

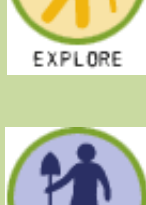


Hunting News

Grafton Land Trust

Preserving Grafton's open spaces since 1958

October 2013



EXPLORE



VOLUNTEER



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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: First Annual Hunting Meeting

The Grafton Land Trust (GLT) is pleased to announce that we will hold our first annual hunting meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 from 7:00pm-9:00pm at the Brigham Hill Community Barn, [37 Wheeler Road](#), North Grafton, MA. All GLT hunting permit holders from the 2011-2012 and 2013-2014 hunting seasons are invited to attend this event. We **strongly encourage you to attend**. 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. Mr. David Stainbrook, Deer & Moose Project Leader for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, will discuss deer and moose population dynamics and field questions from the audience. This is an *excellent opportunity* to get the latest and greatest information regarding deer and moose populations in Massachusetts.

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: Massachusetts Deer and Moose Population Dynamics

All hunters will soon receive an invitation by mail. Please RSVP to the undersigned at hunting@graftonland.org or by calling (508) 887-0065 to indicate your planned attendance no later than October 17th. If you'd like to review our hunting policy prior to the event, it can be found on our [Hunting page](#). The most recent policy revision is dated July 19, 2013. A summary of changes from the previous year's policy can be found on page 4.

See you at the meeting,

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

hunting@graftonland.org

Gather while you hunt: collect edible wild mushrooms!

As hunters, we head to the woods for many reasons. For some, being outdoors is reward enough. Others are simply trying to fill the freezer, but as all hunters know, Mother Nature doesn't always cooperate. That great scrape line you discovered a week before the deer opener might not deliver the results you had hoped for, that flock of turkeys you had been watching for weeks may have simply vanished, or your marksmanship skills couldn't match-up to the infamous gray ghosts (squirrels) that inhabit Grafton's elder oaks. No one likes to find themselves at the end of a long day in the field with an empty game bag. Fortunately, you can take home delicious wild food without firing a shot or releasing an arrow.



Collecting edible wild mushrooms requires some knowledge for sure, and it's always a good idea to first go out with an experienced mushroom hunter before identifying, collecting and eating wild mushrooms, but the culinary rewards of this pursuit are unmatched.

Pictured above, GLT Vice President Troy Gipps displays two "Hen of the Woods" mushroom (*Grifola frondosa*) specimens he collected while squirrel hunting last year at [Marsters Preserve](#) in Grafton. This mushroom, which is also commonly referred to as "Maitake" (pronounced my-TAH-keh), has a distinctive smell and flavor. In addition to being a great edible, evidence is increasing that this species is highly medicinal, boosting the immune system to fight cancer and stabilizing blood sugar and blood pressure. The Maitake may also have antihypertensive and antidiabetic properties. Not bad for a fungus commonly found at the base of mature oak trees.

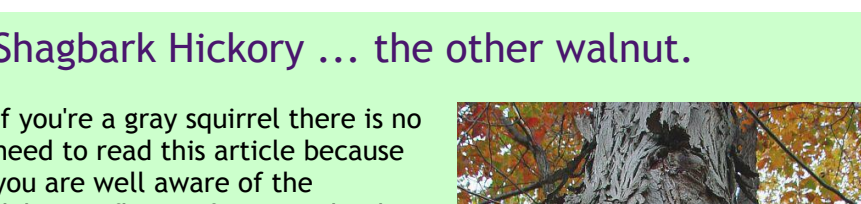
Hunters interested in learning more about wild edible mushrooms are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to fully research the topic prior to eating ANY wild mushroom ... after all, eating the wrong wild mushroom can kill you! An excellent resource is "Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada", by Mainer David L. Spahr. The book can be found on [Amazon.com](#) for about \$12.00 and information is also available on David's website, <http://mushroom-collecting.com>. Hunt, gather and be merry!

Check your game ONLINE this fall!

New this fall, hunters and trappers have two options for checking in deer, turkey and bear and most furbearers. As in the past, animals may be brought to a game [check station](#), or hunters can use the online [MassFishHunt](#) system to report or check their game via computer. There are two exceptions to this process:

1. During the shotgun hunting season for deer, ALL DEER must be checked in at a [deer checking station](#) in order for DFW biologists to collect biological data.
2. All bobcat and otter must be checked in at a furbearer check station. These furbearers cannot be reported on [MassFishHunt](#).

Step-by-step instructions on the actual reporting process for various game species is available on MassWildlife's [Game Check Information](#) website.



Shagbark Hickory ... the other walnut.

If you're a gray squirrel there is no need to read this article because you are well aware of the delicious flavor of New England's tastiest wild nut: the Shagbark Hickory nut. For all the humans reading this newsletter, I suggest you read on!

If you've ever read stories about Native Americans incorporating acorns into their diet, you may have tried a few, like I did one day ... YUCK! Acorns, especially from white oaks, are one of the most bitter foods you can (attempt to) eat. I even tried boiling them, over and over and over, to no avail. After three water changes, I still couldn't get rid of the bitterness. Then one day, while early season squirrel hunting in Grafton in a mature grove of Shagbark Hickory trees, I picked up a few Shagbark Hickory nuts and took them home to see if the squirrels were onto something (they LOVE to eat shagbark hickory nuts). I was pleasantly surprised and I have been collecting them every year since.

The nutmeat has a distinct maple flavor and they are more tender than the familiar walnut. The biggest downside is their small size, about 1/4 the size of a walnut. You'll need a fine metal nut pick to pry all the nutmeat out of the shell once you have cracked it open, but the extra work is well worth the effort.

As pictured below, the thick green husk of the Shagbark Hickory nut must first be removed. A nut cracker will easily crack the shell and after some work you'll have a nice bowl of nuts to eat as is or to use as a substitute for walnuts. If you've been to the grocery store lately and looked at the price of walnuts, you'll be happy to know that Shagbark Hickory nuts are free for the taking ... just be sure to leave a few for the squirrels!



(Photos by Troy Gipps)

Photo of the month



A North American beaver swims by as the colors of early fall reflect on the surface of [Great Meadow](#) in Grafton, Massachusetts. (Photo by Troy Gipps)

What's in season this month?

Gray Squirrel (Zones 1-9) ... Sept. 9 - Jan. 2, 2014;
(Zones 10-14) ... Oct. 19 - Jan. 2, 2014
Deer (Archery) ... Oct. 21 - Nov. 30, 2013
Wild Turkey ... Oct. 21 - Nov. 2, 2013
Pheasant ... Oct. 19 - Nov. 30, 2013
Ruffed Grouse ... Oct. 19 - Nov. 30, 2013
Woodcock ... Oct. 2 - 16 & Oct. 28 - Nov. 16, 2013
Duck (Central) ... Oct. 15 - Nov. 30, 2013
Goose (Central) ... Oct. 15 - Nov. 30, 2013
Cottontail Rabbit ... Oct. 19 - Feb. 28, 2014
Snowshoe Hare ... Oct. 19 - Feb. 5, 2014
Coyote ... Oct. 19 - Mar. 8, 2014
Raccoon ... Oct. 1 - Jan. 31, 2014
Opossum ... Oct. 1 - Jan. 31, 2014
Crow ... (Fri./Sat./Mon. only) July 2 - April 10, 2014
Snapping Turtle ... Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2013



Complete 2013-2014 [Migratory Bird Regulations](#).

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

[Quick Guide to Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Dates](#).

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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