



Hunting News Grafton Land Trust

Preserving Grafton's open spaces since 1958

September 2015

Dear Hunter,

Bullfrogs & Blackberries

You have to be a hard core hunter, and a little bit crazy, to slog through the muck with a frog spear in hand in search of a trophy croaker. However, I guarantee the first time you eat a deep fried, battered frog leg you will be hooked!



A hefty frog takes the bait. (Photo by Troy Gipps)

Liberal bag limits (up to 12 bullfrogs or green toads per day), a two and half month long season, and the ability to hunt frogs just about anyway you see fit, makes this bygone craft worth a second look. Couple this with the sheer culinary joy of sitting down to a heaping plate of fried frogs legs and you begin to wonder ... Why it is so easy to find a parking spot?

Dust off your giffin' poles, embrace the "Caveman" mindset, and find a frog hot spot near you. The best frog ponds are shallow with heavy aquatic vegetation and very few, if any, fish. If you see what appears to be bait fish rising in this type of habitat ... it is probably tadpoles.

Of course, you will need a side dish for your frog feast, so do some early season deer scouting along the edge of field habitat and you might come across our most prolific mid-to-late summer wild berry, the blackberry! Once you have located a patch ... DO NOT TELL ANYONE ... then return every 5-7 days to reap the rewards. I collected the blackberries shown below in a single morning (at a top secret Grafton location that will remain undisclosed).

Bullfrogs and blackberries ... the taste of a Grafton summer.

See you in the field.

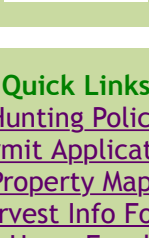
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Submit Your Pics!

Got a cool photo from a recent hunting trip in Grafton? Send it to hunting@grafftonland.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!



Photos by Troy Gipps

3rd Annual Grafton Land Trust Hunting Meeting

The Grafton Land Trust will hold its 3rd Annual Hunting Meeting on Thursday, October 15th from 6:30-9:00pm at the Brigham Hill Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Road, North Grafton, MA. All GLT hunting permit holders are invited to attend this meeting. Members of the GLT Board of Directors will also be present.

The primary objective of the meeting is to review the GLT hunting policy, and to answer any questions regarding the policy and our properties. We are also very pleased to announce that following the policy review we will have a guest speaker from MassWildlife. Wild Turkey and Upland Bird Project Leader David Scarpitti will discuss the biology and habitat requirements of the Ruffed grouse and the American woodcock. He will also describe efforts that are underway to manage and improve upland habitat to ensure that the sound of drumming of grouse can be heard for generations to come in Massachusetts' woodlands. We hope you will all join us for this special event.

Please RSVP to hunting@grafftonland.org or by calling (508) 887-0065 no later than Friday, October 9th. The meeting agenda is as follows:

6:30pm - 7:00pm: Check-in / Light Refreshments / Socialize
7:00pm - 8:00pm: GLT Hunting Policy Review / Property Discussion
8:00pm - 9:00pm: Guest Speaker: MassWildlife

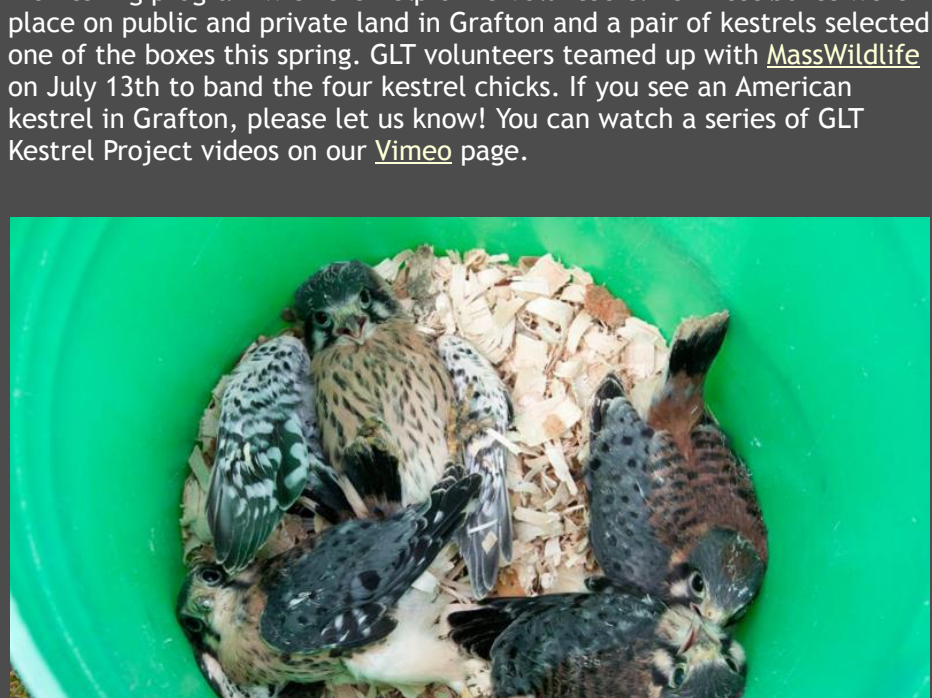


A ruffed grouse drums in a New England forest. (Photo Credit: Google/Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

One of Grafton's newest American kestrel falcons



Grafton Land Trust Hunting Program Coordinator and Kestrel Project Leader Troy Gipps introduces you to one of the newest American kestrel falcons in Grafton. Last November, Gipps launched a kestrel nest box monitoring program with the help of 25 volunteers. Ten nest boxes were placed on public and private land in Grafton and a pair of kestrels selected one of the boxes this spring. GLT volunteers teamed up with [MassWildlife](#) on July 13th to band the four kestrel chicks. If you see an American kestrel in Grafton, please let us know! You can watch a series of GLT Kestrel Project videos on our [Vimeo](#) page.



The GLT banded these four American kestrel chicks on July 13th with the help of MassWildlife State Ornithologist Andrew Vitz. (Photo by Troy Gipps)

Photo of the month



GLT Hunting Program Coordinator Troy Gipps sets out in search of a trophy frog on the opening Saturday of the 2015 Massachusetts frog season. Frog spears, like the one pictured above, are one of many tools employed by frog hunters. The spear has a [5 Prong Fish Spear](#) tip (available from BassProShops) and a bamboo shaft which was purchased at Koopman Lumber in Grafton. Bamboo is ideal for use in frog spears because it is very light and it floats. A kayak is also a very useful piece of equipment. It helps frog hunters glide quietly through dense vegetation in shallow water where frogs tend to hide. Kayaks also provide hunters with a water level viewpoint which makes it much easier to see frogs peeking up between lily pads. Additional tools of the trade include fishing poles, jelly worms, and pellet pistols with non-toxic .177 caliber pellets, which makes dispatching the frogs quick and easy after you catch them. Download our [fried frog leg recipe](#). (Photo by Troy Gipps)

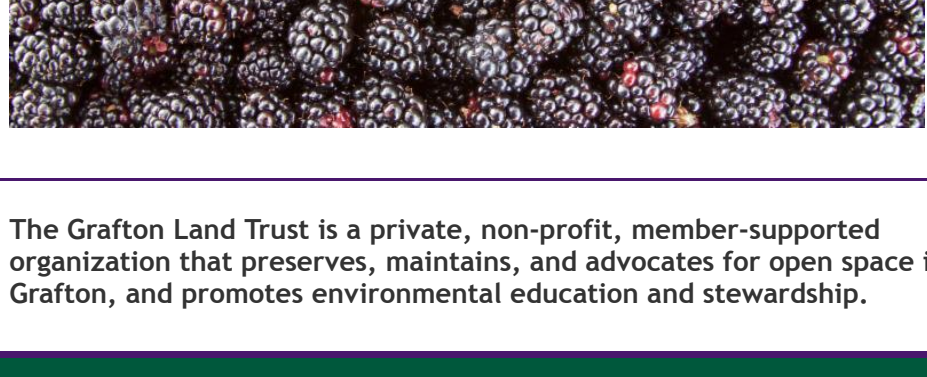
What's in season this month?

Bullfrogs and Green Frogs * ... July 16 - Sept. 30
Black Bear ** ... Sept. 8 - 26
Gray Squirrel (Zones 1-9) ... Sept. 14 - Jan. 2, 2016
Crow ... July 1 - Apr. 9 (Fri/Sat/Mondays only)
Snapping Turtle ... Jan. 1 - Apr. 31



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.

* Not more than 12 frogs, singly or in the aggregate, of these two species may be taken daily or more than 24 in possession for personal use.
** Black Bear hunting is now permitted statewide and during the Shotgun Deer Season. [Special restrictions apply](#).



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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