

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 had a wonderful working relationship with the State of Connecticut's D.E.E.P and the Town of East Windsor for eighty-three years and continues to support the East Windsor Police Department and Emergency Services as well as many local businesses and charities that reside in this wonderful community.



Since the inaugural running of the New England Futurity in 1942, the Flaherty Association as it is known today has only been led by seven individuals (see history) each serving multiple terms and years.

2024 was an exceptionally difficult year for the Association with the passing of our longtime friend, competitor and our Association's seventh President Dick Frawley. Dick was an Ambassador to our sport and more in particular to our Association. Dick would stop and talk with everyone that he encountered on the grounds. It didn't matter if they were running a dog, training a dog or just simply walking or taking in a glorious sunset under the pavilion on this beautiful piece of property. I hope that his tradition of talking to and helping people in any way that he could carries on to all of us for many seasons to come.

There are a lot of moving parts that go on behind the scenes three hundred and sixty five days a year to make this Association function as it does. This is my seventeenth year serving as president and this job would be impossible if I didn't have the help and support of everyone. There are fifteen delegates that represent the individual breed clubs. The board of directors does an amazing job keeping this organization running smoothly. I would like to thank Cory Roy, Sarah Conynham and M.J. Haesche for their many hours of hard work and continued support. A special thanks to Sue DeSilver who has published the Flaherty Yearbook for many years, the yearbook is the lifeblood of the Association and it is our only fundraiser. Thanks to Henry Wierzbicki, Dave O'Brien, Mitch Swiercznski, Cory Roy, Gene Casale and Mike Ernest for their help with the 2024 mowing. I would also like to thank Bob Fleury. Bob is a past president and a Lifetime Delegate at large. He is also a mentor and a friend that will explain the real world to me when I need to hear it. Bob isn't afraid to hop into my car to attend various meetings and he always answers my calls when I have a question. I can always count on Bob as he isn't afraid to take on a special task or search the record section in the East Windsor town hall vault for hours. Thanks to everyone.

When Bob Fleury and I were searching land records and leases for the Flaherty property this past summer it was pretty cool to actually discover the legal lease agreements going back to 1942 and the Deed which documents the sale of the property to the State of Connecticut in 1947 for one dollar plus valuable considerations. I have to tell you that it was very exciting for me to hold these historical records of where it all began in my hands. To put that in perspective these records are older than I am. My plan is to have the legal documents framed and to display them in the clubhouse for all to see as it is part of our storied history.

I often wonder if Dr. Flaherty, Truman Cowles and Bayard O. Pelton would approve of what we have accomplished over the eighty-three years since that first lease was signed. I have to think that that they would be very happy with the progress that we have made and will continue to make. Compete hard in the spirit of sportsmanship but be respectful to each other and to this wonderful piece of history we call Flaherty.

Rich Murphy, President
Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Clubs Association, Inc.

www.FlahertyFTA.org

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