



Hunting News

Grafton Land Trust

Preserving Grafton's open spaces since 1958

April 2014

Dear Hunter,

RE: Gearing Up for Gobblers

Last spring was the first year I put serious effort into hunting wild turkey in Grafton. It was both nerve-racking and hilarious. There is something about a loud gobble in low light that both spikes your adrenaline and drives you to the brink of laughter. Turkeys are certainly a unique quarry.

Like many novice turkey hunters, I made a mistake that cost me my first bird. I had my shotgun shouldered for at least 10 minutes, trying to remain motionless, as my hunting buddy called in a jake through thick vegetation. His red head appeared briefly as he strutted behind a few small trees ... *just one more step*, I said to myself ... *one more step and I've got him*. He took one step, then another. As his head past behind the last of three small trees, I slowly swung my shotgun barrel to meet the target ... BUSTED! He saw the movement and was gone in a flash. That bird made me a turkey hunter. *This year will be the year!*

If you plan on hunting wild turkey on our properties this spring, bear in mind that GLT hunting permits issued for the 2013-2014 hunting season are good through June 30, 2014. We also want to remind you to affix an official safety sticker to your firearm so it is visible when you sight down the barrel. This small sticker serves as a reminder to be sure of your target while turkey hunting. If a new or replacement sticker is needed send a self-addressed stamped envelope to any [MassWildlife District office](#) or the Field Headquarters requesting a sticker. Several stickers are on one sheet, but you only need one on your gun. The others can be used when the first one falls off or can be shared with your hunting buddies.

As always, we strongly encourage all GLT hunting permit holders to be sure of their target and what lies beyond it. We hope you have a safe and successful turkey hunt this spring. Let us know if you get a bird.

See you in the field,

Troy Gipps
Vice President & Hunting Program Coordinator
Grafton Land Trust
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Spring trout stocking begins!

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife began stocking trout in the Central District during the week of March 24th. The [trout stocking schedule](#) is updated weekly.



A plate full of rainbow trout caught last spring at Pratt Pond in Upton. (Photo by Troy Gipps)

Eastern coyote hunting deer in Grafton, MA



This unusual video depicts an Eastern coyote hunting deer in Grafton on March 4, 2014. A herd of approximately 15 deer were yarded-up in this area due to deep snow and the coyote took notice. Additional wildlife videos can be found on our [Vimeo](#) site. (TrailCam video by Troy Gipps)

Guide to Hunting, Freshwater Fishing & Trapping

The 2014 Guide to Hunting, Freshwater Fishing & Trapping is available in two electronic versions this year.

The [digital edition](#) allows users to click through an interactive version of the regulation guide, turning pages just as you would the real thing.

The entire guide is also available as a [PDF download](#) for offline viewing.

The printed guide remains available at [license vendor locations](#).



This year's guide contains a comprehensive Sportsmen's Guide to Bay State Frogs & Toads.

Photo of the month



A Canada goose rises from a Grafton wetland in early spring. (Photo by Troy Gipps)

What's in season this month?

Wild Turkey ... Apr. 28 - May 24, 2014 (Zones 1-13)
Wild Turkey (Youth) ... April 26, 2014* (Zones 1-13)
Crow ... (Fri./Sat./Mon. only) Jan. 1 - April 10, 2014
Snapping Turtle ... Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2013



Open Season (year-round, except during shotgun season for deer; no daily or seasonal bag limit):
English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine, skunk, starling, weasel, and woodchuck.

* Must have completed the youth turkey hunt program.

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

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