



ROD & GUN GAZETTE

VOLUME 10: ISSUE 3

MARCH 2009



*President Donald A. Bajger.
Governor Jodi Rell.*

**THE GOV'
MEETS
THE
PREZ'!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

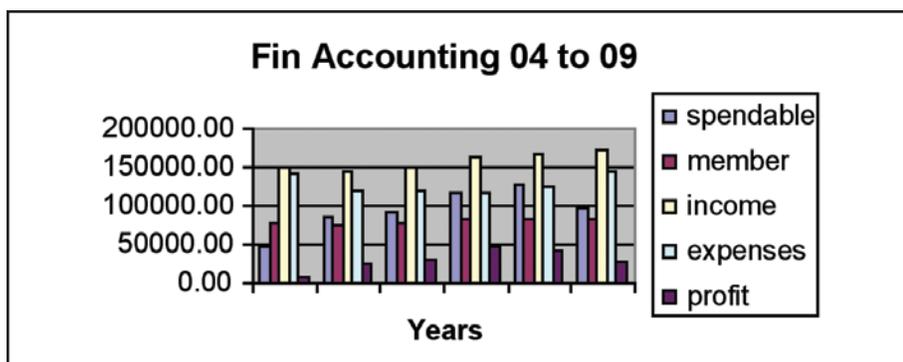
- March 22** Field Trials @
Mansfield Hollow
- 28** Connecticut Trappers
Fur Auction
-
- April 3** Fish Fry
- 4** Pheasant Pen Preparation
Work Day
- 10** Fish Fry
- 14** Monthly Membership
Meeting
- 18** Noreasters Chicken
BBQ Dinner
- 19** Fly Fishing Clinic
- 25** Pheasant Pen Preparation
Work Day
-
- May 2** Fly Fishing Derby
- 3** Kids Fishing Derby
- 12** Monthly Membership
Meeting
- 17** Sporting Clays
-
- June 5 – 7** Registered Skeet Shoot
- 9** Monthly Membership
Meeting
- 14** Sporting Clays
- 28** Ducks Unlimited
Sporting Clays Shoot
-
- July 12** Registered Skeet Shoot
- 19** Sporting Clays
-
- Aug 14** Registered Skeet Shoot
- 16** Family Picnic
- 23** Sporting Clays
-

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Hoagland, Treasurer

Here we go again, another newsletter. I have summarized our accounts in the Figure accompanying this article. It provides the reader with an opportunity to view how funds in five different categories have changed over the time period between 2003/04 to 2008/09. As we would expect, our income has increased over the years but our expenses have also increased. For 2008/09 we spent more money than in previous years and this is why our spendable and profit categories are lower for this year relative to others. I hope it is obvious to the membership that we are spending money for important maintenance activities. We have purchased new bar stools, a new cooler, new siding in the bar, and new doors and paint on some of the skeet houses. We all owe the guys that have done these renovations a big thank you.

There are several dinners that are scheduled in the next month or so. Please come enjoy the camaraderie and support these events. The money we make from these activities will be used in our continued efforts to maintain and enhance our club and its grounds.



PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE

A proposed amendment change to the Life Membership requirements of the FFF By-laws was presented at the March 10th meeting and will be voted on at the April membership meeting. The proposed wording states, "a life member shall be defined as any member in good standing who through accident or sickness loses his/her sight or limbs or otherwise becomes permanently disabled, or reaches the age of sixty five(65) after holding membership for twenty consecutive (20) years. Those admitted after the age of sixty five (65) must also hold membership for twenty (20) years before becoming a life member. This shall apply to all members joining the club after the date the amendment is passed".

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Cameron Faustman, Newsletter Editor.

Please note that the deadlines for material to be submitted for the next newsletter will be June 10th. Be sure to record your upcoming events on the bar calendar as far in advance as possible. The events listed on page 1 of our quarterly newsletter are taken directly from that calendar. Written submissions and photographs can be dropped off at the Bar and added to my folder.

EMAIL ADDRESS

If your email address has changed, please send updated information to Bob "Moon" Hruskocy (bhruskocy@finfurfeatherclub.com). This is the best way to keep up with club activities and events.

MEMBERSHIP

Bob Hurskocy, Membership

Thanks to all members that paid their dues for 2009. There was some concern about renewals due to the recent economic downturn and a few members were unable to renew due to job loss or relocation. The FFF currently has 370 Regular members, 59 Associate, 27 Junior & 115 Life members. Thirty-eight members (all classifications) chose not to re-join the club. As shown in the following table, this is slightly higher than in past years.

Non-Renewal of Membership	
2009	38
2008	32
2007	24
2006	26
2005	27

There were 50 people who joined the FFF in 2009; the highest number of new members in quite some time. Hopefully, this trend will continue. The club's Regular membership has been averaging around 400 members for each of the past several years. If you know of anyone that would be interested in joining, bring them down and show them the facilities. The club also collected \$18,650 in unworked hours for the past year; this was an all-time high as well. High gas prices in 2008 may have prevented some members from coming to the club and helping out. Hopefully, we can get more members to assist with functions in 2009.

Reminder. If you do help out with a function, make sure that you sign-in your name and membership number on the work detail sign-up sheet. I want to make sure you get credit for your efforts. Regards, Bob "Moon" Hruskocy.

OUT IN THE FIELD

SPORTING
CLAYS

5 - STAND

REGISTERED SKEET REPORT

Frank Mauri

Our first registered shoot will be held on June 5, 6 & 7, 2009. We need help Friday afternoon June 5th from 1 to 5 PM. Three skeet fields will be used for the doubles event. We'll need at least 3 helpers to load the houses, hoop the targets and clean the fields. In addition, there will also be a need for referees. I plan to hold several referee clinics on Saturdays and Sundays during April and early May and hope several new people will attend- don't be shy. I shall post times and dates on my return to Connecticut. Anyone who has previously served as a referee should come to one of these clinics to take the test.

On Saturday and again on Sunday morning of the shoot we will need a minimum of 5 helpers to open and bring water to the fields, to set up the field kitchen and generally be available for tasks as needed. During the afternoons both days an additional 5 helpers are needed to close the fields, clean the area, return the water and food to the clubhouse and again be available for miscellaneous tasks. Referees will be needed! Our plan is to have 2 flights for each gun, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon after a lunch break. We hope to use 4 fields for each gun so as many as 8 referees could be used each day.

All those who wish to help so they can get work hours should contact me at frankm@toast.net or Larry Shewokis at the club. We'll need to know what days you can work and what hours during those days. Those who feel they can referee should contact Larry or me ASAP so that we can avoid the need to pay outside referees; this will help the club make more profit on the shoot.

Later in the summer, specifically July 12th and August 14th, there will be two additional skeet shoots. We will need help for each of these 1-day events. There will be morning and afternoon duties and we need referees. Contact Larry or me and let us know how you can help and when you will be available.

The Connecticut State Skeet Shoot will be held at the Fin over Labor Day weekend. We will shoot doubles on Friday and the other 4 guns on Saturday & Sunday. Again, we need help! The work involves keeping the fields clean, making sure water is available on the fields, hooping the targets and loading the machines. We also will need help around the club area and on Saturday evening when we host a dinner for all shooters. This event is a very big money-maker for the club and all the profit goes into the general fund to support all club activities – SO COME OUT AND HELP!

With assistance on our club shoots, and our hosting of the State Shoot, we can put several thousand dollars profit into the club's account. This will help many other club activities. So please help all you can and know that the Skeet Committee is grateful for your help.

SPORTING CLAYS

Dick Palmer

With a big welcome to springtime, thoughts of target busting are brought to mind. One of the biggest Clays events is **The Connecticut Ducks Unlimited 100 bird event, which is scheduled for Sunday June 28th, from approximately 7:30 am to 2:00 pm.** This day has always been very successful for both the Ducks and the Fin. Our members have always stepped forward and provided a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, whether it's on the course or around the pavilion. We need about forty five (45) members to help on this day with trapping and making sure everyone is having a great time. Lunch is provided after the shoot and you can even get into the Ducks' raffle prizes as well.

The 2009 Sporting Clay events that are scheduled to take place at the Fin are all on Sundays, May 17th, June 14th, July 19th, August 23rd, and September 13th (50 birds; \$20 first round, \$15 second; \$45 all day; juniors \$10). Assistance is needed to carry out these events and it's a great way to earn your work hours. The work times usually begin about 8 am and are done by 1:30pm. I'll be setting up the Sporting Clay stations in April and will schedule a couple of work days to clear brush, set the fences and traps. Those dates will be posted at the clubhouse, our web site, and through e-mail. East Glastonbury Fish & Game will also host sporting clay shoots on April 26th, May 31st, September 20th and October 11th.

We need your help in supporting these activities either with trapping or attending to details that ensure that everything goes right and that the shooters are having fun. If you have not helped with these events before we will be happy to teach you so do not hesitate to participate. An added benefit to providing assistance is that volunteers can enjoy shooting once everyone has completed their rounds. Watch for the notices and until then, "Keep breaking those targets".

THINK SPRING — THINK 5-STAND!

Jim & Nancy Davidson.

We will be opening soon and are looking forward to seeing novice and experienced shooters alike. Check the bar and emails for upcoming dates.

JUNIORS ACTIVITIES

*Patrick Enright, Juniors Chairman
(penright22@yahoo.com)*

As I sit down to write the March edition of the newsletter and look at the blanket of white outside, I can't help but think what a long winter it has been. With that said, I know that spring is right around the corner and I am truly looking forward to getting outdoors with the youth in our club. In just a few short weeks the ponds will be full of trout, the turkeys will be sounding off in search of a mate, and the skeet fields will be full of activity. Take some time to get the kids outdoors and become involved in the club. Upcoming youth activities are listed below. If you have an idea for a youth program please let me know and we will get it started!

CT Conservation and Firearms Safety Course – The club's volunteer instructors will be holding a spring course on March 16, 18, 19 and 21. Call Franklin Wildlife Management to register at 860-642-7239. The course is free.

Juniors Turkey Hunt – The club will participate in the state-sponsored Youth Turkey Hunter Training Day on May 2nd. All State and FFF hunting rules and regulations apply. There will be a sign-up sheet in the bar come April. Last year we were fortunate to have two club members volunteer to act as guides for other Junior Members and I am looking for help in this area again. If you are willing to act as a guide please contact me ASAP. If you have a youth member that wants to turkey hunt we can get you set up and pointed in the right direction, but please contact me well in advance of the season.

Kid's Fishing Derby – May 3rd at 8:00 put on by the Fish Committee.

Juniors' Skeet League – Last year we shot trap, this year I want to shoot skeet. The plan will be for the shooters to complete 10 rounds of skeet over the course of the summer. We will plan 5 shoot dates to complete this and anyone missing one of those dates is welcome to make up the session at their convenience. This will be an instructional league with the goals of learning the course of fire, how to score, use and loading of the skeet machines, and of course – SAFETY! If you have a Junior Member interested in shooting Skeet this year please contact me or watch for the sign-up list at the clubhouse. I would like to have an informal meeting at the end of May with those that express an interest. At this meeting we will coordinate a time when the kids can shoot together, and answer any questions you may have. Though basic firearms safety is preferred, there is no experience necessary to join this league. Shooters must be physically capable and mature enough to handle firearms safely – the rest will be taught.

As always – take some time to take a kid hunting or fishing, I guarantee it will be time well spent! **"PASS IT ON"**.



PHEASANTS

While it feels like we just finished up with the Pheasants, it's time to begin again. On April 27th the first chicks will arrive and a lot of preparation of brooder houses and pens needs to occur prior to that time. Work dates have been set and our listed below; please help as much as possible so that we can all enjoy a great fall season of pheasant hunting. No prior experience needed; we'll teach you what you need to know. Contact Paul Cardinal (455-0255; 377-0453; cardinalservice151@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Date	Event
3/28	Clean-up and repair
4/4	Clean-up and repair
4/25	Clean-up and repair
4/27	First shipment of chicks arrives
5/14	Debeak of first shipment (4:00 pm)
6/1	Second shipment of chicks arrives
6/4	Blinders of first shipment (4:00 pm)
6/18	Debeak of second shipment (4:00 pm)
7/2	Blinders of second shipment (4:00 pm)

Check out why
Upland Feathers.com
is the blog for upland hunters
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Peter D. Mascaro Jr.

FLY FISHING INSTRUCTION

Frank Mauri.

I plan to hold fly fishing instruction classes at the Fly Pond on Sunday, April 19th starting at 9 AM. I will have some equipment available for use so it isn't necessary to go out and buy anything. If you already have fly fishing gear then by all means bring it along. The class will concentrate on the easy fly casts that are enough to successfully fish in the Fly Pond and catch trout. I will demonstrate the use of fly types that have proven consistently successful in the pond. I hope to remove the fear of fly fishing from most people's minds and to increase the number of fisherman who can and will fly fish, especially on our excellent fly pond. The method is very rewarding and not particularly difficult. I will also have information available about where you can purchase your own gear at reasonable prices. If there is enough interest I will repeat the class on Sunday April 25th again at 9 AM. The no-kill regulations will still be in effect so we shall use debarbed hooks and all fish caught will be released. I will demonstrate safe and effective ways of releasing the fish so they suffer the least harm.

FLY TYING

Join the FFF fly tying crew every Thursday afternoon from 2 to 5 pm in the Clubhouse. No experience necessary!

BOB'S LAWN & YARD SERVICE

Snow Plowing - Mowing - Spring & Fall Cleanup
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Robert Theriault, Owner
419 Back Road
No. Windham, Ct 06256
456-3431

John Mathewson

STUMP GRINDING

HOME 860-974-2775 CELL 860-933-6686

FIN FUR & FEATHER CLUB APPLICATION TO HUNT TURKEY & DEER

Use this form to apply for hunting privileges on FFF-owned and leased property for the 2009 season.

- I wish to hunt Turkey on the Bass Property
- I wish to hunt Turkey on the Club-owned property
- I wish to hunt Deer on Club-owned property (Archery only)
- I wish to hunt Deer on the Bass Property

Method(s) of hunting deer:

- Archery Shotgun Muzzleloader
- I understand that Tree Stands are not allowed
- I understand that this application must be returned to the clubhouse bar by April 14, 2009 in order to be considered: and that once all applications have been reviewed, permits to hunt will be available at the clubhouse bar by April 28, 2009.
- I have read State law and regulations and club rules and I agree to abide by all hunting laws and regulations.

Name: _____

FFF Membership ID Number: _____

Street Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 14, 2009 (RETURN TO THE BAR).

Notice: You must purchase a valid 2009 armband to hunt turkey, deer, waterfowl, pheasant, and so forth on club-owned and club-leased land. Members are hereby notified that they must observe all State hunting laws and regulations, in addition to Club Rules. Failure to abide by State law and regulations or Club rules may result in Board action against the offending member, including action subsequent to court rulings against the member.

- FFF Board of Directors

EVENTS

THE NORTHEAST OPEN JUNE 5, 6 & 7, 2009

Kevin Segar, Senior Instructor – Connecticut Conservation/Education Firearms Safety Course.

FIN, FUR & FEATHER CLUB INC.

5 Guns, 500 targets - \$40.00 per event - 100 targets

EVENT #1 –

Doubles – Friday, June 5 – Flight times – 1, 2 & 3PM

Shoot-offs follow last flight. Doubles miss & out by station on stations 3, 4 & 5.

EVENT #2 –

12 Ga. – Saturday, June 6 – Flight times – 9, 10:30 AM

EVENT #3 –

28 Ga. – Saturday, June 6 – Flight times – 12:30, 2 PM

Shoot-offs each event following last flight of the day.

Doubles 3, 4 & 5 miss and out by station.

EVENT #4 –

20 Ga. – Sunday, June 7 – Flight times – 9, 10:30 AM

EVENT #5 –

.410 – Sunday, June 7 – Flight times – 12:30, 2 PM

Shoot-offs each event following last flight of the day.

Doubles 3, 4 & 5 miss and out by station.

\$15.00 dollars of each entry returned to class as purse money in each event.

Champion & RU revert to class for payoff.

5 or less shooters in class – 100% to 1st; 6 to 14, 65/35 split; > 15 split 50/30/20

EVENT #6 – HOA – \$10 entry fee –

.410 avg. Determines Class – Class I – >0.9000, Class II – <0.9000

CONCURRENTS IN ALL EVENTS – HONORS ONLY

Field Kitchen will be open Sat. & Sun. 8 AM until 3:30 PM. Simple Breakfast menu will be served. Lunch Menu Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and special items. A free buffet will be served after shootoffs on Saturday.

RESERVATIONS: CHARLES CONNELL JR. – 860-889-4901

Rotation	Saturday	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday
Gauge	12 Ga.	28 Ga.	20 Ga.	.410
1	9:00 AM	12:30 PM	10:30 AM	2:00 PM
2	10:30 AM	2:00 PM	9:00 AM	12:30 PM

FIFTY IN 2010

The Fin, Fur and Feather Club will celebrate its 50th year as a club in Chaplin in 2010. This milestone will require some special celebration. If you would like to help with advance planning, please contact Bob Theriault or any member of the Board.



Photo courtesy of Dave Fromerth

SPONSOR A CHAIR!

With the recent renovations to the Club's Bar, it's time to dress up the place further with some first class seating. We are seeking sponsors for 16 different chairs. The cost is \$300 and will secure your nameplate on each seat sponsored.

THE 3RD ANNUAL GREAT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

The seeds have been ordered and will appear soon at the bar. Grow the biggest, best or most interesting pumpkins for ribbons and bragging rights! There are 3 classes, (1) Main Event – Use Our Seeds. No planting before May 25th, no vine injecting, (2) Open Class – Anything Goes. Our seeds or yours, any growing techniques you want and plant at any time, and (3) Pumpkin Carving Class – even if you don't grow a pumpkin, carve one! Come on October 9th for a great time, pot luck dinner, and friendly rivalry. Good luck and happy growing season.

GAME DINNER MEMORIES

Photos provided by Jim & Rosalie Gifford.



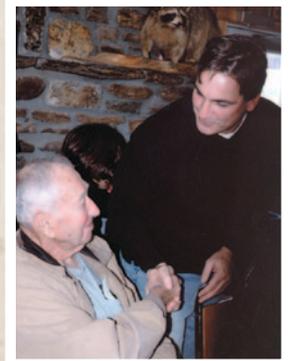
"Man of the Year" Larry Schewokis



Gary Charron recognized for Outstanding Achievement



Al Miffitt recognized for Achievement



Vice-President Bob Hruskocy congratulates Founding Member, Mike Wilke



Back Row L to R: Pam Sawyer, Joan Lewis, Susan Johnson, Bob Cook, Bob Dubos, Peter Rich. Front Row L to R: Laura Williams, Lou Rell, Senator Don Williams, Governor Jodi Rell



Jeff Butterfield and the Game Dinner Kitchen Crew

ICE DERBY

On February 7th, the Fin hosted its "Pike in the Ice Derby" at Mansfield Hollow State Park. Fifty-one adults and 11 children participated in the event that raised more than \$500 for the Club. Vance Stewart took top honors with a 9 lb Northern Pike!



Marty O'Rourke, "Pike through the Ice" organizer is flanked by Wayne McKinney (L) and Kevin Seegar (R).





FIN, FUR AND FEATHER CLUB, INC

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Our Purpose: *To Promote The Conservation of Fish, Game, and Other Natural Resources, To Practice and Teach the Highest Degree of Sportsmanship and to Promote Safe and Proficient Use of Sporting Equipment.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Don Bajger, President 860-423-6693
Bob Hruskocy,
Vice-President 860-569-1592
Dick Palmer, Secretary 860-487-0388
Tom Hoagland, Treasurer 860-455-0641

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrick Enright
David Fromerth 860-742-6749
Jim Gifford 860-455-2034
Rosalie Gifford (alternate) 860-455-2034
Keith Morehouse 860-647-1333
John Postemski 860-423-9396
Larry Schewokis 860-933-9922
Bill Spears 860-822-6567

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ARCHERY AVAILABLE

Your # here

BAR

Don Bajger 860-423-6693

PERMITTEE

Brenda Liappes 860-455-0521

BLACK POWDER

Charles Bruckerhoff 860-455-1229

BUILDING/GROUNDS

Don Bajger 860-423-6693

CHILDREN'S FUND

John & Laura Pawelec 860-429-7033

FAMILY PICNIC

Kevin Theriault 860-429-1792

FIELD TRIALS

Ralph Fonda 203-393-8922

FISHING

Jon Guarino 860-428-2873

FIVE-STAND

Jim Davidson 860-456-8782

HEALTH/WELFARE

Dick Palmer 860-487-0388

HUNTING

Don Bajger 860-423-6693

INSURANCE REVIEW

Eugene Lewis 860-423-3341

JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Pat Enright 860-429-0172
Kevin Segar 860-429-4925
Arnie Postemski 860-423-4637

KITCHEN

Tom Skoglund 860-295-8671

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MERCHANDISE

Brenda Liappes 860-455-0521

NEWSLETTER

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Donald Bajger 860-423-6693

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Fred Vernic 203-437-1264

RIFLE

Peter Mathewson 860-456-8588

SHOTGUN

Larry Schewokis 860-423-8563

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