



Reload!

The Newsletter of the Connecticut Travelers

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JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER CELEBRATING OUR 24th YEAR

© Jeff Hunter, Editor Pro Tem

The next Monthly shoot is "Mid-Winter Martyrdom" on January 16th.

SPORTING CLAYS AS A SPECTATOR SPORT

Valerie Hunter

The 2010 Dick Losee Memorial Shoot and Christmas Party was the first Travelers event that I have ever attended. When my husband, Jeff, suggested that I go, my first response was, "Are you crazy, it's going to be cold!" Jeff reminded me that we spent last Christmas hunting the Aurora Borealis in the Arctic Circle and I have gear good to -30° F. The weatherman was predicting 32° F temperature in LaGrangeville, New York, so weather should not be a problem. I don't shoot but wanted to meet the Travelers that I heard so much about, so I agreed to go.

As we drove to Mid County Rod & Gun Club, I commented on the lack of snow and not quite being in the Christmas spirit. That changed the instant we pulled into the club's parking lot. All of the Travelers were carrying toys to donate to needy children. When we entered the clubhouse, the Xmas tree was already surrounded with presents. The Travelers are certainly a generous and caring group.



I am not a breakfast person, but could not resist the eggs, sausage, hash browns, bacon and rolls that were served. Before heading out onto the course, I asked where the restrooms were. I arrived at a door marked "Does" and paused a moment. I then realized, "Does are female deer" and went in. A hunter, I am not.

We were warned that the course was icy. I thought, "How bad could it be, there is no snow." The first ice encrusted hill and gully were treacherous. I was glad that I had left my fashionable boots at home and was wearing an ugly hiking boot.



As we rotated from station to station, I saw a wide variety of targets. Some seemed fairly easy and some looked impossible to hit. The squad was breaking most of the targets and I realized, "These are REALLY good shooters". Jeff told me that Paula Moore was on the National Team and Lans Christensen, Ed Davies, and Steve Monti were all Class B (or better) shooters. The impressive final scores in the squad ranged from Steve's 72 to Ed's 84.

After 3 hours, we walked past the club house and still had 2 more stations to go. My cold feet and hands were telling me that I was not Traveler tough and I headed inside to warm up.

Lunch was a delicious meal of shrimp, prime rib, potatoes, vegetables and cheesecake. The Mid County staff did a wonderful job of cooking and hosting this event. After lunch, the bounty of gifts was presented to the elves who would distribute them. A magnificent gingerbread house donated by Andrej Kirylak was auctioned off and \$300 was raised. The coveted Shooting Sportsman of the Year award was given to Jeff Hunter (my husband). Jeff has been very active in the Travelers organization, running the website, publishing the newsletter and coordinating Saturday shoots. I was touched by the warm words of praise for him.

The event ended with a drawing of names and selecting of priceless prizes. Like any family gathering, this day was marked by laughter and tears. The Travelers that I spoke with were friendly and welcoming. I was tempted to take up the sport, until I was told, "Sporting clays is like golf, only with a gun." My unsuccessful foray into golf, made me quickly rethink picking up a shotgun.

I am very glad that I finally got to meet the Travelers. I wish you all a wonderful 2011.

(Complete results at <http://www.ctsca.org/node/1317>)

CHRISTMAS AT MID-COUNTY

Jeff Hunter Named Sportsman of the Year!!

Donna Galotto

All Travelers' shoots are about fun and hospitality, but none more so than the annual Dick Losee Memorial Shoot and Christmas Party at Mid County. This year was no exception. From the moment we arrived bearing gifts galore for our annual toy drive to benefit Toys for Tots in Dutchess County until the last door prize was awarded the day was filled with fun and festivity and a few touching moments as we recalled some days gone by.



The crew at Mid County welcomed us with a hearty breakfast buffet before we headed out to see what goodies were in

store for us on their always noteworthy Sporting Clays course. In spite of the cold weather and ice the crew did their usual fantastic job of presenting us with fun and hittable targets that kept our squad on it's toes but enjoying every minute. We started on stand 3 which had an incoming target from the field followed by a target on the right headed quickly out to the left. This was one of the stands I enjoyed the most mostly because I shot it a little better than I anticipated. Every stand provided us with opportunity to test both our shooting skills and our sense of humor. As usual we had a great squad and I can't wait to shoot with them again!

At the conclusion of the shooting we returned to the clubhouse to find hot soup awaiting us, quickly followed by a full spread of appetizers that could have served as lunch only to be followed by shrimp cocktail and a prime rib dinner including cheesecake for dessert! What a feast.

Clarisse Murphy and some of her assistants from Toys for Tots joined us for luncheon and a lively auction of the biggest Gingerbread House any of us had ever seen. The house was donated by Andrej and Amber Kirylak. After a lively round of bidding Carl LaCavala & Art Tonucci pooled funds and closed out at \$300 and in true Traveler fashion they donated the house to Toys for Tots and of course Clarisse knew the perfect family to take it to!

The next portion of our program was devoted to honoring our Sportsman of the Year. This is a very special honor that has gone to many special individuals, both members of the Travelers and others who have been instrumental in building the sport. (Still not sure exactly how I managed to wind up in such good company, but I am very proud to have been chosen) This year's honoree is someone who is relatively new to the sport, but who has brought us (some of us kicking and screaming) into the 21st century with his devotion to developing and managing our website. Jeff Hunter is the perfect example of someone who came into the group, saw a need and reached out to quietly go about filling it. He is truly a friend to the game and all those who shoot it. Jeff you truly are a Sportsman in the very best manner!

We rounded out the day with thousands of dollars in door prizes handed out to lucky shooters who braved the cold. Scoring doesn't count for prizes on this day, but John Hachmann (Sportsman of the Year 2008) will be doing his usual fine job of keeping tabs on all of us and getting the scores published.

Hope Santa was as good to you as our own Father Christmas, Al Anglace, continues to be.

IN SEARCH OF DISTANCE

Jeff Hunter

Eventually you get to a point in this game where you need a little help to get over a hump. I first sought instruction for what I thought was my weakest skill; distance. Anything past about 40 yards would clean my clock every time.



With reservation, I enlisted Tom Fiumarello (<http://www.xcelsportingclayinstruction.com>) to help me with my problem. I've always heard that the main goal of Coaches is to get you to sign up for another lesson, and I'm not the type of person that responds well to high-pressure sales tactics. Tom and I agreed to meet at Mid-Hudson on a cold day in February for a lesson.

We pulled up to the first station and Tom wanted me to shoot some targets so he could evaluate my style. I watched the show pair of two quartering targets; one from the right and then one from the left on report. I called for the first pair; bang, bang, dead pair. Second pair dead. Third pair dead and lost. I was pretty pleased with myself. In fact, I was questioning why I even hired a coach at that point. Confidence was not my problem.

We moved on to the next station; a right to left crosser and a chandelle. I watched the show pair fly by and called for my first pair fairly confident. Dead and lost. Lost pair. Lost pair.

OK, I need some help.

"How many targets are you shooting?" was the first question from Tom.

"Six?", I responded.

"Let's take them one at a time."

We watched the full flight of the right to left crosser.

"What is your plan for this target?" Tom inquired.

"Uh, I guess about three feet of lead?" was my answer.

We watched another crosser fly by as he explained the concepts of mount point and break point. We watched the flight of another bird and we tried to figure out speed and distance. A third bird was thrown so we could figure out vertical position.

"What is your plan for this target?" Tom asked again.

"My mount point is a little branch on a tree at about 3 o'clock and my break point is over another smaller tree at about 10 o'clock". I called for the target; Lost.

"Good. The target is going much slower than your gun is. Swing at about half that speed and let's try it again."

I called for the target; Dead. The light bulb went off; I got it.

We worked mostly on fundamentals of gun movement and mount point/break points that first day. I don't know that I bought the whole program that first day, but I was convinced that some of the methods he taught me helped my shooting. I continued to practice those methods between our lessons. Each time we met, Tom had a small change that he wanted me to practice. We eventually got to distance targets in the third lesson. Targets far away were just another type of target at that point. I figured out the mount point and break point and adjusted my swing for the speed of the bird.

After the third lesson, Tom told me to keep practicing over the summer and if I needed help on something to give him a call. That was it; he didn't pressure me to sign up for another lesson. We had swapped emails a couple times about certain targets or my abysmal performance at a shoot and he's always been an encouraging voice.

Building on the lessons with Tom, I have become a more consistent shooter. When I miss a target, I go through a process of analyzing what went wrong and what went right. I know I have a lot less 0's and 1's on my scorecard because of my instructor's help. We have since shot together a couple times without instruction just because we enjoy each other's company. I went searching for help with distance but found a friend that just likes to shoot sporting clays.

GEOFF GAEBE

Geoff A. Gaebe, 60, of Addieville East Farm in Mapleville, R.I. died at home Sunday, December 26, 2010 surrounded by family and friends after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was the loving husband of Paula (McCauley) Gaebe and adoring father of Sara L. Gaebe. He was the son of Morris J. Gaebe and the late Audrey K. Gaebe.

Geoff grew up in Barrington, R.I. and was



Courtesy of Henry S.F. Nachaj & ClayshootingUSA

one of four scholar/athlete brothers, who were also all Eagle Scouts.

He attended Wake Forest University and also the University of R.I. where he took pre-veterinarian courses.

Geoff traveled all over the world as a young man and taught English and equestrian skills in Central Asia.

Upon returning to R.I., Geoff learned the skills of building and carpentry and worked for several years with his close friend Hop Johnson in those trades.

Geoff always had a passion for the out-of-doors, wildlife, and conservation of the environment. In 1979 he became the manager of Addieville East Farm, a unique 900 acre wildlife preserve in Mapleville, R.I. Under Geoff's guidance, Addieville became one of the most beautiful places in New England, especially for hunters, fly fisherman, sporting clay shooters, dog trainers or for anyone else who just loved the pristine out-of-doors. He received many awards for environmental conservation and was deemed a national leader by his wildlife preserve peer managers. He was President and Vice President and on the Board of Directors of the NAGA, Conservation Farmer of the Year, NESCA Sportsman of the Year and was presented many other awards too many to mention. Geoff and his staff at Addieville have raised millions of dollars for Ducks Unlimited, Ruffed Grouse Society, Make-A-Wish, Boy Scouts of America, Women and Infants Neonatal Nursery, The Light Foundation, Women In the Outdoors, Special Olympics, animal shelters and so many more.

Besides his wife and daughter, Geoff is survived by his father and his brothers Dana and his wife Beth of Seekonk, MA, Greg and his wife Vicki of Miami, FL and John and his wife, Bonnie of Miami, FL .Geoff also had 7 nieces and nephews and two great nieces. He also leaves his Addieville loving and much loved extended family of Ken and Robin Hopkins and their children Casey, Laura, Kerry and Ashley, whom he loved like his own, as well as many other great friends of all walks of life.

Calling hours will be Thursday from 4 - 8 p.m. on Dec. 30, 2010 at the Keene Brown Funeral Home 445 Greenville Rd. No. Smithfield. There will be a memorial service celebrating Geoff's life next June at Addieville.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Geoff's memory may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute,%Thoracic Oncology, 44 Binney Street, Boston, MA 02115, Rhode Island Ducks Unlimited, % Jim Tappero, 12 Red Oak Drive, Wyoming, RI 02898 or Women and Infants Hospital, NICU Unit, %Patti Lucci, 101 Dudley Street, Providence, RI 02905.

CONTACTING THE TRAVELERS...

Editor: editor@ctsca.org

CTSCA Home Office: Al Anglace (aaa738@aol.com by far the best way) or Telephone 203 417-6295 if you absolutely must.

Membership, Address Changes and Shooting Class status: John Hachmann (johnhachmann@yahoo.com)

Guide Book Advertising & Other Questions: Dick Orenstein (oren@umich.edu) or call 203-226-5251.

CTSCA.ORG Webmaster: Jeff Hunter (jhunter@ctsca.org)

Past issues of Reload! are available online at www.ctsca.org

2011 TENTATIVE CTSCA SHOOTING CALENDAR

JANUARY 16	MID-WINTER MARTYRDOM (Dover Furnace)
FEBRUARY 20	ANNUAL MEETING & FUN SHOOT (Dover Furnace)
MARCH 20	THE ORIGINAL MARCH MADNESS (Orvis Sandanona)
APRIL 17	TAX TIME REVOLT (Ten Mile River Preserve)
MAY 15	MAY MINUET (Mashomack Preserve)
JUNE 19	CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS (Mid-Hudson Sporting Grounds)
JULY 17	SUMMERTIME, SUMMERTIME (Orvis Sandanona)
AUGUST	GREAT EASTERN LOBSTER CLASSIC (Addieville East Farm)
SEPTEMBER 18	SEPTEMBERSHUTZENFEST (Ten Mile River Preserve)
OCTOBER 16	SMALL GAUGE CHAMPIONSHIPS (FCFGPA)
NOVEMBER 20	(TBD)
DECEMBER 18	DICK LOSEE MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS PARTY (Mid County)

FOR SALE CLASSIFIED ADS WANTED
See listings at ctsca.org

YOU MUST BE AN NRA MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING TO MEET THE MANDATORY CTSCA MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATION FOR 2011.

The upcoming **CTTRAVELERS** Monthly Shoot

"MID WINTER MARTYDOM"

Sunday, January 16, 2011

DOVER FURNACE SPORTING GROUNDS

Dover, New York

DIRECTIONS: From routes I84 (CT.) and 684 (NY), take Route 22 North at Brewster, NY, for approximately 21 miles to Dover Furnace Road. Turn left onto Dover Furnace Road and proceed approximately one mile to club entrance on left at the stone pillars.

From the North: take Route 22 South to Dover Furnace Road on right. Turn right onto Dover Furnace Road and proceed approximately one mile to club entrance on right at the stone pillars.

Phone: 845 832-6594

REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Your application must be received on or before
Wednesday, January 12, 2011.

Continental Breakfast opens at 8:30 AM. Shooting begins at 9:45 AM.

A Luncheon will follow at the Dover Furnace Restaurant
immediately following the shoot.

Members \$65.00 – Guests \$75.00.

Mail this application, and your check, payable to CTSCA to:
CTSCA, 16 Davis Road, Seymour, CT 06483.

NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT SEND EXPRESS MAIL SIGNATURE REQUIRED.

List your name and those that are being paid with the enclosed check only!

YOU 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____

If possible, please squad me with: _____

Handicaps: 12, 16 & 20 gauges: 0. 28 gauge: 5. 410 bore: 15.

Concurrent selection, please check if qualified: Lady ____, Vet. 1 (55 to 69) ____, Vet. 2 (70 and older) ____, Junior (17 and younger) ____.

**You are responsible for listing any of the above special categories
and handicaps on your score card.**

**YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE REQUIRED DATE
FOR PREFERRED SQUADING.**

NOTE: Rental carts will be available at Dover Furnace at a cost of \$25.00 on a first come, first served basis. Call 845 832-6594 to reserve.