

President: David Harbison
Vice President: Tom Mailloux
Treasurer: Darryl Huttunen
Secretary: Tom Walsh

**LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS
MEETING, 16 DECEMBER, 2004**

***NEXT LEAGUE MEETING IS THURSDAY
JANUARY 20, 2005 DANVERS FISH & GAME 07:30 PM***

MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call:.....	Meeting Date	
In attendance representatives from:	November 18, 2004.....	Club meeting night:
Andover Sportsmen's Club	1.....	Monthly, Second Thursday
Association of Ipswich Sportsmen.....	1.....	N/A
Cape Ann Sportsmen's Club	1.....	Monthly, Second Wednesday
Danvers Fish & Game Club	0.....	Monthly, Second Thursday
Essex County Sportsmen's Association	1.....	Monthly, First Wednesday
Georgetown Fish & Game Club.....	1	
Hamilton/Wenham Rod & Gun Club.....	3.....	Monthly, Third Tuesday
Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun Club	1.....	Monthly, First Monday
Haverhill Ridge Runners Fish & Game Club	0.....	
Ipswich Fish & Game Club.....	0.....	
Lawrence Rod & Gun Club	1.....	Monthly, First Monday
Lynn Fish & Game Protective Association.....	0.....	Monthly, Second Wednesday
Plum Island Surfcasters Club.....	1.....	Monthly, Third Tuesday

9 of 13 Present: Quorum Established

Guest Present, Pat Huckery, Northeast regional Manager, Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife: www.masswildlife.org
G.O.A.L. www.goal.org
Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council www.masportsmen.org
G.O.A.L. "MESSAGE"
N.E.F. Publishing Corp. "THE FISHERMAN"
US Sportsmen's Alliance www.ussportsmen.org
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance 1-877-770-TRCA www.trca.org
Massachusetts Wildlife Federation www.masswildfed.org
US Sportsmen's Alliance www.ussportsmen.org
National Shooting Sports Foundation www.nssf.org

To contact the League of Essex County Sportsmen's Clubs Phone or FAX (978)-465-5101, E-Mail pswalsh@comcast.net
League of Essex County Sportsmen's Clubs web sight at [http:// lecs.surfcaster.com](http://lecs.surfcaster.com)

SINCE THE MEETING THE FOLLOWING HAS OCCURRED:

Board Votes on Nantucket Deer Hunt

On December 20, 2004, in response to a request from Nantucket town officials, the Fisheries and Wildlife Board voted to allow a one week deer hunting season on Nantucket in February of 2005. This deer hunting season will open on February 7 and continue through February 12, 2005. Hunters must possess a valid 2005 hunting or sporting license and purchase 5 winter season antlerless deer permits in order to participate in the Nantucket deer season. Antlerless deer permits will be sold in bundles of five and will include one additional antlered deer tag for \$25. These permits will be valid only for this February season. The taking of an antlered buck during this February season will not affect the 2005 fall bag limit of two antlered deer. Location of permit sales will be provided by mid-January. Updates will be posted on the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife website at www.masswildlife.org as information becomes available. Deer hunters may use shotguns, bows and arrows or muzzleloaders.
Deer hunters only must wear 500 square inches of hunter orange on chest, back and head. Rabbit hunting with dogs is prohibited during the one week deer season.

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

For a map of a number of properties open to hunting, contact the Nantucket Conservation Foundation at www.nantucketconservation.org or call them at 508/228-2884. Hunters should contact the Nantucket Chamber of Commerce at www.nantucketchamber.org or call at 508/228-1700 for lodging, dining and transportation options.
Media Contact: Tom O'Shea 508/792-7270 x128 or Marion Larson x111

REPORT FROM GUEST, PAT HUCKERY

DFW Northeast District Report

December 2004

Deer

Muzzleloader season started December 13 and continues through December 31. As of December 14 the report on available antlerless over-the-counter permits from Lori Cookman: 146 Zone 10(out of 5095), 890 Zone 11, 1,908 Zone 13, and 1,297 Zone 14. Zone 9 sold out October 5 and Zones 3, 8, and 12 sold out as of October 4. Shotgun season brought in 882 deer at check stations in the northeast district (557 during archery, 227 checked Acton District Office). For their convenience, we encourage hunters to purchase their 2005 hunting or sporting license through the Internet on the MassOutdoors website www.mass.gov/massoutdoors.

During the first week of shotgun season Division personnel collected biological information at five deer check stations: Acton District Office, Martin Burns WMA, Harold Parker State Forest, Merrimac Sports, and Willard Brook State Forest. At certain stations we are collecting samples to test for chronic wasting disease (CWD) (pamphlet handout), which is a contagious neurological disease that is fatal in deer and elk. It attacks the brains of infected animals, resulting in their becoming emaciated, exhibiting abnormal behavior, and eventually dying. CWD has not been documented in MA.

Division biologists participated in the Devens paraplegic hunt where they helped 11 hunters take 5 deer.

Nantucket Special Deer Hunting Season. The MA Fisheries & Wildlife Board will be voting on a special Nantucket deer hunting season at the next 20 December 2004 meeting to be held at 1 PM at the Westborough Field Headquarters. The purpose of this special deer season is to reduce the deer herd to help control deer ticks and reduce the incidence of Lyme disease. The proposal would amend the MA deer hunting regulations to provide for a 12-day deer season on Nantucket during February/March, using lawful hunting implements (shotguns, archery, muzzleloader). Participants must obtain a permit to participate in the hunt, in addition to their hunting or sporting license permit. A permit includes one antlered deer tag, valid only during the special hunt. In addition, participants purchase 5 antlerless deer permits, valid only during the special hunt. Deer taken during the special hunt are in addition to the hunter's seasonal quota of deer as allowed during the calendar year season.

Under the topic of deer hunting it was suggested that more deer checking stations be started. There were suggestions that MA adapt a self regulated tagging system similar to NY state or It was also suggested that checking stations be paid by the successful hunter for their service and that may be an incentive for business to be a check station. This procedure could also be used for turkey checking stations.

See note above regarding final disposition of the Nantucket deer season.

During the Board hearing on this matter in November, concerns were expressed to varying degrees about increasing the number of hunters on the island, interference with rabbit hunting, about shooting does carrying full-term fetuses, hunters not coming due to expense and lack of housing, controlling ticks through use of arachnidicides, and use of birth control.

Fish

In October and November, broodstock salmon weighing from about 2 to 20 where release to 6 ponds: Baddacook in Groton, Whites Pond in Concord, Saltonstall (Plug) Lake in Haverhill and Horn Pond in Woburn, Hopkinton Reservoir, Lake Cochituate in Natick, and Forest Lake in Methuen. The salmon are coming from the Nashua Fish Hatchery, White River, VT and our Palmer hatchery. It looks like there will be another 50 or so fish that will be stocked before spring, bringing the total to 640 salmon released (180 in October, 410 in December).

Natural Heritage

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

The Northeast District joined up with mountain climbing Central District biologists with climbing skills to create a bald eagle nest in a tall white pine on Carr Island Wildlife Sanctuary on the Merrimack River. We're working with Logan Airport authorities to place a peregrine falcon nest box on their tower sometime in December or January.

Furbearers – 1 November 2004 marked the trapping open season on fox, coyote, weasel, bobcat, fisher, mink, river otter, beaver, raccoon, opossum, skunk, and muskrat. The coyote hunting season also opened 1 November 2004 and ends 28 February 2005.

PAT SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT ALL CLUBS POST A REQUEST THAT PERSONS REPORT ANY COYOTE SIGHTINGS TO THE WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES DIVISION.

We continue to receive frequent public inquiries about coyote so we request that you add the "Eastern Coyotes in Massachusetts" handout to your newsletter and encourage its posting at sportsmen clubs.

There were comments made at the meeting regarding opening the coyote season to overlap into deer and turkey seasons. Pat will look into the viability of these suggestions. A main reason for opening the season is to be able to use the resource. While it is not the Sportsmen like way to destroy an animal out of season it is suspected that many coyotes are wasted when destroyed out of season. In addition, there are probably more hunters in the woods during deer and turkey season than at any other time.

There were also many comments regarding trapping and the problems with the existing trapping laws; coyotes and beavers are out of control and it is suspected that due to the overpopulation of predators the populations of rabbits and ground nesting birds have diminished rapidly.

DFW Board – The next Fisheries & Wildlife Board Meeting is scheduled at 1 PM, 20 December 2004 at the Westborough Field Office.

Other Interesting Business – We are helping the USFWS fine-tune draft Hunting Plans for Oxbow, Assabet River and Great Meadows National Wildlife Sanctuaries.

District staff interviewed 6 people for two Wildlife Technician positions. We recommended two for hire, and hope that we will receive clearance for them to start before the end of the year.

"Use Caution – Mountain Lion Sighted" was what the flashing road sign said in Acton. The Division provided assistance looking at photographs of tracks which biologists identified as canid, not feline.

A black widow spider was dropped off at the Acton office. It was found in grapes purchased from a grocery store in Chelmsford. Division biologists provided information about black widow spiders to the media.

A Topsfield man was repeatedly attacked by hawks nesting in a large pine tree near his driveway. He has to wear his bike helmet to collect the mail, get to his car and when working in the yard. The hawks do not attack his wife. The Division recommended that he repeatedly take down the nest before eggs are laid to push the pair to relocate somewhere else within their territory, hopefully not next to his house.

We will be buying a small tractor with a boom mower before the end of the year so that we can mow around the boulders at Martin Burns to maintain the early successional community.

Shooting Range Development Enhancement and Public Access program – In the program, Masswildlife provides monies for enhancement and/or maintenance of a range facility and, in return, the range could be made available for Hunter Education and public access. In the Division's northeast district, the Haverhill Hound and Gun Club are participants and open the club's skeet and trap ranges to the public on Sundays from 1PM until dusk. They are located off Chadwick Road, their mailing address is P.O. Box 770, Haverhill, MA 01831.

There are some nifty booklets available from Mass Wildlife on a subscription basis. These booklets make great presents. Check www.masswildlife.org for details.

It was suggested that the Essex County area might not be receiving its fair share of the acquisition money; particularly in light of the fact that in Essex County nearly all the towns have hunting restrictions and hunters in this area have only state land to

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

hunt on. Specific suggestions were areas on Scotland Road in Newbury bordering Martin Burns. If the state allows these areas to be developed it will impinge 500 feet into the Martin Burns WMA. While land is expensive in Essex County as compared with western counties, there is also very restricted areas for hunting in Essex County so the WMA's get a great deal of bang for the buck spent.

Pat was given a number of tips regarding persons to contact for possible land acquisition situations in Boxford and Middletown.

There was a short discussion regarding farm land on the William Forward WMA and the fact that the leasing farmer is to leave some crops unharvested. It was mentioned that a small corn field, approx. ½ acre, has been left fallow about ¼ mile due south of the intersection of Boston Road and Hay Street in the WF WMA.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from November meeting were approved by motion seconded, discussed and approved without ammendment.

Treasurers Report: Read and approved by motion made, seconded and approved by acclimation.

YOUTH UPLAND GAME AND WATER FOWL HUNTS: No report.

The letter regarding Nantucket deer hunt was not sent to the Seven Member Board because the vote by the board preceded my getting the letter off.

MASS COUNCIL: Guest was manager from western region. There was talk about pheasant stamps. It was brought out at the meeting that in the early 80's there was an increase in license fees to accommodate the pheasant stocking program.

Reps are asked to bring up at club meetings the views of members on pheasant stamps, pro vs. con. There was a short discussion on predation of stocked pheasants and the possibility or stocking a hardier bird which can breed and hold over the winter. Mass Council tickets were passed out for sale at clubs. **BE SURE TO READ THE RATHER STRANGE SALE PRICE, \$5 / TICKET OR 4/\$10.** Go figure! It was agreed by motion made, discussed and passed to buy an over and under for \$200.00 if available for the card raffle for the league banquet. Dave will buy the gun if still available. Dave is still asking for help at council meetings, first Sunday of the month. The Secretary did a few, but doesn't have the time to do this on a continuous basis. Sue Langlois gave a presentation and the following was discussed: web access for some lessons in order to ameliorate the problem caused by the requirement to attend so many continuous meetings. The point was made and agreed to that most of the basic hunted Ed course is geared to being sure that youngsters have developed skills in the that would not normally be part of their common sense instincts. There was also a great deal of talk about live fire as part of the course.

MASS WILDLIFE FEDERATION: Will not have a banquet in 2005, but will have a raffle. There will be an annual meeting with food on the 20th of April, 2005. The raffle drawing will be at that time. Tickets are available from Dave and the prize is a 50 cal. camo, inline muzzle loader. There will be a turkey presentation in Andover in Feb. No specific date yet.

TOPSFIELD FAIR: It is suspected at this time that all comments regarding dismantling the Sportmen's Building is a rumor.

FISHERIES: No report..

Banquet: In addition to the gun mentioned above, tickets have been distributed. Banquet will be news released in Message and Woods & Waters. The Secretary will news release the banquet in local papers and the GLOBE before banquet. By motion made, seconded and passed that \$400 be allocated for gifts for the gift table. Reps are asked to get stuff from their clubs also.

TRAPPING: The changes if trapping law are held up in committee and nothing new has happened.

Scholarship Fund and Scholarships: After a short discussion regarding lack of applications received for scholarships.

Some tips follow:

Secretary will sent a letter to all Essex County High School Guidance Councilors,

Send applications to the Conservation Camp people at Mass Wildlife,

Triton biology teacher,

Colleges in state that have related programs:

U. Mass Amherst

Stockbridge School

Greenfield Community

Contact Jim Wallace at GOAL.

Good of the Order:

The Lawrence Club is having an installation dinner at the China Blossom on 125 in N. Andover on Wednesday Jan 5.

Danvers Archery Classes will do sign-ups on Jan 7, 06:00 PM

No old or new business discussed, Motion to adjourn made, seconded and passed.