

**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 and a road improvement project 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.

2021 continued with Covid 19 in the forefront. Many participants were hesitant to come to events and a couple of events were canceled due to low entrants. Many clubs held their events with low participation and took a financial hit trying to keep traditions alive. The hunting tests held on the grounds brought in record numbers of participants and the clubs followed the covid protocols to ensure a safe environment for all involved, 2021 brought us unrepresented amounts of rain to the grounds we received twelve inches within a couple of days which overwhelmed the existing culverts on the grounds and caused extensive damage to a couple of them. Temporary repairs were completed and Ann Kilpatrick biologists from the wildlife division has been working tirelessly to have new culverts placed that will meet our requirements for years to come.

Continuing the association's history of making improvements we have a number of projects that we hope to complete in 2022 IE: Finishing up our corral project with the addition of one more stall placing fencing on the Dearborn portion of the grounds to ensure the safety of the dogs. Placing two-part epoxy paint in the clubhouse on the main floor. If you would like to help improve the grounds contact me and we can find a project for you to work on.

Due to Covid 19 we were unable to support the junior hunter Initiative this year, but we hope to resume the program in 2022.

If you have never attended an event at Flaherty all of our events welcome spectators, please come out and enjoy the spectacle of high-quality bird dogs doing what they were bred for.

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 a way 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 lieu of a hunting or fishing license.

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

Dick Frawley,  
President  
Dr. John E Flaherty Field Trial Association  
2022