

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

On behalf of the Flaherty Field Trial Association, I would like to welcome you to the Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial and Wildlife Area in beautiful East Windsor Connecticut. The Association has enjoyed a good working relationship with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Agency and the Town of East Windsor for the past eighty-four years. This long-standing relationship has been in effect since 1942, and the Association continues to work closely with Connecticut's D.E.E.P and continues to support the East Windsor Police Department and Emergency Services as well as the many local businesses and charities that reside in this wonderful community.



2025 certainly had its challenges for the State and the Association as funding throughout the country was uncertain at best due to impulsive funding cuts by the Federal Government. These cuts affected the management plan of the Flaherty WMA along with many other Wildlife Management Areas under the state's cognizance. I would like to thank the Connecticut's D.E.E.P. for their continued effort in a difficult year to come up with a plan for the Flaherty Area to support both the field trial community and the many small game hunters that hunt on this beautiful piece of property.

In 2025 working with the fifteen individual breed clubs that make up the Flaherty Association we were able to open four Saturdays in October and November for public hunting on the premier grounds in the State of Connecticut. I am happy to tell you that in 2026 the Association has once again adjusted the field trial calendar to reflect Five (5) Saturdays in October and November that will be open for public hunting including the opening day of pheasant season.

It is important that everyone benefits from the way the Flaherty grounds are managed. The field trailers benefit by having grounds that are conducive to a front running dog and that can support game birds throughout the course to allow competition at the highest-level worthy of a Championship. Flaherty is known as the Premiere Field Trial Area on the East Coast and the trials are well attended in the spring and the fall from all over the country.

The hunters enjoy the benefits of Flaherty because it gives them many access points throughout the property to hunt without being in six-foot-high cover, which is easier on the dogs and much safer for the hunters. Another benefit enjoyed by the hunter is evident on Monday mornings after a field trial where they can harvest the birds that were released for the trials. The regulation to allow hunters to harvest quail on field trial areas and extend the season from January 1 to February 28 in the state was initiated by the Flaherty Association many years ago to prevent these birds from dying of starvation or by predators. Most clubs use 100 to 150 birds per event. In 2026 we expect to release approximately \$42,500 worth of game birds on the property.

I have met a lot of people walking their dogs, hiking with their kids or enjoying the equestrian sports as there are plenty of areas to ride on. Some people just like to sit under the pavilion and enjoy the sunset.

Whatever the reason is that you like to be here on the Flaherty grounds is different for everybody. Everyone that I have met is always nice and somewhat inquisitive. Most people just want to know what is inside the clubhouse. We take pride in the history of the Association, and I love to invite them into the clubhouse and show them around and I think that it gives them a better understanding of why these hallowed grounds are so important to us.

Please be respectful to everyone that you meet and take the time to answer any questions that they may have if you can. If anybody has questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of the officers or delegates. This is a multi-use area, and I think that everyone who has spent any time here just wants to make it a better place for all of us to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Rich Murphy, President  
Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Clubs Association, Inc.  
[www.FlahertyFTA.org](http://www.FlahertyFTA.org)  
2026