

October 2009

VP's Message

Michael Shewokis - Vice President

Well it's that time of year again, the air is crisp and the fall colors are nearing their peak, this is the most wonderful time of the year! First, let me take a moment to thank those who helped renovate the A-Frame this past summer. Bill Bolstridge and Dave Bradanini for patching and repainting the interior, and Lionel Gurand and Brian O'keefe for replacing the windows and doors. Well done, I know Gene appreciates it. Also, a note of thanks to Junior D'adio and Mark Hacku and all who helped with the fall outing.

By the time you read this message bird season will have begun, remember if you wish to hunt club(s) stocked properties you must purchase a back tag, see Al Douville. Season permits for Tyler's Mill are available to all WRGC members see Mike Falcigno. A lottery will be held at the November membership meeting for permits to hunt deer on the club property and the orchard. We have a few sporting clay shoots coming up, and Ed Copperthite is looking for trappers, it's a great way to fulfill your work hour requirements.

Lastly, it has come to my attention that Vincent Zelinski is being deployed on October 25, 2009, and will be shipping out to Iraq in early January 2010. On behalf of the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club I would like to wish Vinnie Godspeed and let him know that our thoughts and prayers go with him. With Veterans Day just around the corner perhaps it is proper to remember all veterans who have served and the service men and women who are in harms way, and the sacrifices they make to keep us safe. Thank you.

The Deer Stand

*By T.R Michels author of
The Complete Whitetail Addict's Manual*

When I look back over the years I realize that I've spent more time sitting in my stand being cold wet and miserable, than I have been warm, dry and comfortable. I've also spent more time in a stand without seeing a deer, than I have seeing deer. As a result of

my reflections I've come to the conclusion that going to a deer stand is often not comfortable, and it is not about killing or even seeing a deer. So, what is a deer stand? And what is it all about?

Sometimes a deer stand is a wooden platform placed strategically in a tree near a deer trail or "high use" area in deer habitat. Often it is a cumbersome, somewhat portable, metal contraption hung from a tree, designed to make deer hunters feel somewhat comfortable for long hours in all kinds of weather; more often than not cold, windy, drizzly, snowy, miserable weather. A deer stand is someplace where the hunter hangs not only his stand, but also his hopes. Hopes of seeing a deer; hopes of seeing a buck, a big buck, one that might make the record book. Hopes of getting a chance in the clear and close enough. Hopes of a good shot and a clean kill. A deer stand is that and more. It is also a place where men, women and children go to get away from the office, the tedium, and the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It is a place for a short vacation; a place to rest in solitude, to enjoy nature, to commune with the other creatures of earth; a place to renew the spirit and soul; a place to forget what lies behind and remember what hopefully lies ahead.

I've spent more hours than I care to count on a deer stand in good and bad weather. The times in bad weather never leave my mind. Like the time I sat in a pouring rain, hoping it would let up so the big ten point buck I had been watching would appear. Or the time I went to my stand after a heavy snowfall and the temperature plummeted. I stayed at my stand, hoping a deer would come out for a quick bite to eat while trees crashed to the ground around me with the weight of the frozen snow. I finally had sense enough to get out of the woods before a tree fell on me.

The times in good weather are sometimes forgotten, because of my interest in seeing a deer before it sees me. But, even when I haven't seen a deer, there are days I remember well, because I've had company. When I sit in my stand there are often scolding Blue Jays nearby, occasional Robins, Chickadees calling out their own name, and Downy or Hairy Woodpeckers calling *peek* as they search through the branches for a

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Wildlife and Habitat Report

All fields are in good to excellent shape. The area behind the Trap field has been cleared out regraded and seeded thanks to the hard work of Junior D'adio, Doug Stender and Ed Copperthite. It will be good cover for bird hunting next season. There is a new trail cut into Malchodi's property, it starts at the parking area and follows along our property line and gets you into malchodis' fields. This also allows groups to stock field #4, so you can split up the area better for safer hunting. Please be considerate of land owners and pick up your spent hulls and trash. Safe Hunting!

Walt Fell-Chairman

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2009 - 2010

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Bill Bolstridge

Tom Chickowski

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

Sporting Clays Report

Report for Ducks Unlimited Shoot held on Oct. 11, 2009 at Wallingford Rod and Gun Club. We had 31 participants the Club had a profit of \$885.00 after all expenses and fees. Most of the shooters remarked at how nice the course was and would definitely return to shoot should we schedule another DU and/or NSCA registered event in the spring. Thanks to all who helped out with this event, we couldn't have done it without the support of the membership. The results are as follows:

HOA-Dean DiGuido	88
RU- Ted Knapp	AA 84

AA1-Ed Davies	A 77
JR1-Charlie Ehrentat	E 75
AA2-Ed Copperthite	D 75

A1-Tom Zambrano	C 73
A2-George Bartlett	C 72

B1-Glen Karcheski	B 68
B2-Jeremy Bucton	66

C1-Lawrence Davis	61
C2-Bob Blake	60

D1-Sherry Konrad	47
D2-Rick Lindel	46

Joe Conte

Orchard Committee Report

The stocking paths have been mowed as well as several other paths throughout the Orchard. With the rain this past spring and summer, we have some great pheasant and woodcock cover. It should provide for some excellent hunting. - Jim Shadish

Game Dinner to Support the Bird and Fish Fund will be held on Jan. 9, 2010. Tickets will be \$30/each and may be for sale as early as opening day of bird season. We need donations of game and fish, see Ernie Trowbridge.

Trap Report

We were all saddened by the loss of a friend last week. Although not a member of the Wallingford Rod and Gun Club, James Ingraham spent nearly every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening for the past 25 or so years at the Trap field, helping with the operation or giving a newbie a lesson in Trap Shooting. James had a lot to offer aspiring Trap Shooters. James passed away unexpectedly at his home on October 1, 2009. He leaves behind two daughters which he adored. Our thoughts and prayers are with James' family.

Shooting Preserve Report

This year we are going to be hunting on just four properties, therefore we are switching to 3-2hr sessions on Saturdays. The hunting hours are as follows: 8am-10am, 11am-1pm, and 2pm-4pm, check the schedule at the club house or the website to determine where each color group will be hunting and what time slot. There will be no Monday afternoon group this year, mainly due to lack of interest last year. Al Douville will be around on weekends for back tag purchases.

Range Report

The Target frames have been rebuilt, thanks to all that helped. Rifle range hours will change with the start of hunting season. The Range hours will be as follows:

Closed for all Sporting Clay Events (usually til 1pm)

Open Wednesdays and Fridays
Noon-1/2 hr. before sunset

Open Sundays 9am-1/2 hr. before sunset.

Normal range hours will resume following hunting season.

Member Reps

Elections were held at the October membership meeting for member representatives to the Executive Board, the five new member Reps are as follows:

Bill Bolstridge
Tom Chickowski
Ray Ericson
Walt Fell
John Stevens

Congratulations to all the winners!

Bird Committee Report

As of Oct. 8, 2009, we have not heard anything from the State of Connecticut regarding stocking at Tyler's Mill. We anticipate stocking 40 or so birds on Tyler's Mill for opening day. We will be receiving 400 pheasants on Oct. 13, 2009 and anticipate putting 12-13 birds per crate for opening day. Currently we are readying the bird pens, feeders and crates for the upcoming season. -

Rich Meydag Bird Chairman

The Deer Stand

Continued from Page 1

meal. If I'm in the right area a Ruffed or Spruce Grouse may walk by. A Cardinal or a Song Sparrow often let me know when its morning. There are furry creatures too. I've had Raccoons hustle across the deer trail, looking like large balls of moving fur; and rabbits often stop and feed in the shadows. I've often been kept company and fooled into thinking a deer was on the trail by the rustling of leaves as a red, gray or fox squirrel or coyote searched for food on the forest floor. After an initial inspection the squirrels usually go about their business, or sit in the crook of a tree, their tail curled over their back like a parasol, while they munch on some tidbit held in their tiny paws.

From my latest stand I can hear the hunting cry of a Red-tailed Hawk as it soars over the hayfield as it searches for mice. The crows that *caw* most of the day have often kept me from using this stand because they claim the tree as their own, and loudly protest my presence, alerting every animal within hearing that an intruder is in their woods. In the morning I can hear the lazy *quack* of a hen mallard, and the deeper *raeb - raeb - raeb* of the drake mallard on the nearby lake. Over all the other sounds I hear the *herr onk-onk ... herr onk-onk* of five hundred geese as they land in the lake and nearby cornfields.

At other times I sit alone on my stand, just watching as the sky changes from purple to violet to pink. Then the great, glorious, orange ball of the sun peaks over the horizon, spreading it's light slowly over the shadow covered fields and hillsides. The grass and goldenrods in the meadow below me glisten with dew or frost and, for a while, everything has a silvery shine from the reflection of the sun. Daylight creeps across the land and the birds begin to wake, making their soft, early morning sounds. The wind picks up and I listen to it sighing as it blows through the leaves of the hardwood trees. If I happen to be in an area with pine trees the wind has a different sound, more distant, more remote; bringing with it the inner peace and stillness of the wilderness.

These sights and sounds may be the reasons deer hunters sit on a stand waiting for a deer. Some hunters may not want to admit it, but the call of the wild, the peace, the solitude; becoming one with nature, regaining primitive instincts often lost or forgotten, is what really makes them get up at what otherwise normal human beings consider ungodly hours. It is not the lust to kill; some bloodthirsty passion that drives us. It is some inner need reaching out, desiring to be expressed. The need to spend time experiencing nature and all the glorious sights, sounds and smells that God, in his wisdom, gave to the woods, the wind, the sun and the animals.

A deer stand is not just some piece of metal or wood or camouflage, where a hunter waits to kill a deer. A deer stand is sun and wind, sleet and snow, rain and cold, birds and animals, trees and grass and leaves. It is sights and sounds and smells. It is now, often was in the past, and hopefully will be in the future. A deer stand is hopes, dreams and memories. A deer stand is not just a place or a thing: it is an experience.



Chukar Challenge Report:

The Chukar Challenge was held on Sunday Oct. 11, in the Orchard, results as follows:

Pointing Dog: 9 dogs entered

First Place-Siena (Spinone) Owned by Lauren Friedman & Chris Sweetwood

Second Place-Daphie (Braque du Bourbonnais) Owned by Walt Fell

Novice Class (2 yrs. Old and under) 4 dogs entered

First Place-Evita (Portuguese Pointer) Owned by Doug & Babette Dow

Second Place-Bailey (German Shorthair Pointer) Owned by Vinnie Palma

Flushing Dog : 4 dogs entered

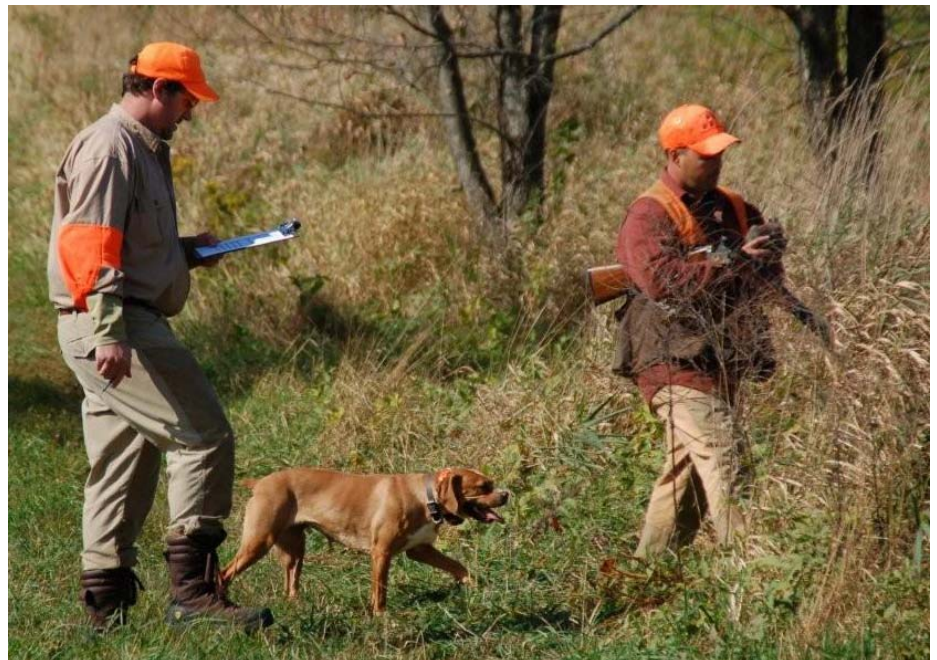
First Place-Ruby (Labrador Retriever) Owned by Lyell Williams

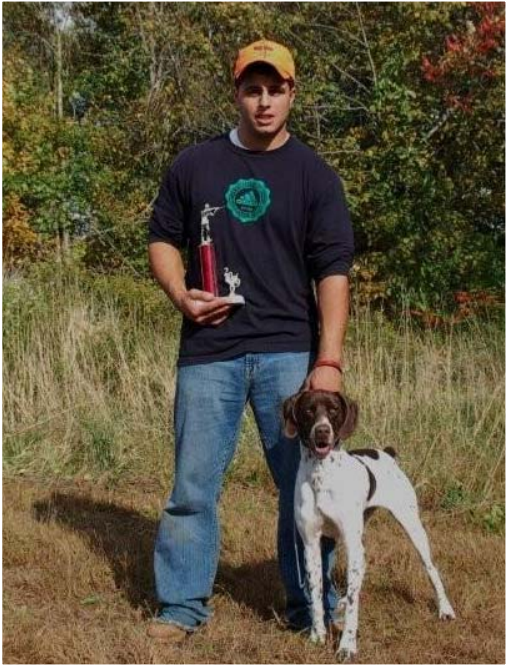
Second Place-Riley (Springer Spaniel) Owned by Paul Cristolo

Judges for the event: Sal Sandillo and Bill Bolstridge; Bird Handlers: Marc Bachman , Drew Lesnieski, John Camara and John Camara Jr.

I would like to thank all who came out and supported this event, I would also like to thank the judges and bird handlers for their hard work and patients. A special note of thanks to Doug Dow who organized the event and did all the paperwork.

Mike Shewokis





October 11, 2009



Chukar Challenge

U.K.C. Hunt Test Report

The Hunt Test was held on Sunday Oct. 4, in the Orchard, results as follows:

Field Trial (Gun Dog)

High in Trial-Brittany-Zita, owned by Danny Cordero
Reserve-German Shorthair Pointer-Doc, owned by Joe & Linda Mscisz
Pass-Brittany-Roscoe, owned by Danny Cordero
Pass-Portuguese Pointer-Vera, owned by Doug & Babette Dow



Test of Natural Ability

No entrants qualified

Judges for the event: Chris Sweetwood & Lauren Friedman
Gunners/Bird Handlers: Michael Shewokis & Bill Bolstridge

This Event was sponsored by the Portuguese Pointers Club of America.
Thanks to all who participated.



Here's a couple of piggies that didn't quite make it to market!



KIDS CORNER

Tree of the Month Red Oak

Quercus rubra



- ✕ One of the fastest growing of the Oaks
- ✕ Historically used for Lumber, furniture and firewood.
- ✕ Still used for Lumber and firewood, but are managed for High (Veneer) quality logs
- ✕ Red Oak is found throughout the eastern US except for the south Atlantic and Gulf Coast Plains
- ✕ Leaves turn dark red to brown in the fall and remain on tree well into late fall and winter
- ✕ Did you know that Oaks produce acorns which provide an important food source for Wild Turkeys, Ruffed Grouse, Deer, Bears and squirrels.

What do you know about Bows?

I R P I F D C S B R N A E O Q L L A S L
 X S M J L N G N I P E V N L M H N P T U
 D X X Z E U U O F P R S Q G R M D H R E
 L D B Y T O A Y G U W Q I R F Z I H I L
 I G Q H C P H G C L U I L R X H A O N P
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 G W K X I O R M C B M Z H D Z A Q B R B
 P M W K N C Z W D Q O I Z U O D U A R S
 Q Y L Q G I A C E J J L L M O W Y L L B
 F N P W B M I L R E P P U R M N C F H O
 P I H L H W B G J A L P N S E R J Y D T
 Q H E E T A L P C B R Z J B E W N H Z Z
 K L T L C T S E R V I N G S C O O O N N
 X O H V D L N O V R K L T F A H S L C R
 I N G D O P A W J M L T P O D C K M U K
 R G I B F D O M N D H J Q Q T T N Z A T
 P Q S Y H E Y I C H E T K N K S T G B C
 E N J E J X I C N Z B K J P A F R H B J
 L B A R R O W T M T N P B H L I K K D L
 U D Z G P E Q D W V R J C O P O R T D E

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 LONG
 PIN
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BROADHEAD
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 newsletter and on our web site.
 Contact Tom our webmaster.



411 North Branford Road
Wallingford, CT 06492



2009 Sporting Clays Schedule

October 25th

November 8th

November 22nd

December 6th

*Trappers are needed for
all shoots.*

NOTES TO REMEMBER

- Next Monthly Meeting is November 12th - Dinner at 6pm- Meeting at 7:30pm
- Suggestions, comments, pictures and articles for the newsletter are greatly appreciated. Send them to newsletter@wallingfordrodandgunclub.org.
- If you are not getting your newsletter via email, you should be. Please update your email address with Barbara.
- Pheasant Hunt schedules are posted on the website and in the club house.
- The new year for work hours began on August 1, 2009, members must complete their work hours by July 31, 2010 in order to avoid being assessed for work hours. Sporting Clay trapping is an excellent way to earn your hours.