

Hunting News Grafton Land Trust Preserving Grafton's open spaces since 1958

April 2015









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Quick Links

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.

Turkey Time! You know wild turkey

Dear Hunter,

season is approaching when your spouse gives you a dirty look as you feverishly work a box call during the final episode of Season 3 of House of Cards. Grafton turkeys are as excited about the rapid snow melt as hunters, and we will soon square off in the early morning light as green seeps back into the landscape.

Make sure you have your official safety stickers, which are available at no charge from MassWildlife. Stickers must be adhered to a firearm such that it is



nearly 30 birds. (Photo by Dean Cerrati) visible to the hunter when sighting down the barrel (typically placed on the tang). If a new or replacement sticker is needed send a self-

addressed stamped envelope to any MassWildlife District Office or the <u>Field Headquarters</u> requesting a sticker. Several stickers are on one sheet, but you only need one on the gun. The others can be used when the first one falls off or you can give them to your hunting buddies. <u>Learn more</u> about the Massachusetts wild turkey season. As always, safety should be your PRIMARY CONCERN during the wild turkey season. Be sure of your target and what lies beyond it! We wish

you all a safe hunt and we encourage successful hunters to send in pictures of their birds. We would be happy to publish them in a future edition of Hunting News. Let the gobbling begin! See you in the field.

Troy Gipps Vice President & Hunting Program Coordinator

Grafton Land Trust hunting@graftonland.org



that relies on you hunters - as well as hikers, equestrians and other recreational users to manage our lands. Please become a member today!

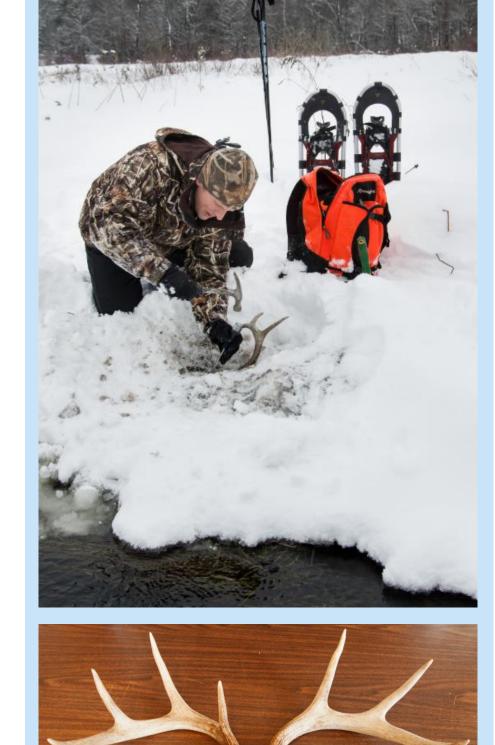


The Mystery of the Frozen Buck

While snowshoeing through deep snow on public land in Grafton on February 6th, I noticed a large area of coyote tracks alongside a stream. A small amount of deer hair and bits of hide and flesh were scattered on

By Troy Gipps

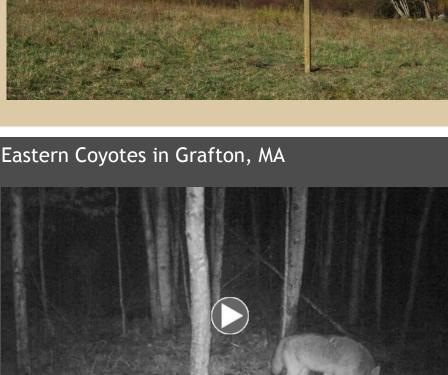
the snow, but there was not enough evidence to suggest an entire deer carcass had been scavenged at the site. Then the curvature of an antler caught my eye. I brushed away the snow and discovered that an entire deer was buried beneath me; only the left side of the buck's antlers and its left rear leg were visible. I returned to the site two days later, with a hammer and chisel in hand, and successfully excavated the buck's 7point rack. Half of the buck was frozen in a thick block of ice and the other half was lying in water ... needless to say, it was a fragrant experience. I'll never know for sure what led to the buck's demise, but the sound of his antlers rattling will again be heard in the Grafton woods on future archery hunts. (Photos by Dean Cerrati)





birds and we will work with MassWildlife biologists to band fledglings if we are lucky enough to get one or more nesting pairs. WE NEED YOUR HELP. First, we request that you keep your distance from the nest boxes (we don't want to scare away falcons that are considering the box as a nesting site), and second, if you see kestrel falcons near our nest boxes please report the sightings to kestrel@graftonland.org. If you want to learn more about this important project please visit our Kestrel Project web page.

of a mourning dove) and their numbers are dwindling not only in Massachusetts, but throughout the eastern United States. Our goal is to provide nesting sites on suitable habitat for these cavity nesting



A pack of Eastern coyotes in Grafton, MA in January. Additional wildlife

season for deer; no daily or seasonal bag limit):

skunk, starling, weasel, and woodchuck.

videos can be found on our <u>Vimeo</u> site. (Video by Troy Gipps) What's in season this month? Wild Turkey ... Apr. 27 - May 23 Wild Turkey Youth Hunt ... Apr. 25 (special rules) Crow ... Jan. 1 - Apr. 10 (Fri/Sat/Mondays only) Snapping Turtle ... Jan. 1 - Apr. 31 Open Season (year-round, except during shotgun

English sparrow, flying squirrel, red squirrel, chipmunk, porcupine,

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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