

President: Tom Mailleux
Vice President: Chuck Casella
Treasurer: Bob Young
Secretary: Nancy Balch

**LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS
MEETING, MAY 18, 2006**

***NEXT LEAGUE MEETING IS THURSDAY
JUNE 15, 2006 DANVERS FISH & GAME 07:30 PM***

MEETING MINUTES

| Roll Call: | Meeting Date | |
|--|--------------|---|
| In attendance representatives from: | Apr 20..... | Club meeting night: |
| Andover Sportsmen's Club | 1..... | Monthly, Second Thursday |
| Association of Ipswich Sportsmen..... | 0..... | N/A |
| Cape Ann Sportsmen's Club | 1..... | Monthly, Second Wednesday |
| Danvers Fish & Game Club | 1..... | Monthly, Second Thursday |
| Essex County Sportsmen's Association..... | 0..... | Monthly, First Wednesday |
| Georgetown Fish & Game Club..... | 1..... | |
| Hamilton/Wenham Rod & Gun Club..... | 1..... | Monthly, Third Tuesday |
| Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun Club | 1..... | Monthly, First Monday, 07:30 PM |
| Haverhill Ridge Runners Fish & Game Club | 0..... | Monthly, Second Sunday, 10:00 AM X Mother's Day |
| Ipswich Fish & Game Club..... | 0..... | |
| Lawrence Rod & Gun Club | 0..... | Monthly, First Monday |
| Lynn Fish & Game Protective Association..... | 1..... | Monthly, Second Wednesday |
| Plum Island Surfcasters Club..... | 1..... | Monthly, Third Tuesday |

8 of 13 Present: Quorum Established

Visitor: Pat Huckerly, Mass Wildlife NorthEast Regional Director

- 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)

- 1. EACH CLUB REPRESENTATIVE IS TO PRESENT TO THE LEAGUE E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF AT LEAST THREE PERSONS IN THEIR CLUB WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO BE SET UP BY JOEL LARSON AND CHUCK CASELLA.**
- 2. YOUNG ADULT PHEASANT HUNT PARTICIPANTS REQUESTED**
- 3. NEW OFFICERS ELECTED, LISTED ABOVE**
- 4. CLUB MEMBER FOLLOW UP ON LEGISLATION REQUIRED**

Secretary's Report: The minutes were approved as recorded on the web site.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer report read and approved as read.

Communications: Scholarship applications received, will be reviewed and a candidate to be selected by Chuck, Joel and Tom W. as approved by motion made, seconded and approved.

Mass Council: Not attended by any Essex League member.

Banquet Committee: The final tally on the banquet was reported by the treasurer and total attendance was 100+ and it was a financial as well as a cultural success.

Pat Huckerly's report:

Deer

Radio-collar Study

The deer radio-collar study is ongoing with 12 deer tracked in the Northeast District. This study was initiated in 1998 by MassWildlife biologist John McDonald. Data from this long-term study contributes to our understanding of deer density in suburban towns, their movement patterns and mortality factors. This information will be used to recalibrate the harvest index to actual conditions and develop better population models.

This year, the deer were first relocated via helicopter. Then, biologists hit the ground and conduct weekly checks on their location in the Carlisle area. This winter, we recovered a radio-collar from a deer believed to be hit by a vehicle.

Framingham and Boxborough Town Warrant Articles to Ban Hunting

The residents of Framingham and Boxborough defeated warrant articles which sought to prohibit the discharge of firearms and archery. MassWildlife worked with both selectmen and interested residents to ensure that information about hunting safety and deer problems were disseminated.

MassWildlife provided a Hunter Education document to each town which lists hunting accidents, and provided other hunting safety data. We provided the towns with a white paper on the connection between deer tick and white-tailed deer density, and covered the problems of herbivory and deer-vehicle collisions.

We helped them connect with towns which reopened to hunting after experiencing deer-related problems such as an increase in tick-borne Lyme Disease (Ipswich), herbivory (MDCR's Quabbin Reservoir, Sudbury), and vehicle collisions (Wilbraham). They are on Rt. 128 off-ramps, blocking traffic in Newton, perching on MIT buildings, chasing people in Canton, and arousing attention in Brookline. by the flock, and causing traffic jams.

Northeast District biologists were called to investigate some Brookline city turkeys reported to be displaying aggressive behavior. They were reported to be attacking kids as they walked to school, jumping onto

Fish

The Northeast District stocked about 1000 tiger trout in the last month. In Essex County, tiger trout went to Millvale Pond in Haverhill and Stiles Pond in Boxford, the remainder went to Baddacook Pond in Groton, Whites Pond in Concord, Lake Pearl in Wrentham, and Ashland Reservoir.

Recent Essex County stockings (before the flood) went to Forest Lake in Methuen, and the Ipswich, Parker and Shawsheen Rivers.

There are 15,000 "bonus" rainbows coming to rivers and brooks next week, weather permitting.

Pleasant Pond Access

We received a few complaints about angler access to Pleasant Pond in Wenham, a pond stocked by MassWildlife. We looked into the complaints and worked with the town to mark the designated fishermen parking area with better signage. This issue is ongoing from last year when the town decided to close the parking area due to an accident.

Smelt

Smelt eggs were recently discovered in Ox Pasture Brook at Bill Forward WMA by a Marine Fisheries biologist. This is very exciting news considering it was thought that the smelt fishery in this area was all but gone. This information comes to us as part of the investigation into removal of a small dam on DFW property.

Turkey

Seventy-three (73) turkeys have been checked so far at the Northeast District office. Numbers for the remainder of the state will come in from Jim Cardoza after the spring season closes on May 20th.

Turkeys have been in the news all over the place. papers and cable access stations. ORV damage to the WMA is extensive. We tracked one of the illegal trails back to the South Fitchburg Rod & Gun Club in Townsend. The local PD followed up with the club. Since we removed a bridge over the Squannacook River, the ORV drivers are riding down the banks and across the riverbed instead

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the back of a woman walking
We joined the town’s animal control office, health agent, conservation commission agent, and an Environmental Police officer, to investigate the call.

The turkeys had already left the roosting area when we arrived, so we set out through the neighborhood in search for the critters. We entered a couple of known turkey feeding stations (bird feeders) with Erik Amati providing the turkey calls to attract toms and hens. We successfully called in 2 separate pairs, the toms coming in full display. This is always an impressive site, whether in the city or countryside. When approached, they retreated. We could not elicit aggressive behavior. A plan was devised to mark the problem turkey “in the act” and then later dispatch it. Thereby, discouraging indiscriminate killing of turkeys.

A plan was formed to educate the neighborhood. The town had already pamphleted the immediate neighborhood to stop feeding the turkeys and our backyard walks proved this was working to a degree. This effort was to be expanded town wide. The town was also going to put up signs on the road to keep people from throwing food out the windows. We also talked to them about harassing the turkeys to establish some fear of people: teaching people not to run away from turkeys, but turn and face them, swat them, chase them. We stressed the importance of establishing oneself at the top of the pecking order. Easier said than done.

Squannacook River WMA Update

The use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) on Wildlife Management Areas is prohibited.

We met with the Townsend Police Chief and the Conservation Commission to go over problem areas and decide how we could pool efforts. The local PD is conducting weekend patrols with the Environmental Police. The Commission agreed to post articles about illegal ATV use within the local

the river bed instead!

To combat the ORV problems we hear the following from the Environmental Police:

- 1. Increase fines for illegal ORV use.
- 2. Include forfeiture of ORV vehicles.
- 3. Increase number of Environmental Police.

Coyotes

A coyote review is just underway in response to the nuisance coyote calls and hunter inquiries. This will include a complete literature review pertaining to suburban coyotes and the relationship between the coyote and deer, a re-examination of the regulations including season length, and development of Division protocols for responding to nuisance coyote calls. If you have any information or suggestions to contribute to this effort, please send comments to Tom O’Shea, Assistant Director for wildlife, MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

The recent storms and flooding within the Merrimack River drainage left 2 bald eagle chicks dead. We don’t know exactly what happened, but exposure to the elements while the adults were off foraging likely caused the death of the eaglets. This pair successfully fledged 2 eaglets last year, and we look forward to many more productive years.

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Youth Pheasant Hunt: For complete information regarding the Young Adult Pheasant Hunt either call Dr. Mark S. Tisa at Mass Wildlife, (508) 792-7270, X 129 or the Hunter Ed program at (508) 792-7434. For complete details, click contact www.masswildlife.com, click on education, then on Young Adult Pheasant Hunt.

For those of you with no internet connection the text is noted below:

Introduction

The Massachusetts Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program was developed by MassWildlife to provide an opportunity for 12-17 year old Hunter Education graduate to practice firearms safety, develop shooting skills, and participate in a special pheasant hunt with a safe, experienced hunter in a friendly environment.

The program is run by participating local sportsmen's clubs. Hunter safety is emphasized in all aspects of the program to help build the confidence of young adult hunters so they may feel comfortable hunting alone or with others in the field. This program is more than just a day of pheasant hunting in the field. It is a comprehensive three part outdoor recreation program:

Part One - Shooting Instruction and Practice. One of the most important elements for becoming a safe and ethical hunter is developing and practicing shooting skills. Young adults will practice the fundamentals of shotgun shooting and firearms safety by receiving hands-on instruction at the club range prior to the hunt.

Part Two - Pre-hunt Workshop. Young adults will have the opportunity to practice all aspects of a safe hunt during a pre-hunt workshop held just prior to the actual pheasant hunt. This will be a hands-on "in the field" session that will include safety exercises such as hunting in a group, zones of fire, crossing safely over obstacles, safely loading and unloading firearms in the field, proper field carries, handling and operating firearms safely, shoot/don't shoot scenarios and hunter ethics. In addition, the pre-hunt workshop will cover the basics on firearms for upland hunting, ammunition, gear, clothing, and other equipment typically used in upland hunting.

Part Three - Young Adult Pheasant Hunt. The program culminates with a day in the field pheasant hunting in a relaxed and friendly environment under the watchful eye of a safe, responsible, experienced hunter. It is an opportunity to experience the enjoyment and excitement of watching a dog working a bird; the thrill of seeing a pheasant flush from cover and taking the shot, and then cleaning and cooking the day's harvest.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who may sign up for the Program? Young women and men ages 12-17 who have successfully completed the Massachusetts Hunter Education Program are eligible to participate in the program. A Firearms Identification Card (FID) and hunting license is required for all young adults between the ages of 15 to 17. Young adults 12 to 14 years of age do not need a license or FID card.

Are there any costs or fees to participate in the Program? There are no costs to participate in this program. Safety glasses, hearing protection and hunter orange caps and vests will be provided free of charge. Clubs may, however, ask for a nominal donation to cover costs for such things as lunch, refreshments, clay targets or ammunition.

When does the Program take place? Part 1 of the Program; shooting instruction and practice, will take place during the summer or early fall. Part 2, the pre-hunt workshop will be held a week or two before the young adult pheasant hunt. The actual hunt (Part 3) will be scheduled for a Saturday prior to the October start of the regular pheasant hunting season.

Where can young adults sign up to participate in the Program? Contact your local sportsmen's club to see if it offers this program. A list below shows what clubs are participating in the program or contact your local [MassWildlife District Office](#).

Clubs Which Participated in the 2005 Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program

2005 was the pilot year for the Young Adult Pheasant Hunts. Clubs which participated in 2005 are listed below. Clubs which plan to offer the Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program in 2006 will be listed as soon as applications are submitted. Feel free to phone or email the club contacts to learn more about the details of their club's scheduled Program, what worked, and what challenges had to be overcome.

Federal waters length limits on cod is 24 inches. Mass waters regulation will remain 22 inches. For a complete recap of marine fishing requirements see <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/index.html> and click on the required information tag. Chuck pointed out again the requirements on River herring. See above.

Northeast District

Concord Rod & Gun Club, Concord -- Kimberly Sullivan Ph: (781) 424-1800, E-mail: k_camarano@yahoo.com

Danvers Rod & Gun Club, Middleton -- Mike Robinson Ph: (781) 341-0410

Mike Robinson: is also the contact person for the League. It has come to my attention that the Essex County Sportsmen's Club is also sponsoring a hunt, contact Dave Harbison at 978-463-2009.

Legislation: H-1327, the trapping bill that will again allow leg holds is stalled in the Senate re Pam Resor. Send letters to your rep and senator in support of this bill.

By motion made, seconded and discussed The League agreed to send the letter, with revisions to reflect current events, to legislators and other interested parties regarding the Leagues opposition to legislation designated as S-2308.

Regarding the increase in dues as passed by the League 2 months ago, most of the clubs go along and have approved the additional funds. These additional funds are to be given to Mass Council with the understanding that a vastly improved web site and statewide communications system be set up. Some clubs are with holding additional funding until they see improvements on the part of the Council.

As the League was discussing the increased in League dues a new discussion began. The result of this discussion is that Joel Larson and Chuck Casella formed a committee whose task will be to significantly improve the League web site and to cause this site to be more message board

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interactive with member clubs. The committee and its goal was appointed by the President and approved by motion made, seconded and approved by the body. Contact Joel at jslarson@comcast.net or Chuck at chuckcasella@verizon.net with any positive suggestions or comments. In both cases be sure that the subject bar reads **Essex League** so their spy ware doesn't erase your message before they get it. chuckcasella@verizon.net.

Topsfield Fair: Tom Walsh will bring a designer of industrial trade show booths into the sportsmen's building in order to hear her suggestions regarding possible improvements we can make in the various booths. Depending on her comments a meeting will be held with all the participating entities in order to formulate an action plan for 2006.

New Business: Due to the lack of tagging stations for tagging pelts throughout the state, Mass Trappers will be positioning the Board to allow trappers to call or e-mail regional offices of the Department then give the department the required information and obtain tags for their pelts. The species requiring tags are beaver, otter, bobcat, coyote and fisher.

Remind club members that North Reading was nearly shut down to all hunting as a result of some hunters acting out after being asked by a home owner to put a little more distance between them and the home owner's house. Remember, the 500 foot rule is absolute, but if asked by a citizen to maintain a reasonable distance from their home, discretion is desirable and abstinence and aggressiveness may get the town shut down. Citizens just don't understand someone acting out when they have a firearm or bow and arrow in their hand. This situation was saved only due to the intervention of a hunter with facts in his hands regarding the safety of hunting and information regarding land stamp money being used for land acquisition funds. There was a question as to whether the Council had petitioned the Board regarding the free day of fishing. No information yet.

IN THE FUTURE I WOULD SUGGEST THAT IF THERE IS A REQUEST TO BE MADE TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE ACTING SECRETARY BE INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST THE COUNCIL IN WRITING.

There being no additional business the meeting was adjourned by motion, seconded and passed.

Collation for May meeting by Lynn Fish & Game Protective Association