

April 2011

VP's Message

Michael Shewokis-Vice President

Hello all, well spring has sprung, and the weather is getting warmer. Fishing Season gets underway this month, the pond has been stocked and the fish chairman put 50 "big" fish in, so get out there and catch em.

Also, this month mowing of the Orchard and Club grounds gets underway, We will need help next month with spraying, all you bird hunters, don't complain about the cover, offer to help make it better.

I would like to take a moment to thank Bob Wolcheski, for helping set up the Sporting Clay course, and for all of the work he does around the clubhouse day in and day out, thanks Bob!

Joe Conti put on a trapper training course on March 20th, thanks to him and to all who took an interest and participated. We had our first Sporting Clay shoot on April 3, and it was a huge success, the next shoot is May 15 this, and the Sporting Clay Committee is always looking for help with trapping, safety officers, the kitchen staff can always use help during shoots, its a great way to fulfill your work hour requirements, and help out the club.

The ziti dinner to benefit the Kid's fishing derby was held on May 6, it was a great success and a great for the many attendees. Thanks to everyone who participate.

The other big events coming up are the Kid's fishing derby is on Sunday May 29 and the Club Outing on Saturday June 25th. Help is needed for all of these events.

Just a reminder, your work hours must be completed by July 31, in order to avoid an assessment. If you are unsure how many hours you have put in there is a roster of names and hours worked in a Binder Notebook in the clubhouse. Keep your articles, suggestions and questions coming I can be reached at newsletter@wallingfordrodandgunclub.org Now get out there and enjoy our beautiful club!!

DEP Offers New Opportunity for Connecticut River Anglers

Connecticut River Bonus Striped Bass Program to run from May 6 through June 30.

Free vouchers to be issued for over 4,000 striped bass

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced the establishment of the Connecticut River Bonus Striped Bass Program to allow anglers to take "bonus" fish in a size range (at least 22 inches in length but shorter than 28 inches) outside the current recreational minimum length for stripers in Connecticut (28 inches). The program takes advantage of an unused commercial quota for striped bass and will allow anglers to take an additional 4,025 striped bass (stripers) from the Connecticut River from now until June 30.

For several years, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has allocated a small commercial striped bass catch quota to Connecticut. However, this quota has gone unused as the commercial harvest of stripers is prohibited in this state. "The Connecticut River Bonus Striped Bass Program was developed to take advantage of the opportunities that the commercial quota provides," said Susan Frechette, Deputy Commissioner of DEP. "We are always looking for ways to increase and diversify fishing options for anglers, and this program provides a unique opportunity, especially for families and those living in the more urbanized areas along the river."

The new bonus striped bass program may also provide some benefits to the Connecticut River ecosystem by helping to conserve river herring (alewife and blueback herring) populations. "Since 1985, the numbers of river herring in the Connecticut River have declined drastically," said Bill Hyatt, Chief of DEP's Bureau of Natural Resources. "This program may provide some predator control as it targets a size range of striped bass that prey heavily on river herring (alewife and blueback herring) during the spring

Continued on Page 6

Member Representatives

Do you need information about the club or have a suggestion you'd like to have presented to the Executive Board? Use your membership representatives listed below. These members are elected by the membership and serve to represent you and your ideas. Feel free to contact them.

Ray Ericson: (860)283-7447
lucyericson@aol.com

Tom Chicoski (203)265-3450
tomchicoski@snet.net

Bill Bolstridge (860)349-3039
3kayaks@sbcglobal.net

Walter Fell (203)269-1940
jeanandwalt@comcast.net

Carlo Sarmiento (203)449-1991
birdhunter5981@gmail.com

OFFICERS

2010 - 2011

President

Doug Stender

Vice President

Mike Shewokis

Recording Secretary

Doug Dow

Membership Secretary

Barbara Lagerstrom

Treasurer

Ron Buchanan

Board of Directors from the Membership

Bill Bolstridge

Tom Chicoski

Ray Ericson

Walt Fell

Carlo Sarmiento

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

Nominating Committee

The Nominating committee is searching for a Membership Secretary for the upcoming club year.

Qualifications:

- 1) must have good computer skills
- 2) must be familiar with Excel and Microsoft Works
- 3) must be a Senior Member in good standing with a min. of 3 years in the club.

Benefits:

Your dues and work hours will be waived for the year.

Any member who is interested in this position, please contact Paul Uhlan - Committee Chairman. email: puhlan@snet.net
Phone: 1-203-269-6812

Sporting Clays

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Wolcheski and Mike Shewokis for helping set up the Sporting Clays Course, with their help we got the majority of the stations set up in two days. With that said, we held our first shoot on April 3, and had a great turnout, thanks to all who helped trapping and in the kitchen. Our next shoot is in May, if you need work hours, check the sign up sheet in the clubhouse, and sign up for the May or June shoot. The Sporting Clay Course is open to trap your own, you must be a certified trapper to operate the traps. The Trap your own rates are \$15/50 targets-members, \$25/50 targets-non members, just put the money in an envelope and put it Sporting Clays Box on wall. You can find the rules for Trap your own on the Web-site. Be safe and have fun.

Ed Copperthite- Chairman

One Pro- and One Anti-Gun Bill Defeated

The Connecticut Joint Committee on Judiciary took no action on two gun-related bills by the April 15 deadline. Due to the committee's lack of action, these bills were defeated for the 2011 legislative session.

Anti-gun bill, [SB 1094](#), was a bill in search of a problem, despite the recent media attention given to "large capacity" magazines, no correlation exists between the size or arbitrary capacity of a detachable magazine and violent crime. Owners of "large capacity" magazines are not criminals or individuals intent on committing atrocious acts; they are sportsmen or firearm enthusiasts who own the magazines for a variety of lawful reasons, including sport, competition or self-defense.

SB 1094 would prohibit the possession of firearm magazines that accept more than ten rounds of ammunition. If passed and signed into law, any person in possession of any magazine greater than ten rounds, who has not already surrendered the magazine prior to enactment or within ninety days after enactment, will be guilty of a class D felony.

Pro-gun and self-defense bill, [SB 1210](#) would have created a presumption under Connecticut law that it is reasonable to believe that deadly physical force is necessary to defend oneself from a person who has unlawfully entered a dwelling.

Thank you to all of those who attended the hearing and contacted members of the Judiciary Committee.

Shooting Preserve

This year the Club has voted to limit the number of Back Tags to 120 on Saturdays and 30 on Mondays. Anyone who had a Back Tag for the 2009-2010 season will have "first choice" on 2011 tags. In order to take advantage of having "first choice" a member has to have paid his/her dues, present a 2011-2012 membership card and purchase the Tag by September 30, 2011 from Al Douville, Preserve Chairman. To facilitate this "early purchase" sale of Back Tags will be scheduled for August.

Any remaining tags will be sold after September 30th to the general membership.

Al Douville, Preserve Chairman

For Sale:

2 Springer Spaniels both 8 year old females, retired field champions. They are trained to sit to flush and shot, and will retrieve to hand. Looking to place as a hunting companions as well as family pet. \$500.00 each if interested contact Ed Farachi 1-860-873-8342. He may have other dogs available also.

Submitted by Rocco Iasparra

CLUB INFO LINE



All the information
you need
when you want it

**203
265-1012**



THE CLUB

AROUND

(right) Jim Lomontra caught this huge tagged rainbow on Sunday the 17th

(below) New members Brian Mc Dermott and his daughter Jennie on Easter Sunday. Jennie, showed her dad up by catching 1 trout and 3 bass!



Pic of the Month

"Meadow" giving Jimmy instructions on the proper operation of the club tractor March 2011.





COOKS CORNER

Put the vegetables, wine, bay leaves, oregano, fennel, and cloves in a saucepan, bring to a boil, and simmer for 30 mins.

Baked Bluefish in Tomato Sauce

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 Bay leaves
- 1 rib of celery, chopped
- ½ Tsp. oregano
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- ½ Tsp. Fennel seed, crushed
- 2 cloves garlic, sliced
- 2 cloves
- 1-1/2 Cups canned tomatoes
- 3-4 Lbs. Dressed bluefish
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 10 thin lemon slices

When done, put through a sieve, being sure to use a big spoon to press the vegetable pulp through.

Butter a baking dish and lay in the fish, cover with lemon slices, and pour the tomato sauce over all.

Cover with foil and bake in a preheated 400 degree oven for 25-30 mins.

Reprinted from the LL Bean Game & Fish Cookbook by Angus Cameron and Judith Jones

Back Off

One of the most difficult scenarios a turkey hunter faces is dealing with a vocal, henned-up tom.

You know the type. He gobbles at your every call from his roost or on the ground, but he doesn't close the gap, because the hens are leading him around like he's on a leash. Understandably, he excites you with his gobbles, but he's telling your bogus hen to come to him. You can't do that, so you keep trying to change his mind, even though you know down deep he has no intention of coming to you any time soon.

My advice is to back off and let him have his fun — for the time being at least.

A few hours sometimes makes all the difference. For instance, if breeding season is well under way, chances are that any hen, or hens, the tom was with early in the morning will be visiting their nests by midday, and he may be quite lonely by then. I've had success many times in the afternoon for that very reason.

Or, while you were elsewhere, the flock may have been scattered in some other way. Perhaps the turkeys encountered a predator like a bobcat or coyote. Maybe something else upset their routine. It doesn't matter how they got separated. What's important is that you're back to take advantage of the situation when it counts.

Here's how

Here are a couple of examples of what can happen on back-off-and-come-back-later hunts.

Attention Sportsman & Dog Owners



Please join professional dog trainer and owner of Quinebaug Kennels, Jennifer Broome and Wallingford Rod and Gun Club member Rob Becher as they conduct a hunting demonstration at the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club on Sunday June 5th following the sporting clay

shoot. The seminar will run from 12:30pm to 2:00pm

The information Seminar and demonstration will showcase retrievers and pointing dogs in action, cover training tips, include audience participation and Q&A, as well as talk about canine nutrition, training gear and canine fitness

Jennifer Broome
860.546.2116

jbroome@sbcglobal.net
www.quinebaughkennels.com





Quinnipiac
2011 Friends of NRA
11th Annual Banquet



Friday, June 3rd, 2011 – 7:00 PM
Zandri's Stillwood Inn
1074 South Colony Road, Wallingford, CT

YOU ASKED FOR MORE GUNS, WE HAVE MORE GUNS

LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS, GAMES, DRAWINGS, DOOR PRIZES
NEW AND EXCITING

FIREARMS, ART, JEWELRY, SHOOTING ACCESSORIES, SPECIALTY ITEMS



Featuring the 2011 NRA Gun of the Year
Colt 1911 Cal. 45 100 Year Anniversary Commemorative
Cash Bar Open All Evening

Wallingford Rod and Gun Club Members contact Steve Szypulski at szysteve@cox.net to get your ticket and be part of a Club table.

One year, in early spring, my son, Mark, and I watched four toms follow several hens away from their roost site in a small stand of pine trees. The gobblers were plenty vocal, but they weren't about to turn around and join us. Smartly, we decided to back off for a while and look for some other turkeys that were willing to play. Failing in that endeavor, we returned to the roost site two hours later and relocated the gang with a shock call. They were on the hillside below us, a couple hundred yards away. Moving closer, we set up just in time to hear a brief gobbler fight. When the scuffle subsided, we produced some tentative box call yelps, and one of the longbeards — loser or winner, we didn't know — came to us at a beard-swinging trot. Mark was only

too happy to carry the big fellow back to our pickup. I realize luck had a lot to do with our timing that day, but with turkeys, I'll take all the help I can get.

Another time, while hunting alone, I walked around a corner and came face to beak with a quiet tom and several hens. Even though I accidentally performed a pretty fair scatter, I couldn't raise the tom again that morning, so I quit trying and looked for action elsewhere. But I didn't give up. Around 2 that afternoon, I was back again and, listening from a nearby vantage point, heard the tom open up with no prompting by me.

When that happens, it usually means Mr. Turkey is lonesome and actively looking for company. As a

result, when I got within a reasonable distance of the lonely longbeard and made a few hen yelps, he wasted no time coming to me. I'm sure he was disappointed by what he found, but I was smiling all the way home.

Back up on backing off

To confirm my thoughts about the wisdom in backing off, I talked to Preston Pittman of Mississippi-based Pittman's Game Calls. Pittman won his first calling contest at 16 and too many others to list here. He's hunted successfully in 32 states, and jokes he's as close to being a real turkey as a man can get.

"I definitely agree that toms with

Striped Bass Continued from Page 5
spawning migration.”

The Connecticut River Bonus Striped Bass Program is limited to the Connecticut River within the Inland District (from the I-95 bridge in Old Saybrook and Old Lyme northwards to the Massachusetts border). Because the unused quota limits the harvest to 4,025 stripers in 2011, a voucher system will be used to ensure that this limit isn't exceeded. Anglers will need to obtain these vouchers prior to fishing, and each voucher will allow the angler to keep one striped bass that is at least 22 inches in length but shorter than 28 inches. Vouchers can be used only during the months of May and June.

Anglers can obtain vouchers at the same DEP Offices where licenses are sold. There is no fee for the vouchers. A limit of two vouchers per day will be issued to each angler appearing in person. Anglers 16 years or older must have a valid Inland Fishing License to receive vouchers. Anglers under age 16 appearing in person will also receive two vouchers. Vouchers will also be distributed by ENCON Police during routine patrols along the river, through Riverfront Recapture Rangers (Great River Park in East Hartford and Riverside Park and Charter Oak Landing in Hartford) and via the Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program.

When a participating angler catches and keeps a striper in the proper size range, they must immediately

record the date and the length of the fish on a voucher and this voucher must remain with the fish until it is brought home. Anglers should then drop the completed voucher in the mail (vouchers are pre-addressed and include pre-paid postage). The data collected from the vouchers will provide DEP with the information necessary to ensure continuation of the program.

The 2011 Connecticut River Bonus Striped Bass Program does not affect an angler's ability to keep their regular daily limit of striped bass. Each angler participating in the program can also keep up to two striped bass a day, 28 inches or larger in total length.

For current fishing regulations anglers should consult the new 2011 Connecticut Angler's Guide which is now available at Town Clerks Offices, many DEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Anglers can purchase their fishing licenses online or at participating town halls, DEP field offices and fishing tackle vendors. Additional information on the Connecticut River Bonus Striped Bass Program, the 2011 Angler's Guide and the online licensing system can all be accessed on the DEP website at: www.ct.gov/dep/fishing.

The listing below indicates the DEP offices where fishing licenses are sold, and where Connecticut River Bonus Striped Bass vouchers will be available. EnCon Police officers and Riverfront Recapture rangers on patrol will be distribut-

ing vouchers in the field, and some CARE program volunteer instructors will also have vouchers available.

Back Off Continued from Page 4

hens can be a real pain,” Pittman said. “Once in awhile you can try something different and pull them in, but that's a long shot. Often, it's better to leave them alone for a while and let nature take its course. Have breakfast or something. Let the tom breed the hens, and wait for them to ease away from him, then slip back and start calling again. But don't be too aggressive, especially if you suspect you're dealing with an older bird. Start off slow with subtle sounds like soft yelps, a cluck or two or scratching in leaves.”

To add realism, you can't beat Pittman's new Flap and Scratch call.

I don't quit a hunt without plenty of soul searching. When I recognize the futility of a situation, I try to think ahead to what I'll do in the next round. Things are always in a state of flux in a turkey's world, and the conditions may very well change sometime in the near future. The future can be a few hours, a day or a week later. With any luck at all, the birds that don't cooperate during the initial encounter will have an attitude adjustment before you meet again. — *John Higley*

Reprinted from the National Wild Turkey Federation website www.nwtf.org.

KIDS CORNER

Gamebird of the Month Eastern Wild Turkey

(Meleagris gallopavo silvestris)



- Males are called "gobblers" and can weigh up to 25 lbs. Females are called "hens" and weigh up to 12 lbs.
- Eastern subspecies is the most abundant of the 5 subspecies
- 5 subspecies are Eastern, Osceola, Rio Grande, Merriam's and the Gould's
- Wild turkeys like open areas for feeding, mating and habitat
- Turkeys feed on insects, seeds. Berries, acorns and beechnuts
- Males "strut" in the spring to attract hens, and ward off lesser males.

Member Services



Tri-Tronics
Electronic Dog Training Equipment
Member Discounts courtesy of John DeSandre
<http://tritronics.com>

AFFORDABLE HANDYMAN
OF CONNECTICUT, LLC
LICENSED & INSURED

LARRY BREWER
(203) 878-3323
CELL (203) 314-9269
JUST ONE CALL NO JOB TOO SMALL

Jason G. DeGenaro

Attorney at Law

(203) 874-7110

jdegenaro@jacobicase.com



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

"Collision Specialists & Full Auto Service"

FISHBEIN LAW FIRM, LLC
In Wallingford since 1966, the Fishbein Law Firm is a general civil practice law firm concentrating in:

- Auto Accidents
- Estate Planning
- Evictions / Ejectments
- Family Law / Divorce
- Firearm Matters
- General Civil Litigation
- Personal Injuries
- Premises Liability
- Probate
- Real Estate
- Wills / Trusts
- Zoning / Land Use

100 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492
Phone: 203-265-2895 Fax: 203-294-1396
CRAIG C. FISHBEIN NORMAN F. FISHBEIN

EAST COAST MECHANICAL, INC.
HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS
RESIDENTIAL & LIGHT COMMERCIAL

"Attention to Detail Since 1994"

Norman Wium
30+ Years Experience
CT License HFG 5-1 303257

1187 Highland Ave
Cheshire, CT 06410
Phone: 203-272-6676
Fax: 203-272-4329
www.CallEastCoast.com

AMAZING PERFORMANCE FLYRODS
incredible value at affordable prices

Mill River Fly Rods
203.815.2414 · MillRiverFlyrods.net
Email us at backcast@millriverflyrods.net

STANLEY ROGALSKI
203-641-0841
Hamden, CT

Licensed and Insured
Ct. license HIC 0625758
stan_services@comcast.net

STAN'S HANDYMAN SERVICES
If you need it fixed or installed - call Stan
reasonable rates -10% senior discount

Michael Haglund 860-759-2432

Wildwood Lawn Care

CT Lic. # 606458 www.WildwoodLawnCare.com
Creating and Maintaining Beautiful Landscapes



411 North Branford Road
Wallingford, CT 06492



Reminders:

- *Membership meeting May 12, 2011-Dinner at 6:00pm*
- *Sporting Clay Shoot May 15, 2011-rain date May 22, 2011*
- *Kid's Fishing Derby May 29, 2011*
- *Sporting Clay Shoot-June 5, 2011-Jennifer Broome will give a sporting dog demo after the shoot.*
- *Membership meeting June 9, 2011-Election of Club officers*
- *Club Outing Sat. June 25, 2011*