



Hunting News

Grafton Land Trust

Preserving Grafton's open spaces since 1958

September 2013



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Upcoming Events

Oct. 13th, 10:00am
[LeClaire/Vacca Memorial Trail Race](#)

Oct. 20th, 9:00am
[Big Pumpkin Trail Ride](#)

Nov. 3rd, 10:30am
[Community Harvest Project 5k Dash](#)

Submit Your Pics!

Got a cool photo from a recent hunting trip in Grafton? Send it to hunting@graftonland.org and we'll publish it in the "Photo of the month" section of *Hunting News*.



We are a member supported organization that relies on you - *hunters* - as well as hikers, equestrians and other recreational users to manage our lands. Please [become a member](#) today!

Dear Hunter,

RE: Hunting Policy Changes (Treestands)

The Grafton Land Trust has made two changes to its [hunting policy](#). The changes, which went into effect on July 19, 2013, are as follows:

Treestand Identification: Due to privacy considerations, GLT hunting permit holders will now identify ownership of ladder treestands or hanging treestands by affixing their GLT hunting permit number, not their full name as was previously required, to their treestand.

Period of Allowable Use: GLT hunting permit holders may now place ladder treestands and hanging treestands on GLT properties no earlier than 30 days prior to the start of the Massachusetts whitetail deer hunting season and must remove them from GLT properties no later than 30 days after the close of the Massachusetts whitetail deer hunting season.

All GLT hunting permit holders are strongly encouraged to read our [hunting policy](#) prior to hunting our properties. Policy questions should be directed to hunting@graftonland.org.

See you in the field,

Troy M. Gipps
Vice President & Hunting Program Coordinator
Grafton Land Trust

Gray squirrel season now open!

Many hunters do not realize that gray squirrel season opens six weeks earlier in Grafton than in cities and towns that lie east of Route 495. Rifles and handguns are also permitted in Grafton.

Many of our oak forests provide ideal habitat for bushytails, so if you have not hunted the "gray ghost" since you were a kid, set some time aside this fall to scout our properties with shotgun, .22 rifle or bow in hand. You will likely be rewarded with some top-notch squirrel action!



Light gauge shotguns, such as 20 and 28 gauge, are often most effective in the early season when thick foliage makes hunting with a scoped .22 rifle extremely difficult. The opposite holds true in the late season when wary squirrels often stay well out of shotgun range.

Squirrels make surprisingly good table fare. Although it is usually necessary to simmer squirrels until the meat is tender enough to be pulled easily off the bone before you can include the meat in your favorite recipe. Squirrel stew and squirrel pot pie are two good recipe options. (Photo by Troy Gipps)

RECIPE: Fried Frog Legs

I openly admit that frogs do not look all that tasty when they are sitting in the muck eating bugs. But I assure you, following this simple recipe will open your eyes to one of the best tasting wild foods you can get your hands on, short of venison tenderloin.

1. Start with a limit of bull frogs and/or green frogs (that's 12!).
2. Remove the legs at the hip joint.
3. With a pair of needle-nose pliers pull the skin off; pulling from the top of the leg down to the toes (the skin should come off in one piece).
4. Moisten the legs with water.
5. Roll them in flour.
6. Dip them in battered egg.
7. Roll them in a 50/50 mixture of Progresso "Italian Style" Bread Crumbs and Panko Breadcrumbs.
8. Fry on low-to-medium heat in a cast iron skillet filled with 1/2-inch of vegetable oil; turn them over once during cooking.
9. When done, place the legs on a few sheets of paper towel to soak up the excess oil.
10. Enjoy with your favorite beverage!



(Photos by Troy Gipps)

Fall trout stocking in central Massachusetts

Trout are stocked in Grafton and Upton in the spring, however, they are not stocked locally in the fall. So Grafton anglers will need to travel a bit further to secure trout for the frying pan.



Central district waters that are stocked with trout in the fall include: Wallum Lake (Douglas), Asnacomet "Comet" Pond (Hubbardston), Fort Pond (Lancaster), Whalom lake (Lunenburg), Lond Pond (Rutland), Lake Quinsigamond (Shrewsbury & Worcester), Big Alum Pond (Sturbridge), Webster Lake (Webster), and the Millers River and Lake Dennison (Winchendon).

Fall stocking occurs in a 2-week period (depending on water temperatures), beginning in the last week of September and ending before the Columbus Day weekend. Due to the short stocking season, MassWildlife does not post the fall stocking schedule on their website. (Photo by Troy Gipps)

Photo of the month



The age-old sport of frog hunting is alive and well in Grafton's wetlands. Grafton Land Trust Vice President and Hunting Program Coordinator Troy Gipps poses with a fist-full of fine croakers he harvested on July 20th in Grafton. The season is open until September 30th, so there is still time to put this delicacy on your table! (Photo by Troy Gipps)

What's in season this month?

Bullfrog and Green Frog ... July 16 - Sept 30, 2013
Black Bear (Zones 1-9) ... Sept. 3 - Sept. 21, 2013
Gray Squirrel (Zones 1-9) ... Sept. 9 - Jan. 2, 2014
Crow ... (Fri/Sat/Mon only) July 2 - April 10, 2014
Snapping Turtle ... Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2013



Open Season (year-round; except during shotgun season for deer) ... English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, woodchuck.

The Grafton Land Trust is a private, member-supported, nonprofit organization that preserves, maintains, and advocates for open space in Grafton, and promotes environmental education and stewardship.

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