

October 2008

VP's Message

Bill Blotney - Vice President

That time of year is now here. By the time you will have received this newsletter hunting season will have started. Ducks opened on Wednesday, October 15th. They opened this past weekend, the 11th in NY. My son, Jason and I hunted there. We managed a few wood ducks. The weather was more suitable for a picnic rather than duck hunting, but it was worth it anyway. Small game and pheasants open on Saturday October 18th. The club hunting areas will be stocked, and hopefully the weather will cooperate for a good day. Please, everyone be safe, and respectful to your fellow club members and hunters.

After last month's newsletter went out and was received and read, I had an email from a club member requesting the names of game processors in the area. I have included in this newsletter the person I have been using for the past 20 years. He does a professional job as he is the meat manager for an IGA market. Everything is wrapped and labeled and you are never shorted of your game. He also makes several types of sausage. The contact info is contained later in this newsletter.

Archery Chairman Paul Inserra announced at the meeting that there are 4 targets for use with broadhead arrows. Please make sure that you use only these targets when shooting with broadheads.

Building and Grounds Chairman Doug Stender asked for help next spring and summer for maintenance of the club grounds. This is an easy way to get your work hours in. You can make arrangements with Doug at the meetings.

Shooting Range Chairman Ray Ericson has scheduled a work party for Sunday, October 19th. Another easy way to get your work hours in.

Just a reminder to new members that have recently joined the club. You are required to put in 15 work hours per year or you will be assessed for any hours not worked when you receive your billing notice next August.

Game Dinner tickets will be going on sale as soon as Ernie Trowbridge gets them from the printer, which should be any day now. Get your tickets earlier

because they do not last too long.

On a final note, Al Douville announced that at the November monthly meeting, there will be a lottery drawing for shotgun deer permits for the club owned lands only. There will be 5 permits each for the club grounds and the orchard. If you wish to be included in this drawing, please attend the meeting. The drawing will be held immediately after the meeting.

Good hunting !!

Tree Stand Safety and Maintenance

By Al Raychard - *An excerpt from Game & Fish Magazine*

Many tree stand accidents are caused by worn parts and materials and improper maintenance. Here's how you can avoid falls, injury and even death while hunting this season.

For many years, hunting from elevated tree stands was a technique dominated by bowhunters. Not any more! Today, tree stands are used by rifle and blackpowder hunters (where legal) and as the popularity of crossbows has increased, so has the use of tree stands.

In fact, the use of tree stands is on the increase across the country in all segments of the sport. The reasons for this are many. Among other things, the height advantage helps keep human scent above approaching game, and puts hunters above the quarry's normal field of view. It also makes it easier to spot game from a distance, allowing more time to prepare for the shot, a distinct advantage for bowhunters.

Most of the original "tree stands" were permanent structures made of wood. Portables or commercial ladder stands are the standard these days and are the only types allowed by law on public land in most areas. Things have evolved to the point that it is difficult to imagine not hunting above the ground these days.

UNSAFE AT ANY HEIGHT?

Unfortunately, as more hunters make the climb into tree stands each season, accidents from falls resulting in severe bodily injury and even

See Tree Stand on Page 6

Pheasant Hunting

The 08/09 pheasant season is underway. Groups are reminded that hunting area assignments can be found posted in the clubhouse or on the club website under Hunting. Have a great season.

Safety Reminders

Let us all remember these basic safety rules to ensure we have another, safe and accident free season

- ☞☐■◆☐☐● your firearm muzzle at all times.
- Always wear safety glasses.
- Know where your hunting partners are at all times.
- Shoot only within your zone of fire.
- Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
- Always keep your hunting dog under control.
- Wear hunter orange on your head, back and chest.

OFFICERS

2008 - 2009

President

Paul Uhlan, Sr

Vice President

Bill Blotney

Recording Secretary

Rich Bennice

Membership Secretary

Sue Delelys

Treasurer

Jack Krasko

Board of Directors from the Members

Ray Ericson

Mike Schewokis

Doug Stender

Steve Szypulski

John Wolcheski

Contact information for Club Officers and Committee Chairmen is posted in the Club and on the Club website:
www.wallingfordrodandgunclub.org

Member Representative Elections held

At the October meeting, elections were held for the 5 member representatives. These individuals are your conduit to the executive board. They will serve a one year term and attend all executive board meetings, at which they can bring your ideas, issues, or concerns to the board's attention. Let's make sure we use our representatives. Congratulations to Steve Szypulski; Ray Ericson; John Wolcheski; Doug Stender; and Mike Schewokis.

Fishing



The pond will be stocked on Thursday, November 13th and will be open Saturday, November 15th at 7:00am. We will be stocking 400- 12-14 inch fish. Twenty 18-20 inch fish will also be stocked. New members, the limit is two fish per day, six fish per week.

Humor

Two hunters were dragging their dead deer back to their car. Another hunter approached pulling his along too. "Hey, I don't want to tell you how to do something ... but I can tell you that it's much easier if you drag the deer in the other direction. Then the antlers won't dig into the ground." After the third hunter left, the two decided to try it. A little while later one hunter said to the other, "You know, that guy was right. This is a lot easier!" "Yeah, but we're getting farther from the truck," the other added.

Game Processor

The Large Game Company

Lee Sabo

Oxford, CT. 203 888-3860

Do you have a favorite game processor you'd like to share with other members, please send it in.

Maintenance Building Committee

We're still looking for your scrap 2 by material for the shelves in the new building.

Needed:

2X3 2X4 2X6

2X8 2X10 2X12's

for the shelving in the maintenance building,

LENGTH IS (35 1/2) inches

Please cut to length.

Pressure treated is preferred, but we will accept and non warped or rotted wood.

Please leave at the club on the pallet near our building.

Demo'ing a deck? We'll take all the 2 by material cut to length, save on a dumpster charge!!!!

Questions? Steve 203-952-7827

Doug 860-349-0711

Range Hours

Reminder: During Hunting season the range is open

Every Wednesday and Friday,
12 Noon to 1/2 hour before sunset

Sunday

9:00 AM to 1/2 hour before sunset.

Remember Safety First

Classifieds

Dog Kennel - Wire - Large -21" Wide
27 1/2 High; 36 Long. Folds up and has a bottom tray. \$30 Firm
Steve 440-0288 (C) 203-952-7827

Deer Hunters! Freezer Wrap Station,
Freezer Paper Dispenser (\$29.99 Cabela's)
3/4 Roll of Freezer Paper (\$39.99 Cabela's) and Masking Tape Dispenser (\$15.00 Staples). Like new in boxes, All for \$55.00 (I paid the shipping!). Steve 203-952-7827

Shot -Two 25 Pound bags of number 9 lead shot. \$40.00 each or two for \$65.00 Firm . 25# Bags of number 6, copper coated shot. \$25.00 Steve 203-952-7827.

Opening Days



Left: From retrieve to prize, Bill Blotney enjoys Opening Day of Duck Season in New York.



Right: Matt Donlon scores his 1st fall bird on Opening Day of shotgun season in Connecticut.

Got a photo of your hunts? We would like to include it in our newsletter, please email to newsletter@wallingfordrodandgunclub.org with a description.



Cooks Corner

PHEASANT JUBILEE

4 pheasants quartered
Flour
1/2 butter or margarine
1 onion chopped
1/2 cup golden raisins
1 cup chili sauce
1/2 water
1/2 brown sugar
2 TBS. Worcestershire sauce
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1 cup California Sherry
1 (1-lb.) can pitted dark sweet cherries, drained

Dust pheasants with flour. Melt butter in a heavy skillet: brown birds thoroughly. Place pheasants in a deep casserole. In the same skillet, combine onion, raisins, chili sauce, water, brown sugar, Worcestershire sauce and garlic; boil briefly, scraping browned meat from bottom and sides of pan; pour over pheasants. Bake covered, in a moderately slow oven (325 degrees) for 1 1/2 hours. remove cover; add sherry and cherries. Continue baking 20 minutes longer. To serve transfer to a deep chafing or warming dish. This works well with wild rice.

SAUTÉED DUCK

2 Wild Duck Breasts (4 pieces)
Mallard or Wood Ducks (I prefer Wood Ducks)
Egg wash
Flour
Onions; mushrooms

Pound the breasts to tenderize
Dip each piece in egg wash, then flour
Place in skillet with hot olive oil
Add sliced onions and/or mushroom
Season to taste (I use ground red pepper)
Saute breasts until golden brown
Serve as desired

CLUB INFO LINE
All the information
you need
when you want it
203
265-1012

Forums

We are still seeking information on interest in holding forums. To date there have been no responses. We would like to begin with Deer Rifle/Shotgun, and based on interest would select a date prior to opening day. If you are interested in participating in this forum please contact Bill Blotney or Tom Donlon. Also, we are looking for suggestions on what other topics you would like to have included.

Member Services

Zoel's Body & Auto Center
19 Hall Ave
Meriden
Dave Sirois
203 237-6464

"Collision Specialists & Full Auto Service"

Jason G. DeGenaro
Attorney at Law
(203) 874-7110
jdeggenaro@jacobicase.com

Chris Dellaselva, Esq.
Finch & Dellaselva Attorneys at Law
6 N. Main Street - Suite 203
Wallingford, CT 06492
(203) 269-5392
dellaselva@sbcglobal.net


E & B Graphics Associates
8 Fairway Drive
Wallingford, CT 06492
Tom Boyle
203 265-2298



EAST COAST
MECHANICAL, INC.
HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS
"Attention to Detail"

NORM WIJUM
Tel: (203) 272-6676
Fax: (203) 272-4FAX
160 Sandbank Road
Cheshire, CT 06410





AFFORDABLE HANDYMAN
OF CONNECTICUT, LLC
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LARRY BREWER
(203) 878-3323
CELL (203) 314-9269

JUST ONE CALL. NO JOB TOO SMALL

Mark your calendars, you don't want to miss the

3rd Annual Rod & Gun Club Christmas Party

(For children and grandchildren of members)

Age 0-12 years

Sunday, December 14th

12 p.m.-5 p.m.

Visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus



Lunch will be served
Please bring a wrapped, labeled gift for your child
(Up to \$15.00)

&

a canned good for a local shelter
Gift can be dropped off @ basement door

R.S.V.P. to Amy/John @284-8282 or thewolcheskis@comcast.net by
December 7th

Annual Game Dinner January 10th

*Game is needed. Let your hunting success be part of the games dinner success,
Contact Ernie Trowbridge to donate game.*



*Members
with Birthdays
in the month of
October*

GABE PALMIERI
STEPHEN PALERMO
ANNIE PERRY
PATRICK PERRY
MATT VERNIK
RACHAEL LAZOR
JIM LIBBY
DENNIS WAZ
DAN LeGRAND
CHRIS DILEO
OKOLITA EUGENE
JAMES HIGGINS
JOSEPH MATUSKIEWICZ
MATTHEW COANE
JASON CREATORE
GEORGE BARTLETT
DAVID BODACH
BILL WIELAND
RON GRUBE, JR
JOHN SHORT
STEPHEN CONSULO

DAVID DEMAIO
NATHAN GRAHAM
DANIEL CRISCUOLO
CHAD KORB
ROBERT A BENNETT
PAT DiNATALE
IRVIN LEINING, JR
KEVIN LAWRENCE
RICHARD BOURT
TIMOTHY BYRNES
ELIAS HUCUL
JOHN FANTOZZI
SHANNON TROWBRIDGE
ROBERT SCHRAGER
RICHARD LUCIBELLO
RICHARD PELLITIER
DAVID VUMBACK, JR
SUSAN KOSKOWSKI
ULRICH LODE
MARK MONGILLO
MELISSA DESANDRE

U.S. duck hunters killed 14.5 million birds last season

reprinted from New York Outdoor News, October 3, 2008

Washington - How does the Mississippi Flyway's 2007-08 duck harvest compare to the Atlantic Flyway's?

Which duck was the most harvested in the U.S. last year? How many hunters found their way to a blind?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service again has released its annual report that answers these - and other - waterfowl questions.

Altogether, more than 14.5 million ducks were harvested in the U.S. during the 2007-08 hunting season, according to preliminary estimates by the USFWS. That total harvest number was up from 13.8 million ducks harvested in 2006-07.

As in the past, mallards were the most prevalent duck bagged by hunters in the U.S., with approximately 4.9 million harvested.

Other dominant species this year were green-winged teal, with almost two million birds harvested, and followed by gadwall (1.5 million).

Wood ducks and blue-winged and cinnamon teal rounded out the top five hunted waterfowl, with more than one million of each species harvested during the 2007-08 season.

Nationwide, hunters harvested almost 3.7 million geese, similar to the 2006-07 estimate.

Canada geese were the most prevalent geese harvested, with almost 2.7 million birds taken. Snow

geese were the second most popular goose species taken, with an estimated 560,000 bagged nationally.

The figures come from a report of migratory bird hunting activity and harvest during the 2007 and 2008 hunting seasons.

The USFWS generates the estimates contained in the report based on surveys of selected waterfowl hunters through the cooperative State-Federal Harvest Information Program.

Along with harvest totals, the report also tallies the number of trips to the blind taken by waterfowlers around the country.

Last year, nearly one million duck hunters spent almost seven million days in the field, up slightly from the previous season's nearly 6.8 million days.

More than 700,000 hunters spent approximately four million days hunting geese, which is similar to the 2006-07 season, the report showed.

The report also breaks the harvest down by flyway.

In the Atlantic Flyway, approximately 1.7 million ducks were harvested, similar to the prior season. The 936,000 geese harvested in 2007 represent an increase from the 714,000 harvested the previous season.

In the Mississippi Flyway; approximately 6.7 million ducks were harvested, almost a half million more than the previous season. An estimated 1.3 million geese were harvested, similar to the previous season.

In the Central Flyway; hunters bagged nearly 2.7 million ducks last season, an increase of 200,000 birds.

The harvest of more than 900,000 geese was similar to the previous season.

In the Pacific Flyway; hunters bagged more than 3.4 million ducks and almost 500,000 geese. Both of the above estimates are similar to the 2006-07 season harvest, officials said.

In Alaska, nearly 68,000 ducks were harvested, similar to the previous season. The goose harvest, at 6,800 birds, was slightly down from 7,500 birds in the previous season.

The USFWS compiles the report each year to estimate waterfowl hunting activity, success and harvest by species.

The surveys are used by the USFWS and state wildlife agencies, in part, to develop estimates of the number of all migratory birds harvested throughout the country, as well as to establish season lengths and bag limits designed to maintain healthy sustainable waterfowl populations.

To see the complete report, go to the USFWS Web site at http://www.fws.gov/migratory/birds/reports/ahm08/2008AHM-report_Final_.pdf or at www.flyways.us.

Tree Stand *continued from Page 1*

death increase. A recent study conducted in just two states by the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) reported 269 tree stand injuries, 29 of which resulted in death!

Some reports indicate as many as 500 hunters are killed annually across North America due to accidents involving tree stands. Another 5,000 to 7,000 are disabled permanently. Some 10,000 to 15,000 hunters suffer painful leg injuries.

It is estimated that one in every three hunters (37 percent) who fall from tree stands will experience some kind of fall during their hunting career, and some 3 percent of those will sustain long-term crippling injuries. Several states report the number of tree stand falls now rivals firearm incidents as the leading cause of severe bodily injury while hunting. None of this is meant to alarm hunters or put an end to the use of tree stands. But the sad truth is that a majority of these incidents could have been avoided if the victims had read their manufacturer's product manual and obeyed a few basic safety rules.

Always wearing a safety belt or harness when hunting from a stand, for example, including while ascending and descending the tree, could easily cut the number of injuries in half, yet few hunters do so.

The results from one recent survey showed that 51 percent of all tree stand injuries occur as a hunter ascends into his stand, is in the process of leaving the seat and stepping onto the ladder or steps to descend, or is actually descending to the ground. One survey indicated that only 7 percent of respondents

use a belt or harness at those times. The statistics suggest that relatively new stands, particularly portable models, are the newest designs. Stands built in the 1970s have been routinely cited for slippage and structural flaws. The newer models, however, particularly those manufactured by members of the Tree Stand Manufacturer's Association (TMA), are designed to be stronger and more reliable, and are tested to prevent such



discussing. Always use a haul line to elevate or descend bows and unloaded firearms. Let someone know where your stand is located and what time you expect to return home. Carry a cell phone or radio in case of an incident. Hunt from the ground in bad weather, especially in windy conditions. Make sure there are no dead limbs overhead. Stay alert and awake while in a stand. Never use tree limbs as steps or grips while ascending or descending a stand. Never climb into a permanent stand you have not built yourself before giving it a careful inspection; never use a tree too big or too small for your stand. Always stand up slowly and check your balance.

All of these should be part of your standard tree-stand procedure.

When hanging stands prior to the season, doing so with a friend is a good idea as well. Keep in mind that every time you put up a stand or use a stand, you risk injury and even death. It only takes one mistake for a mishap to take place, and it happens fast.

To avoid a disaster, pick your stand tree carefully, take your time while hanging or using a stand, think about every step and move before you make it, especially when ascending and descending. When using screw-in or locking steps and portable stands, it is much safer to make your last two steps even. Doing so allows you to hang and take down your stand while maintaining your balance.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

Equally important is to make sure any stand you use is in good repair. Like too many hunters, I never gave much thought to stand maintenance, and used the same stand season after season without inspecting it for signs of wear or other problems.

Prior to the season three years ago, I set my ladder stand against an oak tree overlooking a favorite deer run. Stepping on the lowest rung to make sure the stand was imbedded in the ground, I started my climb to secure the safety straps. Three steps up, I reached for the straps running around the tree, intending to tie them off on the rungs. One of the legs suddenly sunk deeper into the ground, the stand shifted and off I went. It was something I had done hundreds of times over the years, and though it wasn't a long way to the ground and my landing resulted in no injury, the fact that it happened, and happened so fast, surprised me.

After inspecting the foot of the stand, I discovered one of the plastic end caps intended to prevent such events had fallen off, allowing the sharp metal piping to cut into the soft ground like a knife. The incident made me think of what could have happened had I been 14 feet off the ground. I also realized that had I taken the time to inspect the stand before putting it up, the whole thing probably never would have happened.

Keep in mind that all modern tree stands are made of some kind of metal and they are all subject to stress, wear and a certain degree of annual deterioration.

Take a few minutes prior to each season for a maintenance checkup. It can save a lot of grief and perhaps even your life. Also, conduct periodic inspections during the hunting season. Hanging brackets and locking systems (including cables, straps, chains and ratchets) can loosen over time, particularly after a long period of windy conditions. Ladders have been known to loosen and shift over time, too. Repair or replace any parts that are worn, broken or severely rusted.

Treestand Safety Course

HunterExam.com, HE Tools™ and TMA (The Treestand Manufacturers Association) have teamed up to provide you with a free Treestand Safety Course online. This course is based on TMA's latest treestand safety standards and guidelines. Treestand safety has evolved over the years as new research and statistics have become available. What were once considered to be 'safe' treestand safety practices ten years ago are simply not considered 'safe' today.

This is the **ONLY** online treestand safety course available that meets all TMA guidelines. The course is fully interactive, narrated and takes just 15 minutes to complete. Best of all, the course is free to anyone with an Internet connection!

Treestand Safety Guidelines

ALWAYS wear a Fall-Arrest System (FAS)/ Full Body Harness meeting TMA Standards even during ascent and descent. Be aware that single strap belts and chest harnesses are no longer the preferred Fall-Arrest devices and should not be used. Failure to use a FAS could result in serious injury or death.

ALWAYS read and understand the manufacturer's **WARNINGS & INSTRUCTIONS** before using the treestand each season. Practice with the treestand at ground level prior to using at elevated positions. Maintain the **WARNINGS & INSTRUCTIONS** for later review as needed, for instructions on usage to anyone borrowing your stand, or to pass on when selling the treestand. Use all safety devices provided with your treestand. Never exceed the weight limit specified by the manufacturer. If you have any questions after reviewing the **WARNINGS & INSTRUCTIONS**, please contact the manufacturer.

ALWAYS inspect the treestand and the Fall-Arrest System for signs of wear or damage before each use. Contact the manufacturer for replacement parts. Destroy all products that cannot be repaired by the manufacturer and/or exceed recommended expiration date, or if the manufacturer no longer exists. The FAS should be discarded and replaced after a fall has occurred.

ALWAYS practice in your Full Body Harness in the presence of a responsible adult, learning what it feels like to hang suspended in it at ground level.

ALWAYS attach your Full Body Harness in the manner and method described by the manufacturer. Failure to do so may result in suspension without the ability to recover into your treestand. Be aware of the hazards associated with Full Body Harnesses and the fact that prolonged suspension in a harness may be fatal. Have in place a plan for rescue, including the use of cell phones or signal devices that may be easily reached and used while suspended. If rescue personnel cannot be notified, you must have a plan for recover/escape. If you have to hang suspended for a period of time before help arrives, exercise your legs by pushing against the tree or doing any other form of continuous motion. Failure to recover in a timely

manner could result in serious injury or death. If you do not have the ability to recover/escape, hunt from the ground.

ALWAYS hunt with a plan and if possible a buddy. Before you leave home, let others know your exact hunting location, when you plan to return and who is with you.

ALWAYS carry emergency signal devices such as a cell phone, walkie-talkie, whistle, signal flare, PLD (personal locator device) and flashlight on your person at all times and within reach even while you are suspended in your FAS. Watch for changing weather conditions. In the event of an accident, remain calm and seek help immediately.

ALWAYS select the proper tree for use with your treestand. Select a live straight tree that fits within the size limits recommended in your treestand's instructions. Do not climb or place a treestand against a leaning tree. Never leave a treestand installed for more than two weeks since damage could result from changing weather conditions and/or from other factors not obvious with a visual inspection.

ALWAYS use a haul line to pull up your gear and unloaded firearm or bow to your treestand once you have reached your desired hunting height. Never climb with anything in your hands or on your back. Prior to descending, lower your equipment on the opposite side of the tree.

ALWAYS know your physical limitations. Don't take chances. If you start thinking about how high you are, don't go any higher. **NEVER** use homemade or permanently elevated stands or make modifications to a purchased treestand without the manufacturer's written permission. Only purchase and use treestands and Fall-Arrest Systems meeting or exceeding TMA standards. For a detailed list of certified products, contact the TMA office or refer to the TMA web site at <http://www.tmastands.com>

NEVER hurry!! While climbing with a treestand, make slow, even movements of no more than ten to twelve inches at a time. Make sure you have proper contact with the tree and/or treestand every time you move. On ladder-type treestands, maintain three points of contact with each step.



411 North Branford Road
Wallingford, CT 06492



UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 13th

December 11th

January 8th

Annual GAME DINNER

Tickets will be on sale soon.
Game and raffle prizes are needed.

January 10, 2009

*Attention New Members: A New Member Orientation
is being scheduled – look for the announcement that will identify the date.*

November Meeting Dinner

Roast Pork with Applesauce
Roasted Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Salad
Bread & Butter
Coffee
Dessert \$8.00



2008 Sporting Clays Schedule

October 26th
November 9th & 23rd
December 7th

*Trappers are needed
for all shoots!*