

Learn to Hunt for Food for novice adult hunters

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**Objectives**: Participants will experience moral, ethical, sustainable hunting and will have the opportunity to try it out themselves if they choose. Hunter safety certification is available to those who wish to be certified. Participants will have a broad understanding of hunting and conservation and will gain increased confidence in their knowledge of and skills needed to participate in hunting. Participants will feel comfortable and accepted in the hunting community and will thus support and appreciate hunting and hunters.

**Working Syllabus**

Note: deer hunting tactics and techniques will be presented throughout all sessions.

Week 1: August 30 or 31 Location: Fitchburg

6:00 Outline and Syllabus – distribution of materials

* Timing of the three field trips
* Read the description of the hunt weekend
* Instructor contact list
* Class list serve?
* History of Conservation and hunting – Outside reading assignment

6:15 Introductions – 45 min (20 people)

 Sign up sheet goes around

 What would you most like to take from this course?

 Why hunt? Students share their motivations for attending

What is their biggest obstacle, fear, or concern?

Questions/concerns from conservation readings?

7:00 Gear basics – demonstration – 10 min

Blaze orange, gun, ammo, license, tag (and zip-lock bag), knife, and drag rope. Dress for the weather.

Deer – biology, habitat, habits, and populations - introduction– **Homework** - reading assignment for next week’s scouting Chapters 1&2 in Landers’ book

7:10 Laws and regulations primer – 15-30 min

**Where to get license – open a GoWild account – demonstrate**

Distribute regs – and link <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/regulations.html>

Briefly discuss:

Seasons

Tagging

Registration

Zones- Farmland

Hunting hours – also Pocket Ranger app

**Homework:** Read through regs. Come next week with more questions

**7:30** Proper firearm handling **demonstration** and practice

Students will learn how to safely handle firearms and to operate the five common actions.

* Dummy ammo is essential

Deer – biology, habitat, habits, and populations - introduction– **Homework** - reading assignment for next week’s scouting Chapters 1&2 in Landers’ book

\*Students should come prepared to spend class outdoors next week – rain or shine.

Week 2: Sept 6 or 7 Location - Fitchburg

6:00 Proper firearm handling demonstration and practice –30 min.

6:30 Scouting – 1.5 hour – outside. Whoever can is invited to sit til dark in small groups.

 Discuss deer behavior and sign

Pictoral examples

Habitat needs; the basics: food, cover, water. *How to use it to your advantage*

Public Land – Homework assignment

 *H*ow to find it, how to use it

Use this link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/PAL/>

DNR mapping pages

Types – Federal, state, county, tax programs, etc

Access to information

Scouting with the computer and books

Powerpoint with map of topography, cover, deer trails, etc.

Field Trip 1- Sunday Sept 11, 1-4 pm: Range visit – live fire – field trip. Rifles, shotguns, and crossbows. Note: Students must attend at least one range day to attend the hunt.

 **Careful attention to the mechanics of shooting and training novices**

Three learning objectives covered at three stations and the supervised firing line:

1. Proper form and gun mounting. One instructor and a group
2. Hunting scenarios and positions. One instructor and a group. Using trainer guns to go through a mock hunt. Blinds, stools, shooting sticks, standing, kneeling leaning. Describe the hunt from when the deer is sighted until the shot and recovery. Have a deer decoy to aim at and talk vitals and angles to vitals.
3. Shooting from various positions. One on one with each student. Offer to start with a .22 and then take the progression at their pace…up to a deer hunting caliber.
4. Supervised firing line. One instructor and a group. Students can continue here as long as they like while not interfering with newly arriving students at station 1.

Week 3: September 13 or 14 Location Fitchburg

6:00 Hunter Ethics – 30 min

Shot placement , Trespass, Behavior, etc.

6:30 Public Land

 *H*ow to find it, how to use it

Use this link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/PAL/>

DNR mapping pages

Types – Federal, state, county, tax programs, etc

Access to information

 Scouting with the computer and books

Powerpoint with map of topography, cover, deer trails, etc.

7:00 Field dressing discussion – Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PWe8TQULsU>

7:30 Proper firearm handling demonstration and practice

Lingering questions discussion

Field Trip 2- Sunday Sept 18, 1-4 pm: Range visit – live fire – field trip. Rifles, shotguns and crossbows. Same stations as previous week.

Week 4: September 21 or 22 Fur Shed

6:00 How to butcher a deer – demonstration and participation (field dressing?)

Processing, cooking, and storing

Hunter education and firearm safety test out – Ongoing during class

Hunt Logistics and planning

Wrap up

Field Trip 3: A two-day Learn to Hunt event with an experienced mentor. A two-day, deer camp style hunt with a trainer in southern Wisconsin.

September 24 (afternoon and evening) and 25 (until at least mid-afternoon) and perhaps 26 (optional). The LTH permit will remain effective until October 2 if hunter-mentor would like to hunt more.

Schedule for the hunt:

Friday September 23 as early as mentor/apprentice can arrange to meet.

The hunting experience should be at least a two-day event.

Pre-hunt: Mentors will have scouted areas to hunt prior to the hunt experience and should have the blinds or stands picked out and ready to go. Pick out a location for the pre-hunt meeting. This should include the opportunity to shoot the evening before hunting.

Day one: Friday. An afternoon/evening target shooting event for more experience (if necessary), scouting, talk with apprentice about the why’s of hunting. If schedule works out, feel free to hunt Friday evening. Pot-luck and bon fire for mentors and novices to get to know one another. If possible an over-night stay in traditional deer hunting manner (camp) is a great bonding experience.

Day two: Mentors and novices meet at the agreed upon spot and time for the hunt. After the hunt, the entire group meets to share experiences and (hopefully) butcher deer.

The hunt weekend can continue to Saturday evening and Sunday if mentor and apprentice can fit. The LTH permit will allow hunting through October 2nd this year if there is another opportunity for mentor/apprentice to get together.

**Here are some really good self-starter sites to review.**

[www.modern-hunters.com](http://www.modern-hunters.com)

[www.honest-food.net](http://www.honest-food.net)

[www.devinbrewer.com](http://www.devinbrewer.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQjsnidkkLQ&list=PLLU64-fSXQryv8pz_RVBKf85k-BOAKIM7>

**Suggested reading list:**

* + Lily Raff McCaulou, Call of the Mild. Learning to hunt my own dinner. <http://www.lilyrm.com/book/>
	+ Tovar Cerulli, The Mindful Carnivore. <http://www.tovarcerulli.com/>
	+ Gut it, Cut it, and Cook it. Eric Fromm and Al Cambonne
	+ Jim Pozewitz:
		- Inherit the Hunt
		- Rifle in Hand
		- Beyond Fair Chase
	+ Georgia Pellegrini. Girl Hunter.
	+ Steve Chapple, Confessions of an Eco-Redneck: Or How I Learned to Gut-Shoot Trout & Save the Wilderness at the Same Time.
	+ Ted Kerasote, Blood Ties.
	+ Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac
	+ Gordon MacQuarrie, Tales of the Old Duck Hunters Association, Inc
	+ Last Child in the Woods. Richard Louv