

Move to highlight the Squamacoock River

In Townsend and West Groton flows one of the finest rivers in the United States. It is full of trout and a few bass, with anglers from all over coming to this area to fish.

For the prizes found within the banks and its tributaries.

The Squamacoock River starts in West

Townsend and emphasizes its contents some nine miles later into the now beautiful Nashua River. This is a secret no more as thousands upon thousands of sportsmen and people who just love the river come here and love its shores.

The folks at the Nashua River Watershed, led by Al Futerman, have done a study to get the river a "Wild and Scenic" designation. Their 34-page report pointing out all the

reasons why the river should be is one of the most comprehensive you will ever read.

The study went over the biodiversity, recreational, scenic

historical and cultural aspects of this fine river. One of the positive things they are going to look at is the trail that will be built this spring along the banks.

Also the river can reproduce trout and bass. Brown and brook trout can reproduce here and largemouth bass have for decades in West Groton. Some bass here grow past five pounds.

There were two public meetings held this past week about the proposal and citizens gave their thoughts on the project. There was no negative comments, all positive ones and people added things to help get

the project to go forward.

Once this is all completed Futerman and his crew will go to Board of Selectmen in the report and look for approval for them to take this to Town Meeting for approval as well. If they all approve, then it will be on to Washington, D.C.

This designation will help with projects as far away as a 1/4 mile away from the center of the river.

The Harbor Pond now inundated with weeds could get money to help clean out the weeds and repair the river area to what it used to be.

If designated by the president of the United States, it is hoped it will take place by the summer of 2018. This will allow for federal money to come this way to help with river projects. To see the draft conversation, or to comment, go to alf@wildandscenicnashua.org.

This has been a good fall hunting shotgun only deer season. It opened last Monday and will run another week. Hunters are seeing quality deer and lots of them. Well, not all of them. I have not seen one yet but the fat lady has not sung yet.

New Hampshire deer hunters are having a great season. So far they have taken 11,385 deer, which is up 12 percent over last year and the season does not end until the archery season closes Dec. 15.

Hunters are finding deer in all the typical spots like apple orchards, but the white oaks and acorn crop seems to be best. One hunter, Russ Philbrick of Ashby, took a buck of a lifetime. This animal was 11 points with a well over 20-inch spread, a gross score over 188 inches, and weighed 193 pounds. It is being measured again for status for the top scoring in the North

East Big Bucks Club

Scott Lieb, a New Hampshire resident, did something I had never heard of before but since then I have confirmed it is possible. He shot a pregnant doe. There were twins in the sack. Biologists state it is a doe that either had a very late breed or more likely never dropped her fawn.

Massachusetts hunting and fishing licenses for 2018 are now for sale. You can buy now online.

I recently was on a local cable channel called the "Buzz" which is fed into homes in Chelmsford and Lowell. The program will air in the very near future. There was talk about deer and bears and we just started talking salmon when we ran out of time.

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