Muzzleloaders. There is a berm-style backstop, ample target frames and well-marked yardage signs.

Join the fun and \$ave money on gas....Purchase a Range Pass!

Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Association

~SHOOTING RANGE REGULATIONS~

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

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) **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~*

A. V. F. & G.

Jeremy Baillargeon Scholarship Program

Our scholarship program is now going into its 9th year of providing one of our graduating seniors in Berlin and/or Gorham High Schools, who are planning a career in wildlife, forestry or conservation, a \$500 book scholarship, providing they meet the guidelines set for the scholarship. Information can be obtained through their guidance counselor. Our 2017 winner was Robyn Parker from Berlin High.

We are continuously seeking donations for our scholarships and they can be made by sending your check to AVFGA PO BOX 284 Berlin N.H. The scholarship committee will be manning a table at our annual banquet this year being our 99th banquet and will be held on April 20th at St. Ann Hall. Please try to stop by and purchase a ticket for a Bar-B-Q grill donated by Bob Chapman and help us provide more dollars for our youths in our communities.

Paul C. Lafleur, Scholarship Chairman

Sporting Dog Committee:

Bear Hounds:

The New Hampshire Bear Hunters Association has been working toward an extended training season for bear hounds for the last 6 years. This year the proposal was voted to move forward and will be brought to public hearing March 30 in Lancaster, as well as April 3rd and 4th in Keene and Concord, to hear from the public. Our bear Biologist is supportive of our proposal and hoping that the extension will help with nuisance bear complaints and that the hounds-men will be able to be called upon when hounds could be a useful tool in educating those problem bear.

Last year the NHBHA purchased two fencing kits with guidance from N.H. Fish and Game, and those two kits were used mostly in the Berlin/Milan area to deter bear from chicken coops. We will be purchasing two more kits for the Association to have available throughout the state. We also paid two full camperships for kids to attend Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin, and we purchased two hunting licenses for wounded veterans and brought them on successful hound hunts. We also continued our efforts in supporting Ben Kilham in raising our State's orphan bear cubs.

Dog hunting has been around since man domesticated the dog. Dogs have been used and are still used to pursue many types of bird and beast. It is a joy to watch a dog do what it has been bred to do for hundreds of years without much training. A dog that was born to follow his nose and catch his quarry. It is my job to give him the opportunity and show him the correct animal I'm looking to target. The NHBHA is dedicated the preservation of hound hunting and the conservation of black bear in the beautiful state of New Hampshire.

Kelly Irwin, Hounds-men Committee Chairperson

Northern New Hampshire Bird Dog Club:

The Northern NH Bird Dog Club was formed in the winter of 1988 at a public meeting in the Berlin Rec. Center by a group of local bird hunters who also owned bird dogs. These dogs were from a variety of breeds, from flushing dogs (Labs, Cocker Spaniels, etc) to pointing dogs (Setters, Pointers, Britney's). Our first sanctioned field trial was held at Glover's Farm in Dummer in the spring of 1989. The club grew and also added trials on wild birds (grouse and woodcock). The club applied for and was granted a special use permit from The U.S.D.A. to conduct events in the White Mountain National Forest.

Today we host several regional and national events, including The Grand National Grouse Championship (The World Series of Grouse Dog Competition) every three years; The New England Open Grouse Championships; The New England Open Britney Grouse Championship; The Northern New England Open Woodcock Championships and The National Amateur Grouse Championships. We also host a spring event at our Phillips Brook grounds (Paris Road, In Stark), on both wild and liberated birds (bobwhite quail). This spring we are running April 27, 28 and 29. All age classes of pointing dogs will be offered. Puppy, Derby, Shooting Dog and Gun Dog, both Open and Amateur. We will draw dogs from The Canadian Maritimes, plus all the New England States, and N.Y, PA and as far away as Michigan. We encourage folks to come and watch and join in the fun. It is a very family orientated sport. The club is also very involved in habitat improvement and bird dog legislative issues.

For more information please feel free to call the spring trial chairman, Lloyd Murray at 603-636-2959 or email him anytime at murraylt@together.net A.V.F.G.A also has a very active Sporting Dog Committee that includes, but not limited to, Bear Dogs, Rabbit Dogs and Bird Dogs.

Lloyd Murray, Committee Chairperson

Trap Range:

Welcome to our 99th Annual Banquet.

We had a very successful Trap Season this past year, due in a large part to the dedicated, weekly Trap Shooters and attending Association Directors, and the generosity of our Associate members in supporting our club and attending the weekly Trap Shoots, and donating to our various raffles at the Banquet.

This past season we were able to make numerous improvements to the Trap Range, with the help and dedication of our Trap Committee and Directorship.

We had the Trap Machine professionally serviced, repaired and brought up to ATA standards and specifications. The 5 existing shooting stations were removed and we brought in machinery and bought materials to level, widen, fill and lengthen the lanes (to accommodate handicap shooting). In addition, we built a new scorekeepers chair and made the trap release voice actuated.

We look forward to your support and participation once again this year.

We will begin our Trap Shoot every Tuesday evening at 5:00pm (Rain or Shine) beginning May 22nd and ending September 4th (16 weeks). We will also offer 2 different "100 Bird Shoots" on two Sundays (to be announced). We hope to offer a few introductory Trapshooting events for those who have never shot Trap.

Tom Dinardo, Committee Chair

Trapping Committee:

Trap-line Greetings:

Hi fellow sportsmen and members AVF&G club.

Thank-You, Thank-You for supporting the smallest group of Sportsmen in the State. We Trappers are made up of hunters, fishermen, sporting dogs, small and upland game sportsmen and Women. It has been my privilege to represent our group to my, and your, club every month. I get to speak about Trapping and our Heritage in the North Country, and about the issues that concern us all! Great news is that we are a unified front on both the Legislative issues but foremost on the Education level - Hunter Safety, Boating Issues, Game and season recommendations. But, more importantly, we unify the public on ALL outdoor activities. As sportsmen, we work equally on promoting not only the outdoors but understanding and how we can promote and benefit from it. Thank you

On a different front, our fur market (is low in \$) but our NH fur is requested from all over the world. "Fisher"- is the best in the world, and our fur keeps being praised by NAFTA, (Old Hudson Bay), and FTA (Fur Takers of America).

We appreciate the membership for supporting us in the education we provide and as an end remark I would like to invite all members to a mini-trap class that will show all our NH Fur Bearers and some of the tools we are using for the sport of Trapping. We would like to extend an invitation to visit our great Shooting Range. Stay tuned for the date.

Sincerely,

Richard (Dick) Lafleur ~ Committee Chair

Winter Deer Feed Program:

Your A. V. F. & G. Association has once again sponsored a very successful Winter Supplemental Deer Feed Program. Over the winter of 2017 - 2018 approximately 12 tons of Deer Feed was purchased by associate members who chose to make the commitment to support our local, struggling, Whitetail population. In recent years the Winter Deer Yards have been over-forested, and that makes it difficult for deer this far north to make it through the long, cold winters.

Our Association Members are given a special discount on deer feed upon showing proof of membership in the A.V.F. & G. Association, when purchasing through Gord's Store in West Milan, or from Sean Kelley in Milan. We would like to send out a great big "Thank You" to Gord's and Sean for their participation in this program. We also want to thank the dedicated associate members who have given of themselves to see that our Whitetail deer population will survive the winters. Whether you hunt or just like to watch these beautiful animals, it's good for everyone's benefit to have them healthy.

We hope to continue this program next year. To stay informed, go to our website at www.avfga.org.

Bob Rodrigue: Chairman

ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION

WOMEN'S FIREARMS FAMILIARIZATION PROGRAM

May 26 (rain-date, May 27) 2018

This six hour familiarization program is designed exclusively for women over the age of seventeen who have little or no experience with the handling or use of a firearm. This is **not** a hunter education, self-defense or marksmanship course.

The program consists of a two hour classroom session from 9:00 to 11:00 AM stressing firearms identification, function and safe handling. This is followed by a four hour range session from 11:30 to 3:30 PM which includes firing 22 caliber rifles and pistols, a 9MM handgun and a shotgun at paper and reactive targets. Firing the shotgun is optional. **All firearms will be provided by the Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Association. No exceptions!** There will be one-on-one instruction during the range session, and because of this participation will be limited to a first come first served basis. Classroom and range sessions will be held outdoors at the Androscoggin Valley Fish & Game Association's range located on the East Milan Road in Milan, NH.

Pre-registration is required, registration **will not** be taken the day of the program. The program fills up quickly so it is advisable that you register early. Be aware that these dates fall during Memorial weekend.

The preferred method to pre-register is by email. Please use the following email address to pre-register: womensfp@avfga.org Leave your name, home address, email address and phone number. If you don't have email call 466-2429 to register. Participants will receive notification that they are enrolled in the program.

There is a \$10.⁰⁰ charge for the program to cover the cost of materials.

Questions, Comments or Concerns? Please contact:

Eddy L'Heureux – 752-3863: WFFP Committee Chairperson