

WTH WOMEN THAT HUNT

2018 proved to be a very busy year for the NS Women That Hunt as we continue to grow and develop as a community and network of anglers and hunters.

2018 Recap.

EDUCATION

The WTH mission has always been to “Learn With Us.” We recognize and quickly admit there is always something to learn. We are a group who started out with little to no experience. The idea was to build a community of like-minded people where we learn and grow together. As we strive to expand our education and develop our skills our board of directors now consists of:

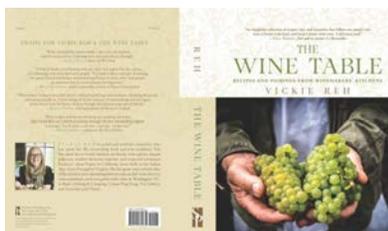
- 2 Certified Nova Scotia Guides
- 3 Hunter Education Instructors
- 4 Non-Restricted Firearms Instructors
- 2 Restricted Firearms Instructor
- 2 Safety Range Officers
- 2 Big Ear Technicians (Hearing Conservation is as important as Wildlife)
- Several Bow Hunter Certified
- Several Trapper Certified

Bass Pro Shop Dartmouth - Pro Staff
Spypoint Trail and Action Cameras - Pro Staff

SPONSORSHIP/PARTNERSHIPS

The WTH have developed supportive relationships with industry leaders like Spypoint, Stoeger Canada (Beretta, Benelli, Tika, Sako), Bass Pro Shops, Pilla, Big Ear, Truro Nissan, Bite the Bullet, Frug Survival, Open Air Accuracy, Coca Cola Canada Bottling Ltd, and the Conservative Hunting and Angling Caucus. These relationships assist in supporting all events hosted by the WTH.

For example: The Wine Table, written by Vickie Reh supports the WTH by donating a portion of her book sales. <https://www.stoegercanada.ca/shop/book-the-wine-table-by-vickie-reh/>



BOOK: THE WINE TABLE BY VICKIE REH

Product ID: 9781510730830

\$75.00 ~~\$60.00~~

*Portion of the proceeds are donated to Women That Hunt www.womenthathunt.com

** Includes a chapter on wine and recipes shared by Mrs Beretta at Lo Sparviere, Beretta's Winery Estate in Franciacorta Italy.

MAIN EVENTS

Annual General Meeting (February)

The 2018 year started off with a bang as we hosted our first Annual General Meeting banquet. Something we tried to shy away from as many conservation groups adopt this style of fundraising, however with the denial of grant applications we needed to subsidize our fundraising efforts. The event was simple and basic, with a home cooked meal, prepared and served by the WTH. We had minimal prizes, just enough to raise a small amount of money and not be overwhelming or requiring people to dig deep into their pockets. Our goal for the evening was to thank those who supported us through 2017. We were privileged to have the Mayor of the County of Colchester, MLA Larry Harrison, Beretta Rep George McAuley and members of the NSFAH attend. 80 guests attended and we were able to raise enough money to cover the expense of the 28' climbing wall for the Youth Expo.

Youth Expo 2018 (April)

The 3RD Annual Youth Expo hosted by the WTH at the Don Henderson memorial Sportsplex was another great success. 91 exhibitors inspired 3,900 visitors. To date the Youth Expo has hosted over 8,000 visitors. Each year we work tirelessly to incorporate new and exciting ideas into the event. This year we coordinated an RCAF CC-130H Hercules flyby at 200ft. We also incorporated other activities for youth who may not be outdoor enthusiasts like cake decorating, arts and crafts and remote-control cars. The idea is to build an event that hosts as many ideas as possible so that our youth walk away inspired. We are not inspired and then exposed, we are exposed and then inspired. We place basketball wheelchair beside the fly-fishing pond, we place cake decorating beside the Fly-tying booth. If kids, see other kids trying something they may take a notion to try it themselves. Recruitment is difficult in this digital world. We are getting creative to expose, educate and inspire youth to try something new that could positively affect their life.

In 2016, 54 vendors inspired 1,110 individuals

In 2017, 81 vendors inspired 3,200 individuals

In 2018, 91 vendors inspired 3,700 individuals

Funding for the Expo was provided by: NS Habitat Conservation Fund and Municipality of the County of Colchester, Truro Nissan sponsored and provided a taxi service. Funding made it possible to bring to the Youth Expo opportunities that many youth may otherwise not have an opportunity to try. Corporate contributors can be found on the Youth Expo website at www.theyouthexpo.com

Women That Hunt Golf Tournament (May)

We hosted our 2nd annual golf tournament. This is an opportunity to provide an activity to our surrounding community that instills spirit and the outdoors and at the same time raise funds that help support our events. The golf tournament this year helped financially support youth who participated in our Wild Turkey Hunt in Maine.

Conservation Bursary (June)

To date our conservation bursary has provided 9, \$1,000 bursaries to graduates of South Colchester Academy. The conservation bursary is designed to acknowledge youth who have adopted and applied a sense of conservation in their lives. Applicants are required to write an essay demonstrating this. Only applicants who have been accepted to post secondary school can apply for the bursary. In 2018 it was discussed that the bursary, now established, will extend to other rural schools in surrounding areas. The conservation bursary supports the initiative of retaining youth who are already active in conservation and living the hunting and fishing lifestyle.

Washabuck Fishing Trip (June)

Each year all members of the WTH are invited on a mentor fishing trip in Washabuck, Cape Breton. This year we had several new members attend who were all new anglers. This is a great opportunity to network with like minded individuals and share tips and knowledge. Washabuck offers a variety of fishing opportunities from small winding streams to large lakes to seawater ports.

Water'n Woods Weekend (August)

The goal of the Water'n Woods Weekend is to provide a hands-on, interactive, outdoor program which allows youth to obtain their Canadian Firearms Safety and Hunters Education courses and develop skills that will help them become responsible and ethical young hunters. The objective is to create an environment for youth which allow them to understand and retain the information more easily and create a comprehensive, enjoyable learning environment, while being exposed to firearms/outdoor safety, basic camping and survival skills. The program took place over 3 days and 2 nights. Each day filled with hands on activities related to wildlife habitat, conservation and firearms safety. This was done in conjunction with the Hants West Wildlife Association, NS Trappers Association, Fur and Feather Outfitters, Halifax Wildlife Association, Cobequid Salmon Association, Ursa Major Outfitters and Bass Pro Shops.

The weekend successfully trained and certified 40 youth in Canadian Non-Restricted Firearms Safety and Hunter's Education course. All teams were taken through a variety of stations that taught them about archery, waterfowl, rifle range, crossbow, bear bait, tree stand, skeet shooting and theory. As well as blood trailing and trapping. We introduced a mentorship role that was successful and will expand the Water'n Woods Weekend into a two year training program for returning students in 2019.

To date Water'n Woods Weekend has certified over 96 individuals.

Funding for this program was provided by: NS Habitat Conservation Fund and Women That Hunt. The Women That Hunt paid for all the Firearms and Hunter's Education Courses.

Options and Opportunity Program-South Colchester Academy (September)

September 2018, the Youth Expo was incorporated into the curriculum of the Options and Opportunities program at South Colchester Academy as a service learning project. The WTH participate in class every two weeks walking youth through different stages of the development process. We turn the classroom into a board room where youth help develops every stage of the Expo while learning about all the different areas of event planning and building. In exchange the students earn co-op hours towards their credit. This is our second year working with the school. Our objective is for students to find it interesting, engaging and learn valuable skills that will help define future endeavours. Students are helping with every stage of the planning as part of their curriculum. They will be responsible for assisting with, but not limited to, budget development, grant applications, management of social media, website design, graphic design, correspondence to corporate sponsors and vendors, mail-outs, marketing and promotion of the event. They will help coordinate with facilities, media marketers and other supplies. They will be involved in think tank sessions on crowd control, layout design and prices.

Wild Turkey Hunt, Maine and Hunting Season

Participants from Water'n Woods and members of WTH are invited to participate in a Wild Turkey Hunt in Maine, through 10th Legion Guide Services. This year we were financially able to support 4 youth and 3 women. The trip started on a Saturday and extended over the Canada Thanks Giving weekend, returning the following Wednesday. The youth were also able to go fishing, clean a salmon weir and participate in all the tasks and responsibilities involved in harvesting a turkey in Maine. This is an experience of a lifetime for many. It has been incorporated as a roll out of the Water'n Woods weekend.

The Wild Turkey Hunt in Maine is financially supported by WTH fundraising efforts and private donations.

Community and Social Events.

In 2018 the WTH participated and supported the local Welcome Home Week in Brookfield. Participating in the parade, hosting a pie eating contest and hosting an archery and shooting range for the weekend events. The group also attended several fisharama's and presented at the Food For all Symposium at the Musquodoboit Rural High School. Presentation was also made at the local church and we attended other public events to showcase and represent the NS Women That Hunt.

Throughout the year we do our best to organize smaller social functions for our members on a monthly basis. such events include but are not limited to fishing outings, indoor pistol ranges, long gun ranges, indoor archery ranges, pot luck lunches and dinners, soap making, shed hunting, clay shooting, ice fishing and more.

Share the Harvest

This year the WTH worked with Red Seal Chef and member Jessica Proulx to host our first Share the Harvest Event. The idea was to open the doors for a free meal to those in need or who just want to try a wild game meal. This was our first attempt at a true field to fork experience for the public. We worked in coordination with the NSCC first year culinary students from Akerley campus, Booster Juice, Atlantic Superstore, Sobeys and Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs. We had guest servers from Beretta Canada, the NSFAH and Truro Struttin Gobblers. We served 109 visitors and an unknown amount of people at the homeless shelter, where we took the food after our event was over. This will definitely be an event we add to our main list of events for future years.

Mentorship

As our group grows we see the need for a better mentorship structure within not only our conservation group, but others. We created a private Facebook page for members only whereby individuals could connect and share opportunities amongst themselves not necessarily relying on the initiative of a WTH member. We connected members with knowledgeable and experienced hunters outside our group so they may get a true mentoring experience. We had great success stories returned through emails and comments. This is the foundation of a much bigger mentorship platform being built for the 2019 year.

Nominations

2016 recipient of the NSFA&H Presidents Award (Awarded to the association judged to be the most successful in promoting wildlife conservation among youth)

2017 recipient of the NSFA&H Vice Presidents Award (Awarded to the association that best promotes the objectives of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters).

2018 recipient of the NSFA&H Presidents Award

2018 nomination for the Canada Volunteer Awards as Social Innovator

2018 nomination in the Excellence in Community Development Award category for the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Awards program.