

The President's Message
Dr. John E. Flaherty
Field Trial Clubs Association. Inc.



On behalf of the Flaherty Field Trial Association, I welcome you to the Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial grounds in beautiful East Windsor Connecticut. Since its inception the Flaherty Field Trial area has been a work in progress. For the past 79 years, the Association and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) have enjoyed an excellent working relationship that allows us to keep moving forward which is essential to our success. Ann Kilpatrick and Laurie Fortin, Wildlife Biologists from the DEEP Wildlife Division, continue to work with the Association to maintain the grounds and keep them up to the standards we have come to enjoy. The DEEP Wildlife Division oversees the administration and habitat management work completed on the Flaherty grounds working in cooperation with the DEEP Field Support Services (FSS) Division. Their work included herbiciding invasive plants, grounds maintenance (lawn mowing, brushwork, sign posting), and boundary marking. In addition, habitat mowing was completed by FSS, This work is being done due to the help and persistence of Ann Kilpatrick of the Wildlife division. Thank you all for your work on the grounds.

2022 saw Covid on the decline and Trials and hunt tests were able to be held without as many restrictions. We saw entries improve but they were not able to get back to our normal attendance. This was mostly due to the high cost of gas and diesel which hampered entrants traveling great distances.

The large culvert on the left side of the property is still closed due to store damage and the DEEP is expecting to have this repaired in late summer 2023. DEEP utilized a contractor for the grounds mowing in the summer of 2022, and due to the unusually dry conditions, they were able to mow areas that have been difficult to mow in previous years due to the normal wet ground conditions. The mowing exceeded everyone's expectations. Continuing the Association's history of making improvements, the floor in the clubhouse was painted. Fencing was placed on the road side of Dearborn thanks to our American Field club members spearheaded by Bill Bonnetti. A beautiful 25 foot flag pole was donated and installed by Henry Wierzbicki in honor of his son Jeremy.

If you have never attended an event at Flaherty, all of our events welcome spectators. Please come out and enjoy the thrill of watching high-quality bird dogs performing to the highest standards. When using the grounds please respect them please leave the grounds as clean as when you arrived or better.

We are all acting as ambassadors to the sport. Whenever we are at any field trial in the Country treat everyone you encounter with respect and understanding. Be a good sportsman be helpful to your fellow competitors. Be a mentor to a new competitor it will help to grow our sport. The CT DEEP is focused on bringing in new hunters and revitalizing hunters that have stopped hunting. The Association supports the DEEP in this endeavor. We all need to find ways to bring new sportsman into our rank's - neighbors, friends or even a young adult that needs a mentor. Anyone that uses the grounds I urge you to get a Connecticut hunting or fishing license. If you are an active Field Trialer AKC hunting test participant or just a hiker, biker or dog walker, the licenses help support the Wildlife management areas. If you prefer you can go to the DEEP Hunting license website and make a donation in leu of a hunting or fishing license.

In conclusion the Association would like to wish all the competitors that attend the Field trials and hunt tests on our hallowed grounds. We offer best wishes and thank you for continuing the field trial tradition. Thank you to our partners from DEEP who maintain the grounds and manage the habitat to the highest standards.

Dick Frawley,
President
Dr John E Flaherty Field Trial Association