



Trappers Association of Nova Scotia

NOVA SCOTIA HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

**WILDLIFE AND HABITAT STEWARDSHIP
THROUGH EDUCATION**

PROJECT # NSHCF18-25

FINAL REPORT 2018

Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship through Education

Project Goals:

The goals of the project is to educate the public about fur bearing animals and the habitats they live in. The youth in particular was targeted as well as other. In order to preserve the fur bearing animals and their habitats now and into the future then education must begin with the youth. By providing the youth with educational opportunities it is hoped that they will develop and desire an interest to preserve and protect the habitats and wildlife of NS. This project was made possible with funding from the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund.

Objectives:

- Conserve wildlife habitat by educating the youth and general public of its importance.
- Encourage Nova Scotians to take action to preserve wildlife habitat.
- Speak with youth and general public throughout out the province about wildlife habitats and the fur bearers that rely on them.
- Deliver habitat programs at various events.

Outline of Project Work:

April 2018-March 2019

- the Co-ordinator develops the program as well as secures the materials needed.
- Various events are attended by volunteers at which the discuss Habitat and Fur bearers.
- Outreach to the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and other organizations to inform them of this program.
- Visit to schools to inform them of the program and provide contact information.

Results:

This program has engaged several hundred people at various events as well as engaging with several smaller groups. In each instance the volunteers have talked about the importance of habitats and the fur bearers within those habitats. We have finished pelts as well as skulls, scats and tracks that allow the public to see and touch what we are talking about. We also have a Fur bearers of Canada booklet that provides information about each furbearer. These will be provided as a resource for the leaders or teachers of the smaller groups.

List of Events Attended:

Western Woodlot Owner days
Women That Hunt - Youth Expo
Wild Blueberry Producers Association - Field day
Sydney Mines Volunteer Fire Department - Outdoor Show
Women That Hunt - Woods and Water Weekend
Oxford Hunting Expo
Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show
Bass Pro Store - Guides & Outfitters day
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture - trade show
Springhill Brownies
4-H club - RWL & Linden
TANS Workshop & Convention

Summary and Future:

This project has been and will continue to be very successful provided that we are able to continue to deliver it. At all the events it is well received and a lot of interest in the animals. When we deliver the program to smaller groups they are very keen to ask about the fur bearers and how they interact and live in their habitats. The ability for hands on interactive displays really helps youth and adults become engaged in the conversations as well as leaving a memory about the topics discussed. We believe that this program is important to engaging the youth and establishing the idea that we must protect the habitats and the animals within. Going forward we hope to engage more with the educational system and deliver more of this program into the schools. Continuing to outreach to the schools and other groups will be a main focus in the future, while continuing to meet with larger groups at various events. This program was only possible with financial assistance of the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund