

### **Archery/Bow Hunting**

Once you learn how to select your bow, arrows and other archery equipment, it's time to hone your skills on the target range. You'll learn these "finer points" from experienced archers. Bow hunting equipment, skills and techniques (such as camouflage, tracking and animal behavior study) will also be presented and are relevant for any activity where you want to view wildlife in the natural environment.

### **Backyard Birds**

Nova Scotia is home to many species of birds throughout the seasons. Join our expert birders both indoors and outdoors to learn how to find birds and the skills to help you identify different species as well as tips on attracting birds to your backyard. Bring your binoculars, a field guide, if you have one, and discover the wonderful world of our feathered friends. Get hands on experience in building nesting boxes.

### **Canoeing**

Flatwater paddling is basic paddling suitable for most people. Learn the basic skills of canoeing, canoe paddles, PFD selection, canoe safety and basic paddling techniques, Coast Guard requirements and other issues will be reviewed. Please note that two people will be assigned per canoe and remember to bring footwear/clothing that can get wet.

### **Crossbow Hunting**

Want to shoot a crossbow? Crossbow hunting has grown rapidly in Nova Scotia since they were introduced as a legal hunting weapon in 2010. The crossbow is a wonderful option for those who want to experience close range stand or blind hunting. We'll cover safe crossbow use/function, equipment set-up, hunting strategies and ethics. This class will be a mix of theory and hands-on practice on the archery range and in the woods. Join experienced crossbow hunters for this fun introduction to crossbows.

### **Day Hikes**

Discover the joys of hiking and become more comfortable with your wooded surroundings. Instructors will help you prepare for a day hike, demonstrating packs, boots and other gear. We will take a short hike on-site and discuss ways that we can tread lightly as we go.

### **Firearms Safety, Handling & Storage**

Covers basic types of firearms, basics of firearm safety, and safe transport and storage. Does not include shooting but is a prerequisite for anyone without an FAC or FHC who registers for any shooting course (shotgun, rifle). *Please do not bring your own firearms.*

### **Fly Fishing**

Often called a graceful art form, fly fishing can be an enjoyable lifetime pursuit. Participants will learn the fundamentals of fly-casting, rods, reels, line selection and the equipment needed to get started. We will practice casting and try to encourage a fish to come to our fly. The class will travel to a local fishing area.

### **Fly Tying**

You too can create your own masterpiece from feathers, fur, tinsel, and thread. Learn about the different types of materials used to tie flies for fishing. Learn the types of flies and when best to use them. Hands on experience making your own special flies.

### **Geocaching**

With some basic navigation skills under your belt, enjoy exploring one of the fastest growing outdoor activities in the world. A modern day treasure hunt, geo-caching uses GPS to search for and locate hidden caches. Learn the basics of GPS navigation, geo-caching practice and etiquette. You will even get to find a cache of our own.

### **Hunting with Dogs**

Whether you want to hunt with a dog or enjoy a dedicated field companion, working with gun dogs will bring countless hours of outdoor enjoyment. Review various hunting breeds - their physical and behavioural characteristics, how to select a puppy, and tips for training. Dogs and handlers from the Bluenose Chapter of the North America Versatile Hunting Dog Association will demonstrate pointing, flushing, tracking and retrieving on land and water. Learners will be handling the dogs and helping with training exercises. *Participants are not required to bring their own dogs for this class.*

### **Medicinal Plants**

What plants may help with a headache? Will cattails soothe tooth pain? Let's take the pharmacy outdoors and discover medicinal plants. Practice identifying common wild plants and their medicinal and traditional uses. Get hands-on experience and instruction in the collection, handling, identification and preparation of native plants for medicinal purposes. Bring your taste buds as there will be an opportunity to sample plants gathered during the class.

### **Outdoor Cooking**

Learn how to prepare simple, healthy and hearty meals in the outdoors. Appropriate use of fire and stoves will be demonstrated, and food selection and storage will also be discussed.

### **Outdoor Technology**

There is an app for that! Bring your phone and any other technology you use in the outdoors. Learn about trail cams, e-Bird, INaturalist, Skyview, Spot Locator, GPS and the list goes on.

### **Shotgunning**

This is your opportunity to have fun while you learn how to safely handle a shotgun and learn shooting techniques. You will be able to judge distances and even knock a few clay targets out of the air. A firearms license, or proof of having successfully completed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (non-restricted) or attendance at the Firearms Safety, Storage and Handling class on Friday morning are pre-requisites. Class will travel to a gun range.

### **Shooting Rifles**

Target shooting is an exciting challenge, so don't let this one slip by! You will learn how to handle rifles and ammunition safely and how to improve your shooting skills. A firearms license or proof of having successfully completed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (non-restricted) or attendance at the Firearms Safety, Storage and Handling class on Friday morning are pre-requisites. Class will travel to a gun range.

### **Small Game Cleaning/Cooking**

Roll up your sleeves and come prepared to experience cleaning your own small game. You will learn the basics of field dressing, handling, processing and safely preparing small game for consumption. With these new skills you will be ready to prepare and sample your next truly local meal. A small game dish will be sampled at the end of class

### **Sport Fishing**

Hooking into a fish of any size always makes the heart beat a little quicker and brings a smile to your face. Whether it's a wild speckled trout from a secluded brook or taking advantage of one of our many urban stocked lakes, fishing in Nova Scotia offers a wide variety of opportunity to those enjoying the sport. This session will explore the different species of fish found in the province, relevant bait and lure choices and the equipment needed to get started. We'll even get our lines in the water in hopes of coming away with a few tall tales of our own to share.

### **Tasty Fish**

Spend some time learning how to clean, fillet and prepare a variety of Nova Scotia sportfish. Take a closer look at the inside of a fish and learn the ins and outs of how fish function. Compare the taste of warm and cold water sportfish and learn some simple recipes.

### **Trapping and Snaring**

What is involved in running a snare and trap line? You will be making snares and learning special techniques that will put more rabbits in your stew pot. An overview of trapping and snaring ethics will form part of this experience as well as a skinning demonstration.

### **Wilderness Camping**

Get introduced to the basics of wilderness camping as we take a short trip to our forested home for the evening. Learn the basics of packing an overnight pack and get a chance to carry a loaded pack on a short hike to our campsite. On arrival, we will work together to set up a proper and safe tent site for the night. This class will be staying out in tents overnight. If you have a large backpacking pack bring it along.