



The RUFFED GROUSE

August 2021

"August is that last flicker of fun and heat before everything fades and dies. The final moments of fun before the freeze. In the winter, everything changes." !

On Thursday 8/5/21 the Executive Committee met for its bimonthly duties. Last month Ron Bernhard had submitted the Forestry report from our new forester with actions to be taken on "STAND #3" for culling the stand. The committee discuss the report and approved Ron to proceed with his proposal to "cull" the stand and approved the Forester to "Manage" the process at his stated fees. If approved by DEC he will solicit bids for the removal of the marked trees and hopefully have income from the project.

The roof in the ladies room is still leaking and it was discussed to get a roofing contractor in to look and see what they believe is the problem as many attempts to "cure" the problem have been for naught. Steve Baker displayed a prototype of the new indoor range bullet trap which the committee has been working on for some time. He discussed the pro's and con's of the various type's they investigated and proposed the one they feel will be most economical while still meeting the intentions of a redesign for expanded use of the interior range. They have tested a unit that allows up to 44 magnum with very good results. The Exec Committee approved the design and committee recommendation and the proposal will go to the full membership for input and approval.

As we know, the outdoor ranges are closed during Big Game season and with a new season being held the week between Christmas and New Years for muzzleloaders and archers, in the interest of safety the range will be closed during that week also.

On Thursday 8/12 the regular membership meeting was called to order by President Hoffman with a small but enthusiastic crowd. The pledge to the flag was followed by the Conservation Pledge. Jeff was our guest and making his second meeting to qualify for new member status. If you haven't been to the club in a while, the grounds look great despite all the rain thanks to Gerry and Russ. Ray Haines has built a new rifle rack which is greatly appreciated. Due to low registrations the Pistol Safety Class scheduled for 8/13 was cancelled. Next class is October 8th.

Trap League has been slow and steady so far this summer with just 11 rounds/week being shot. Between the shortage of ammo and the high prices participation is down from previous years. July 14th found the first 25 being shot by Steve Smith and almost had a 50 but missed the last bird. Not to be outdone Jerry Seyboth nailed a 25 on August 4th. On July 24th the work crew replaced the roof on the traphouse which should last a long time. Next will be the new LED lights and we have two installed and two more on order and hopes to have them operational by Labor Day.

Archery— Some of the 3-D targets have been set out for practice and plans to install some "hanging bags" are being made. George Gebe is trying to get this Archery Program off the ground but still looking for someone to take it and run with it. If you are going to shoot the Archery target please follow these simple rules. Sign in as you would normally and take the two orange flags from atop the refrigerator. There is a holder on the pavilion post that one flag should go on and the other on a tree where the course starts. Remember safety is the most important factor in having fun. These targets should be shot with "**field points only**". When done please take the flags down and return them atop the icebox. With Archery season just around the corner we hope they get some use.

(over)

We reviewed the specifics of the Forestry Committee report from the forester and all agreed to proceed with the suggested plan and through the process it will be determined if we can make some money via it being logged or if we need to take on the task ourselves.

The Albany County Legislature passed the "Kevin Busch Youth Hunting Bill" for Albany County. Kevin was the President of the Albany County Conservation Alliance for many years and recently passed away. This bill was made possible by the State passing the option for each county to "opt-in" on this pilot program for 12-13 year olds to hunt Deer with Crossbow or Muzzleloader in season.

Howie Diamond reported that this weekend the member database in Apricot will be updated in preparation for the September 1st renewals to go out. If you haven't received a communication concerning renewals by either e-mail or snail mail please let someone know. On September 1st renewals should be going out so please look forward to this notice. If you are not planning on renewing your membership please let us know. If you update your membership info on-line but do not want to renew with credit card, PRINT the renewal form and send in with your check.

The "POND" project has been approved with Albany Soil and Water for up to \$30k which would be 75% of the total cost. Not included is the cost we must bear for an Engineer to design the scope of the project. A motion was made and passed to proceed until we know what the cost impact will be.

New Business—With elections next month we were looking for a nominating committee to provide a slate of officers for members to vote on. If you are interested in helping work on this (can you say work hours credit?) please contact President Hoffman. We have at least opening for two directors who are stepping down as well as all other officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer). As officers put hours in during the year, they are exempt from work assessments. We are looking for new ideas and bodies to keep the club active and viable. We have been contacted by DEC asking for use of the grounds on 9/14 or 9/16 for training in nuisance wildlife remediation (2-9 PM). The state facility they normally use has been shut down and they are looking for a facility to perform their annual training. A motion was made and passed to allow DEC to use the grounds. Notices will be posted once date is agreed upon.

Last but not least is the annual club Picnic. September 26th is the date, see the flyer for details on the last page!

A motion to adjourn was made and passed @8:05

Respectfully Submitted—Eric Bratt—Secretary

THE 4 RULES OF GUN SAFETY

1. The gun is ALWAYS loaded.
2. NEVER point the gun at something you don't want to destroy.
3. Keep your finger OFF the trigger until your sights are on the target.
4. Know your TARGET and what is beyond it.

"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote!"

Benjamin Franklin

August 2021

August 2021-22 Renewal Forms Available (10/1/21 Due Date)
August Monday Nights – Outdoor Pistol Shooting @ 6:00 pm
August Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
TBA Albany County Pistol Safety Class – 7:00 pm
August 5 Executive Meeting – 7:00 pm (Proposed Annual Calendar)
August 12 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm (Election Committee, Picnic Committee)
August 31 **Last Day to Meet 5 Hour Work Credit Requirements for Work Assessments**

September 2021

September Wednesday Nights - Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
September 9 Membership Meeting / Annual Business Meeting – 7:00 pm
(Election of Officers & Directors, Annual Committee Reports, Approve Annual Calendar, Budget Proposal, Renewal Forms & Dues Collected, 2021/22 Cards & Pins Available)
September 13 Indoor Pistol League 2021-22 Season Registration & Meeting – 7:00 pm
September Monday Nights - Pistol League @ 6:00 pm
September 26 Annual Club Picnic & Chinese Auction

October 2021

-- Please Note: **Outdoor Firearm Ranges Closed Until 12:00 Noon Starting October 1st** --

Outdoor Archery Range Remains Open

October 1 Due Date for Membership Renewal Forms & Dues
October 1 Small Game Hunting Seasons Open – Rabbit, Grouse
October 1 Archery Season Opens – Deer & Bear (SZ) (10/1-11/19)
October Monday Nights - Pistol League @ 6:00 pm
October Wednesday Nights – Trap Shooting @ 6:00 pm
October 7 Executive Meeting – 7:00 pm
October 8 Albany County Pistol Safety Class - 7:00 pm
October 14 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
(Directors' Audit Report, Budget Approval Vote, Renewal Forms & Dues Collected, & 2021/22 Cards & Pins Available)
October 16 Muzzleloader Season – (NZ) (10/16-10/22)
October 9-11 Youth Deer Hunt Weekend (ages 14-15)(12-13 where counties approved)
October 16 SZ Turkey Season Opens (October 16 – October 29)
October 23 NZ Firearms Big Game season (10/23-12/5)

November 2021

-- Please Note:

Outdoor Firearm Ranges Closed Until 12:00 Noon November 1st thru November 20th

Outdoor Firearm & Archery Ranges Closed All Day November 20th thru December 21nd

November Monday Nights - Pistol League @ 6:00 pm
November 2 Election Day (Remember Your Second Amendment Rights!)
November 6 Crossbow – Deer/Bear (11/6-11/19)
November 7 Southern Zone Big Game Hunting Crossbow Seasons Open – Deer & Bear
November 11 Veterans Day – Honor Our Veterans
November 11 Membership Meeting – 7:00 pm
November 20 Southern Zone Big Game Hunting Firearms Seasons Open – Deer & Bear

Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of America. I promise to educate future generations so they may become caretakers of our water, air, land and wildlife.

Helderberg Rod & Gun Club Annual Picnic

Sunday, September 26, 2021

To help get a little more normalcy back into our activities, the Helderberg Rod & Gun Club is looking to restart our annual picnic.

We are planning our picnic for Sunday, September 26th at 1:00 pm at the club.

Due to lingering Covid-19 concerns, this picnic will be held differently than in past years.

This year, you will bring your own meal, utensils, and drinks. (No dish to share.)

We will start eating at approximately 1:00 pm.

There will be a couple grills available for your use to cook your meat.

We will be eating outside under the pavilion and tarp tent with tables and some chairs spaced apart.

You may also want to bring your own lawn chairs if you want to sit in them instead of the picnic tables during the meal and visiting afterward.

Please contact Carol Whaley at 518-858-4432 by September 20th to let her know if you will be attending and how many will be coming with you so we can have an idea of how much table space we will need.

If I don't hear from you, I will assume you are not coming.

If we do not get enough interest we will cancel it.

There will be NO auction this year following the picnic.

We are looking forward to having an enjoyable day outside visiting and chatting with members and your families.

Hope to hear from you soon :)

Carol Whaley

Event planner

Sunshine Committee

