

February 2010

VP's Message

Michael Shewokis-Vice President

Hello all, as I write this message, Spring is a mere 35 days away, and the sun is getting higher in the sky and setting later in the evening. There are a few outdoor sporting activities to be had. Rabbit season runs thru the end of February, and there is nothing better than chasing rabbits on snow with the warm sun at your back. The Orchard and Club grounds are great places to run your dogs this time of year. So, get out and shake off the cabin fever. Ice fishing on the Club pond is all but over unless we get some real cold weather, right now the ice is not safe, and the pond is closed.

Let me take a few moments to recognize members for their service to the Club.

First, Warren Gatcomb, for his tireless efforts to split the wood in front of the A-frame, Warren is a crazy man with a splitting maul. In addition, he and a few others cleaned up the Christmas Tree Plantation, cutting and chipping the larger overgrown trees, in order to make room for new trees coming this spring. Well done Warren et al. Second, in case you haven't heard, the Club paid off the mortgage on the Orchard Property in full last month. I would like to thank John Ciaglo (Treasurer) for his hard work and analysis, and Jack Krasko for his efforts to meet with Mr. Young, and chasing paperwork all over town to get this deal done- Good Job!!!

In this issue of the newsletter you will find the first installment in a series dealing with the history of the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club, there will be subsequent installments forthcoming leading up to the 75th anniversary celebration in June. Mike Falcigno has graciously offered to undertake this effort, while I'm on the subject, Mike is still looking for help with the Anniversary Committee those interested should see Mike, it's a great way to get your work hours completed.

I have received a few articles and suggestions for the newsletter from the membership, keep them coming send pics/articles comments and/or suggestions to me at newsletter@wallingfordrodandgunclub.org.

That's all I have for now.

A Brief History of The Wallingford Rod and Gun Club Part 1

By Mike Falcigno

The Club was first organized in 1918 to work as a local unit with the State Fish & Game Department. It helped protect landowners, farmers, streams and woodlands by regulating, posting and enforcing laws governing such lands.

After a few years of struggle it was disbanded in 1932, but was reorganized on October 3, 1935.

In the early years Wooding's Pond located on the corner of Parker Farms Road and the Old Hartford Turnpike was bought for \$1500.00. The Club stocked fish and intended to build a club house on the site, lumber and materials were taken there in the early 1940's but was stolen. Consequently, no clubhouse was built.

The pond and nine acres were sold around 1954 for \$10,000.00.

The Club then used Powers Pond on Woodhouse Avenue to stock fish.

The land currently belonging to the WRGC was bought in 1949. It was deeded for approximately 100 acres.

From 1935, the club struggled. It had no place of it's own at which to meet, holding meetings in the Moose Hall, Elks, St. Pierre Social Club, or any other place it could beg borrow or whatever. The Club was incorporated in 1939.

The membership was small and meetings were not well attended. At times it had to cancel the meetings because of lack of a quorum.

In 1956, after Wooding's Pond was sold, it was decided to try and build a pond on the Club property.

Continued on Page 3

Archery Report

The range is open all winter for those who wish to use it. Members can bring guests, just sign them in, in the Activity Book. We will be having a spring clean up work party when the weather warms up, probably in early April. Remember, please cover the targets when you are done shooting. Thanks and be safe.

Paul Inserra- Chairman



OFFICERS

2009 - 2010

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Doug Stender

Vice President

Mike Shewokis

Recording Secretary

Doug Dow

Membership Secretary

Barbara Lagerstrom

Treasurer

John Ciaglo

Board of Directors from the Membership

Bill Bolstridge

Tom Chicoski

Ray Ericson

Walt Fell

John Stevens

Contact information for Club Officers and Committee Chairmen is posted in the Club and on the Club website:

www.wallingfordrodandgunclub.org

Fish Report

The Game Dinner to Benefit the Children's Fishing Derby will be held on February 27th starting at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are sold out but we still need raffle prizes.

The fishing derby was won by Buddy Niezgorski with a winning 14.5 inch brown. Buddy donated his prize back to the raffle for the Children's Fishing Derby, Thanks Buddy!

The next fish stocking will be the first week of April. A new fish raffle will be held.

We are having a Ziti Dinner in May for the Children's Fishing Derby.

John Stevens- Chairman

Land/Orchard Report

The Orchard still has a little cover left for those who want to do some dog training. Please remember, when the frost starts coming out, the ground gets soft, do not drive your vehicles on the mowed paths or thru the Orchard if the ground is not frozen. In the Spring We will be mowing and spraying (the Club grounds and the Orchard) to control invasive and non-desirable vegetation.

The mowing will take place as soon as the snow is gone and the ground is dry enough to support the equipment. The spraying generally happens just as the vegetation starts to emerge (mid-late May). We will be looking for help to complete this work, if you are interested, contact - Jim Shadish or Brian Malloy.

Trap Report

Due to the lack of attendance, we have suspended Wednesday Evening trapshooting until the weather warms up. We are still open on Sunday mornings from 9:00am-12:00pm. Members pay \$2.50/round Non-members pay \$3.50/round. Of course you can bring a hand thrower and shoot trap anytime, just sign in the activity book in the clubhouse. Please remember to pick up your empty hulls and other trash.

Humor

The guys were all at Deer Camp:

No one wanted to room with Bob, because he snored so badly. They decided it wasn't fair to make one of them stay with him the whole time, so they voted to take turns.

The first guy slept with Bob and comes to breakfast the next morning with his hair a mess and his eyes all bloodshot. They said, "Man, what happened to you?" He said, "Bob snored so loudly, I just sat up and watched him all night."

The next night was a different guy's turn. In the morning, same thing—hair all standing up, eyes all bloodshot. They said, "Man, what happened to you? You look awful!" He said, "Man, that Bob shakes the roof with his snoring.. I watched him all night."

The third night was Joe's turn... Joe was a tanned, older cowboy; a man's man. The next morning he came to breakfast bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. "Good morning!" he said. They couldn't believe it. They said, "Man, what happened?" He said, "Well, we got ready for bed. I went and tucked Bob into bed, patted him on the butt, and kissed him good night.."

Bob sat up and watched Me all night."

Continued from Page 1

After much work by a few members, the pond was built in 1957 for about \$5000.00. This was stocked and the Club enjoyed good fishing for the first time in many years.

Interest started to grow, membership increased and the Club began to look to better and bigger things.

A Quonset hut was bought and moved to the Club property. Plans began to be made to build a more permanent building.

The trap field which was cleared during the building of the pond was improved.

Finally, in March 1962, the building committee for the present Clubhouse was named. It was built for the most part by the students of Wilcox Technical School in Meriden. It was completed in 1963, with a mortgage of \$16,000.00.

A house trailer was bought and placed near the clubhouse. An A-Frame house has now replaced the trailer. This is home for the Club Steward. He keeps a watch on all Club property at all times.

There are plans being made to enlarge the clubhouse and other improvements on the property to go along with the trap field, .22cal range and Archery course.

On October 14, 1989, the WRGC purchased Young's Apple Orchard for \$500,000.00. The Club also did a pond restoration project at a cost of \$150,000.00.

In September of 1990. the Club

fell on hard times and the Club's membership dropped from 400 senior members to 150 senior members. The waiting list dropped from 200 to no waiting list. Dues increased from \$35.00/year to \$375.00/year to pay the mortgage on the Newly purchased Orchard.

By 1994, the Club formed a finance committee to figure out a creative way of paying the mortgage and the pond restoration project by moving different club funds into the General Fund and a volunteer \$500 bond that paid 5% to the participating members to help pay off the pond project.

In June 1996, the Club increased the 25 yard rifle range to 75 yards with soil from the bottom of the pond.

Sporting Clays started to be popular in Connecticut. The Club hired Quack Sporting Clay, Inc. of Rhode Island. After the first sporting clay shoot the Club realized a profit from this shooting activity. The Club hired Quack for 2 more shoots. In the Spring of 1995, the Club purchased 9 sporting clay manual trap machines and built a 7 station sporting clay course. Today we have a 12 station sporting clay course, 15 manual traps and 5 Promatic automatic traps.

By September of 2005 the Club was still having a hard time attracting new members, the initiation fee was \$200 and membership dues were \$375 totaling \$575. So, the Club dropped the initiation fee and the membership started to grow.

In September 2007, the WRGC

membership had grown to 350 senior members and a waiting list. The Club finances were in great shape. The Club erected a 40'x60' steel structure, purchased a John Deere tractor and a John Deere gator, paying for them in cash.

In February, 2010 the Club paid off the remainder of the mortgage on the Orchard.

Well done to all who have worked so hard in the past and the best to the present and future.

Wallingford Rod and Gun Club Charter Members List

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Gerald Bamptom</i> | <i>Walter Jacek</i> |
| <i>Raymond Mosley</i> | <i>Henry Bampton</i> |
| <i>Phillip Jubinville</i> | <i>John Newton</i> |
| <i>George Caswell</i> | <i>Roger Keddy</i> |
| <i>John Pelotzky</i> | <i>Stanley Combs</i> |
| <i>John Kundoff</i> | <i>Ross Rhodes</i> |
| <i>Frederick Cook</i> | <i>John Lacy</i> |
| <i>Raymond Rhodes</i> | <i>Joseph Dubois</i> |
| <i>Andrew Lenart</i> | <i>Sil Sala</i> |
| <i>Joseph Francis</i> | <i>Edward Layman</i> |
| <i>Andrew Saltz</i> | <i>Theodore Fritz</i> |
| <i>Charles Louckes</i> | <i>Louis Schomburg</i> |
| <i>John Gallagher</i> | <i>Joseph L'Heureux</i> |
| <i>Walter Sheehy</i> | <i>Amity Germain</i> |
| <i>Marcel Lufberry</i> | <i>Carlton Smith</i> |
| <i>Edmund Grana</i> | <i>John McGuire</i> |
| <i>Robert Stevens</i> | <i>Ernest Hall</i> |
| <i>Francis McLaughlin</i> | <i>Albert St. Onge</i> |
| <i>John Hintz</i> | <i>Samuel Mellor Sr.</i> |
| <i>Robert Valentine</i> | <i>Frank Hoffman</i> |
| <i>Samuel Mellor Jr.</i> | <i>Benjamin Zemke</i> |
| <i>Stephen Hopkins</i> | <i>Joseph Merchant</i> |

FAQ

Q: What sort of “social activities” for members and/or families are held at the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club?

A: There are many social activities that go on at the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club.

Examples:

-Membership meetings 2nd Thursday of each month from Sept.-June, a meal is served, the bar is open. Dinner starts at 6:00pm meetings at 7:30pm

-Friday nights the bar is open from 6:00pm-11:00pm, and there is usually a card game going on.

-There are various fund raising dinners/Game dinners etc. that take place during the Club year (see website or newsletter for upcoming events)

-There is a kid’s fishing derby in May, which is fun for the entire family.

-We hold an annual picnic, this year the club in celebrating 75 years with a picnic on June 27, 2010.

Q: What are Member Representatives?

A: 5 senior members (elected by the membership) who represent the members and report to the Executive Board. If you have a problem or a question for the E-Board, contact one of the Reps, and they will bring it up at the next E-Board meeting.

The website and newsletter are great sources of info on upcoming events.

Congratulations



Doug Dow and his Portuguese Pointer “Evita” took 1st place in a Chukar challenge on Long Island in January 2010. Well Done!!

COOKS CORNER



Pheasant Casserole

1 c. any small pasta
½ c. chopped parsley
2 tbsp. oil
½ c. cubed pheasant
½ c. diced onion
2 garlic cloves (chopped)
1 c. shredded mozzarella cheese
1tbsp. unsalted butter cut into pieces, plus more for buttering baking dish

¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. ground black pepper
¼ c. bread crumbs
¼ cup grated parmesan cheese
1 can 14.5 oz diced tomatoes, with juice

Preheat oven to 400.

Bring a medium pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add pasta and cook until just tender, about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Drain pasta and transfer to large mixing bowl.

Heat the olive oil in a medium pan over medium heat. Add the pheasant and cook for 3 minutes. Add the onion and garlic, stirring to combine, and cook until the onion is soft and pheasant is cooked thoroughly. Add the pheasant mixture to the bowl with the pasta, then add the canned tomatoes and their juice, mozzarella cheese, parsley, salt, and pepper. Stir to combine.

Butter an 8x8x2 baking dish and spread the pasta in the dish. In a small bowl, mix together the bread crumbs and the parmesan cheese. Sprinkle over the top of the pasta. Dot the top with small bits of butter. Bake until the top is golden brown, about 30 minutes.

Serves 4

Venison or Pheasant Stew

3 stalks celery (diced)
½ c. chopped onion
2 gloves garlic (chopped)
1 tbsp. parsley
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
2 lbs stew meat

Salt, Pepper, Oregano (to taste)
1 c. tomato sauce
½ c. dry wine (red for venison, white for pheasant)
½ c. water
1 lg. potato (cubed)
3 carrots chopped

Place celery, onion, garlic, parsley, potato, carrot in slow cooker. Heat oil in skillet. Brown meat and add to slow cooker. Season with remaining ingredients. Pour in tomato sauce, wine and water. Cook on low for 7 hours.

Serves 6

Got a favorite recipe you’d like to share?

Send it to

newsletter@wallingfordrodandgunclub.org

UKC TAN & FIELD TRIAL

SPONSORED BY



PORTUGUESE POINTER CLUB OF AMERICA

MARCH 28, 2010

WALLINGFORD ROD & GUN CLUB
411 NORTH BRANFORD RD
WALLINGFORD, CT

STARTING PROMPTLY AT 8:00 A.M.

ENTRIES CLOSE ON MARCH 24, 2010

ALL DOGS MUST BE UKC REGISTERED

JUDGE.....SUSAN O'DONNELL

| | |
|---|----------------|
| TEST OF NATURAL ABILITY | \$40.00 |
| FIELD TRIAL (GUNDOG CLASS ONLY) | \$45.00 |
| FIELD TRIAL COMBO (GUNDOG CLASS & TAN) | \$65.00 |

REQUIREMENTS FOR TITLE DESIGNATION:

TAN: DOG MUST NOT BE GUN SHY, MUST POINT AT LEAST ONE BIRD, AND BE LESS THAN THREE YEARS OLD. ONE QUALIFICATION REQUIRED TO EARN TAN TITLE.

FIELD TRIAL: NOT GUN SHY, MUST HOLD POINT UNTIL BIRD IS FLUSHED AND RETRIEVE TO WITHIN A REASONABLE DISTANCE OF HANDLER (JUDGES DECISION FINAL).

THREE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO EARN HUNT TITLE

FIRST PLACE & RESERVE DOGS MUST BE STEADY TO GUN AS WELL AS ABOVE REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: DOG(S) MAY PASS TAN AND FAIL HUNT TEST IF ENTERED IN COMBO EVENT.

ADDITIONALLY:

ALL FIELD TRIAL HANDLERS MUST WEAR BLAZE ORANGE HAT

EVENT GUNNERS WILL DO ALL SHOOTING OF LIVE AMMO

NO WATER ON PREMISES-BRING LOTS OF WATER FOR YOUR DOG

ALL DOGS RUN SOLO

CONTACT: DOUG OR BABETTE DOW AT 203.298.9555 dbdow@optonline.net



HFFA FLY FISHING & TYING EXPO

MARCH 27, 2010

TIME 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

*****ADMISSION IS FREE*****

WALLINGFORD ROD & GUN CLUB

411 N. Branford Rd., Wallingford, CT.

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**Presentation by Jim Plante “Nymphing Clinic Overview”
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For more info call Paul Dinice at 203 305-3850 or email at pdinice@snet.net .

Bring your old gear to sell and swap !

VENDORS, GUIDES & OTHER FLY FISHING CLUBS

Tree of the Month Witch Hazel

Hamamelis virginiana

- The term Witch has its origins in Old English (wice)- meaning bendable
- The term Hazel is derived from the use of the twigs as divining rods (used to locate ground water)
- The bark and leaves are an Astringent which means it has chemical properties which tend to shrink or constrict body tissue
- Witch hazel is used in the production of after shave lotion, as well as for lotions which treat bruises and insect bites.
- The Seeds contain a quantity of oil and are edible.
- Witch hazel is also used in the treatment of acne.



Member Services



Electronic Dog Training Equipment
Member Discounts courtesy of John DeSandre
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Jason G. DeGenaro
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(203) 874-7110
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Reminders:

- March 7, 2010 -12:00pm New member orientation at clubhouse.
It's mandatory for all new members.
- March 27, 2010-Housatonic Fly Fishing Assoc. Expo-WRGC clubhouse.
- March 28, 2010-Hunt Test in the Orchard starts at 8:00am.
- April 11, 2010-Sporting Clay Shoot rain date April 18.
- May 2, 2010-Sporting Clay Shoot rain date May 16.
- May 7, 2010-Ziti dinner to benefit kid's fishing derby.
- May 23, 2010- Kid's Fishing Derby (rain date May 30)
- June 27, 2010-1:00pm-5:00pm-75th Anniversary picnic.

*Trappers are
needed for all
shoots!*