

**NEWSLETTER**  
**CONWAY SPORTSMAN'S CLUB**  
**CONWAY, Mass. 01341**  
**[www.conwaysports.org](http://www.conwaysports.org)**

**March 2006**

**President: Donald Siegel, Vice President: Robert Duby, Treasurer: Rodney Odette (413-247-3323; 413-247-3215), Secretary: Glenn Brown, Member-at-Large: Mark Fortier (413-369-4699)**

**The Meeting:** The Club holds its monthly meeting the first Thursday evening of every month and each meeting is preceded by dinner. This month Batch (William Batchelder) did one of his roast pork loin with-all-the-trimmings dinners. As always, John Conant is thanked for his excellent desserts. Next month Mark Fortier will have the kitchen. While the menu has not been announced Mark is a first class cook and his dinners always are a surprise and a treat. Please plan to attend.

**President's Message:** Thanks again to those who helped make this year's gun raffle the biggest success ever for club fund raising. Thanks to the committee for working through the problems of improving the ticket and the revenues. Thanks to the ticket sellers without whom we have no revenue at all. And thanks to all who helped out at the raffle.

Spring is coming and with it renewed attention to club projects. We can be looking forward grounds clean up and our first April bow shoot. It is time to get going again on the club house front room floor project. Needless to say, all volunteers are encouraged and welcomed. Please do your part.

Scholarship time for graduating high school seniors. The club has two scholarships to award to Conway seniors or children of club members. **The deadline is April 15 with no exceptions.** For more information visit the Scholarship section of our website [www.conwaysports.org](http://www.conwaysports.org) or the Frontier guidance office or call Brian Kuzmeskus (413) 369-9986

**Gun Raffle:** The gun raffle was held February 3<sup>rd</sup> and was by all accounts a real success. Virtually all of the tickets were sold and the winners got some real first class guns. The winner of the Browning Cynergy 20 ga may have gotten a true once-in-a-lifetime gun because the plant that produced them has burnt down and there are no plans to rebuild at this time. Thanks to the committee that held the event. Watch these pages for the announcement of the 2007 raffle.

**Game Supper:** The 2006 Annual Game Supper is being readied as this Newsletter is being prepared. Judging by the smells, it will be another one of those 'dinners-to-be-remembered'. A fuller report will be carried in the April Newsletter.

**Fire Company Dinner:** The Conway Fire Company is having a Ham and Bean Supper on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March at 6:00 pm. For reservations etc contact Lorna Rose (413) 369-4080. Ron Hawkes (413) 369-4971 may also be able to help.

**Trout Unlimited Dinner:** The Deerfield & Mill River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is having a dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Contact Don Siegel, (413)369-4077, for further information and tickets.

**Archery:** In preparation for the coming archery season Jim Robator, Jim Ricore and Kevin Harker have opened a practice session in the pavilion on Thursday nights at 7 pm. Any who wish to join them for some

indoor practice are welcome to come. Jim Robator announced a new section for very young shooters (PeeWee) has been added to all archery events this next year and this will require ½” rebar to make 30 new stakes. Anyone have any?? If so, give Jim a call at (413) 586-4818. The future of any sport depends on getting youth involved and the archery ‘gang’ is doing an excellent job.

**Preliminary Deer Totals:** MassWildlife advises that the preliminary data for the deer kill show a total of 11,249 were taken plus 117 in a controlled hunt in the Quabbin. The breakdown is 2,113 for muzzleloader season, 3,001 taken by archery and 6,218 accounted for in the shotgun season. A fuller report will be issued in April. The number taken in 2005 was about 2% less than the total for 2004. It should be remembered, however, that 25 years about the total kill in Massachusetts was about 2,500-3,000 deer.

**The Club Schedule for 2006:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
April 22, 2006	Working party to set archery course	Club Grounds
April 23, 2006	Tri State 3-D Archery Shoot	Club Grounds (7:00 AM - Noon)
May 20, 2006	Youth Fishing Derby	Little Brook. Pumpkin Hollow, 9AM-11 AM
June 4, 2006	Youth Day	Club Grounds, 9 AM
June 15 &17, 2006	Bow Hunter Education Course	Club Grounds
June 18, 2006	Sporting Clays Shoot	Club Grounds (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)
July, 2006*	Youth Week	Club Grounds
July 22, 2006	Working party to set archery course	Club Grounds
July 23, 2006	Tri State Archery Shoot	Club Grounds (This is the Official Shoot)
August 20, 2006	Sporting Clays Shoot	Club Grounds (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)
September 2, 2006	Working party to set archery course	Club Grounds
September 3, 2006	Tri State Archery Shoot	Club Grounds
September 16, 2006	Squirrel Bee	Club Grounds
September 24, 2006	Sporting Clays Shoot	Club Grounds (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

\*Time not definite at this time. Very likely it will be on the last week of July.

***The Keeper of the Club Calendar is Jim Recore and anyone who wishes to schedule an event at the Club or borrow Club equipment should do so through Jim.***

**Five Stand is Back at Norwottuck:** The Norwottuck Fish and Game Club has started its 5-Stand for 2006. The event will be on the first Saturday of every month until fall. The Club is located on route 116 south of Amherst at the Granby line (in an area called the ‘notch’).

**Artillery Safety School:** Canon shooting is a growing sport in this country and each year the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association holds a safety school. This year it will be on April 22 and 23 at Fort de Chartres, Prairie Du Rocher, Illinois. There are two days of classes followed by live fire practice. A \$10 fee is charged and this includes the instruction manual. For further information contact Fort de Chartres Historic Site, (618) 859-3603.

**Muzzle-Loading Gun Makers:** For those who make muzzle-loaders or who are tempted to try, the *Gunmakers Fair* at Dixon Muzzleloading Shop is ‘must do’. This year’s fair will be July 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> on the grounds of Dixon Muzzleloading Shop at 9952 Kunkels Mill Road at Kempton, Pa. There are seminars for persons of every skill level. For information call Dixon’s at (610) 756-6271 or contact them at [www.dixonmuzzleloading.com](http://www.dixonmuzzleloading.com). Dixon’s is located in a rural area about 5 miles from Interstate 78 on Route 737 (Krumsville exit) and it is really located on Rte 737 at Kunkels Mill Road. It’s about 6 ½ hours from Northampton, Mass. For those who like old-style smoked meats, Dietrich’s at Krumsville has some of the best in the Northeast. As a bonus, Cabela’s has a very large store at Hamburg which is two exits further on from Dixon’s exit.

**Powder Horn Collection at Historic Deerfield:** The late Bill Guthman was the dean of American antique arms collectors and his collection of some 75 historic powder horns has been acquired by Historic Deerfield. It can be seen at the Flynt Center of Early American Life on The Street in old Deerfield. The

collection is considered the best of its type in the country and was slated to be dispersed at auction when it was saved by Historic Deerfield. There will be a seminar on the collection later this spring.

#### **Notes From The Media and Internet:**

**Vice President's Accident:** By now all will know of the Vice-President's accidental shooting of a companion on a quail-hunting trip. The political pundits and late-night comedians have all weighed in on the matter. The anti-gun crowd, as well as, the anti-hunting groups all used it for fund-raising. We in the field sports area recognize that a hunting accident is no laughing matter and it leaves lasting scars on all involved. Now might be the time to remind ourselves of safe gun handling and safe hunting rules. A couple of good websites are [www.acsfoundation.com/safety/r\\_range.html](http://www.acsfoundation.com/safety/r_range.html) and [www.gamecalls.net/huntingtips.html](http://www.gamecalls.net/huntingtips.html).

**Perverse Justice:** The press carried a note from Germany. A cat died of bird flu after, according to its owner, the cat caught and ate a bird. A case of the 'biter bit', I guess. Other cat owners on the Baltic island are keeping their animals inside, for now. Felines may be very susceptible to the virus because in Asia a number of wild cats included a couple of dozen tigers died of the bird flu gotten from eating infected birds. The German island is on a flyway for birds migrating to the arctic to breed where they mix with North American birds, there for the same purpose. It is highly likely that we will have the deadly bird flu here next fall and the wildfowl population may be infected. This will present problems for duck and goose hunters so please be aware of any warning that come from official sources concerning bird flu later this year.

**Animal Rights Agitators Convicted of Domestic Terrorism:** In a little watched trial in Trenton, N.J. a group of animal rights activists were convicted of terrorism under the terms of the Animal Enterprise Terror Act (1992). The group, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, was found to have engaged in vandalism, stalking, bombings, threatening, etc against the employees of Huntingdon Labs (a British Company with facilities in New Jersey) as well as persons or firms that provided services to Huntingdon such as insurers, bankers and suppliers. Under terms of Federal Sentencing Guidelines each of the 6 defendants will get at least 7 years in prison. In the Federal system there is no parole or time off for good behaviour. Sportsman are frequently the target of animal rights groups and this successful trial may open the way to other aggressive 'rights' groups' prosecution.

**Turkey Season is Coming:** Turkey hunting can be dangerous and the following set of safety rules may help make this year's hunt a safe one.

#### **Turkey Hunting Safety**

Hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities, but only when participants abide by the rules of safe conduct. Below are some keys to safe spring turkey hunting. Study them before your next outing; pass them along to a friend.

#### **Target Identification**

Being 99.9 percent sure isn't good enough. Make absolutely sure you see a turkey with a beard before pulling the trigger.

#### **Calling**

Never use a gobble call on a spring hunt. It increases your odds of getting shot.

#### **Dress Defensively and Wear Full Camouflage**

from the top of your head to the tip of your toes. Wearing partial camouflage may leave just enough exposed to look like parts of a turkey. Never wear white, blue, or black, including socks and undergarments, to hunt spring turkeys, as these colors are associated with wild turkeys and can contribute to hunter-mistaken-for-game accidents.

#### **Calling Position**

Choose a position from which you can see well without tree limbs or branches obstructing your view. If

possible, sit at the base of a tree with a trunk wider than your body to protect your back.

### **Signaling an Approaching Hunter**

Never wave, whistle or make turkey calls to alert another hunter to your presence. In a clear voice, without shouting, call out to the oncoming hunter.

### **Using a Decoy**

When using a decoy, always place it so you are out of the direct line of fire should another hunter mistake it for legal game. When moving through the woods, totally conceal your decoy with camouflage or fluorescent orange, so it won't be mistaken for a live turkey.

### **Hunting Strategy**

Never stalk a wild turkey. The less you move, the more safe and effective you will be.

### **Bringing Home the Bacon**

Once you've killed a bird, wrap a fluorescent orange vest or band around its body with wings folded in before moving. Leave the woods via the most open route possible.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE APRIL 6, 2006 WITH DINNER AT 6 PM  
AND THE MEETING AT 7 PM**

Its that time of the year to renew memberships for 2006. A form to renew memberships is below for your convenience.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:**

**Now is the time to renew memberships and the following is for your convenience if you wish to use the mail for renewal (Please Print):**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:**

**Dues (check one):**

**Active: \$25** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senior (65 years of age and older): No Fee** \_\_\_\_\_

**Youth (15-18 years of age): \$10** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete and send together with your payment to *Ronald Hawkes, P.O. Box 91, Conway, MA 01341. Checks should be made payable to the Conway Sportsman's Club.***