



## President's Message...

Happy New Year to everyone! Another year is behind us and the promises of a new one are before us. Hopefully more time spent training and in the fields is one of your resolutions for the coming year.

Please try to attend the Annual meeting on the 20th of January at the Pomfret Rod and Gun Club. There are kitchen facilities that we will be able to utilize for warming dishes and plenty of room for everyone. There is a skeet match that morning so the best place to park will likely be in the smaller lot right next to the clubhouse if it is plowed. Bring a small dish, dessert, or appetizer to share. Coffee and soda will be available there. The meeting will start at 11:00 a.m. with food and we will take care of business for the coming year starting around 12:15 p.m. Directions are included in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you there.

*Mike O*



### 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

*Pomfret Rod and Gun Club  
Pomfret, Connecticut  
January 20, 2008 11AM*

Pot luck lunch with meeting to follow. Mike O'Donnell or call 860-684-7890 to RSVP with what you will be bringing and what is needed.

#### Directions

Route 395 to Dayville exit 93, go west on Route 101 to Wrights Crossing Road (approx. 3 miles from 395) follow Wrights Crossing to River Road and follow River Road to Pomfret Rod & Gun Club. Park in the big gravel lot on the right across the street from the clubhouse.

Use the Google See Map link on our website:  
<http://www.snavhda.org/meeting.php>

**Remember your dues for 2008 are payable at this meeting.**

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**Darrell York** - Our muzzle loader season is closed  
I am stuck with Archery & landowner rifle

With 4 deer in the freezer I am holding out for a wall hanger. That being the case all I am seeing is does & small bucks so I am concentrating on the ducks and duck hunting has been good very good



**Mark Schnubel** - A group of us from the SMCNA met in northern PA for four days in early November for some grouse and woodcock hunting. The flight seemed a bit late this year and grouse numbers were stable. This was the second year in a row that we have hunted this area. I spent the bulk of my time hunting with Paul Jensen, my friend Bruce and Mark Bulivanoski. As the photo indicates Linus and Lilly did a fine job finding game and we even hit a few to bring home. There are few things in life that can match the enjoyment of the time we spend with good friends and fine dogs in the field.



**Mike Mularczyk** - My daughter Lauren inventing her own version of hip boots (above.) Below is a picture of Cooper from a late duck hunt this year. Despite being 9 years old, he still has an intensity and love of hunting that I think will never fade.



## TESTING SCHEDULE SET FOR 2008

The following dates and locations have been confirmed for 2008.

**Spring Pre-test – May 17, 2008 at Millstream**  
**Spring Test – May 31- June 1, 2008 at Millstream**

**Fall Pre-test – September 7, 2008 at Bristol**  
**Fall Test – September 19-21, 2007 at Bristol**

For the Spring Test entries received must be postmarked January 1 or later. Entries for the Fall test must be postmarked

February 1 or later.

Please use the interactive 2008 NAVHDA official test entry form to, make sure it is filled out completely, and mail it to:

Lon Ruddock  
 421 Church Street  
 Wood River Junction, RI 02894

These dates have been updated on the web site. At the annual meeting on Jan 20th, we will be finalizing the dates and locations of our training clinics.

## American hunter is a vanishing breed

By Oren Dorell, USA TODAY

States that rely on tens of millions of dollars in hunting license fees annually to pay for environmental conservation are trying to boost a population they had never thought of protecting: the endangered American hunter.

The number of hunters has slid from a peak of 19.1 million in 1975 to 12.5 million last year, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

With that drop has come worries that states won't be able to pay for the rising costs of conservation efforts and acquisition of open space.

States generated \$724 million last year through hunting licenses and fees for wildlife management and conservation; taxes on guns and ammunition added another \$267 million, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Sportsmen pay the bills, especially east of the Mississippi," says Rob Sexton, vice president for government affairs at the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, a hunters advocacy group in Columbus, Ohio. "A vast majority of the public land where people go for walks, wildlife viewing or mountain biking, the vast majority is bought by sportsmen."

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Sportsmen

To stem the loss, states have been altering hunting laws to get people into the woods.

Since 2004, 18 states have changed their laws to loosen restrictions on when children can hunt with parents, and to allow novice adult hunters to try hunting without a license, Sexton says. The effort has shown signs of working, Sexton says: The states have seen an additional 35,000 people apply for hunting licenses since 2004.

The decrease in hunters appears to be a result of modern living, says Nicholas Throckmorton, Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman. He says fewer Americans hunt because they are spending more time on work and organized sports for their children. Most Americans now live farther from wildlife areas than in the past, says Throckmorton, whose agency conducts a national survey of Americans' outdoor activities every five years.

Officials are changing state laws because they are "trying to tear down the barrier for recruitment of new hunters," Throckmorton says.

Mark Damian Duda, executive director of Responsive Management, a research firm focusing on outdoor recreation, says the modest increase in the hunter population has been good news. He says the vanishing hunters are "a long-term concern."

"At some point, there's going to be less dollars if current trends continue," Duda says. "Is it a good thing for fewer and fewer people to be funding all wildlife

conservation protecting national resources enjoyed by 97% of the people?"

Among steps being taken:

Kentucky allows new hunters to hunt for a year with a legal hunter before taking a hunter-safety course. Since July, 1,159 new permits have been issued.

Oregon has a Mentored Youth Hunter Program that allows unlicensed children ages 9 to 13 to receive one-on-one hunting experience and training.

Arizona implemented an online hunter-safety course that can be completed in three hours, instead of the standard 16. Big game, such as deer, are reserved for hunters 10 and up.

Thad Musser, 33, who bought a deer-hunting bow at B&B Archery Pro Shop in Manassas, Va., last week, says changing the hunting age in Virginia, now 12, would not lure more hunters; they'd merely start younger. His 4-year-old nephew wants to hunt now and will still want to in seven years, he says.

More hunters also help states save money on certain expenditures, such as those linked to damage by foragers that are too plentiful, such as the Canada goose and whitetail deer.

"Rather than paying professional hunters to cull the herd, sportsmen would be happy to pay a fee to do it themselves," Sexton says.

"The number of people who hunt has

## Pheasant Chili

Say what you want about chili, there's no better cold weather meal, and if there's better fare for a Super Bowl party or any ballgame, I haven't found it. The good news is this is the best chili I've ever tasted. This is a WHITE chili. This recipe makes about eight quarts, enough to serve a pretty good group. In fact, I make it every year for ice fishing. - Mike M.

### INGREDIENTS

One half cup olive oil  
 Four 15 oz cans Cannelini beans  
 One 15 oz can kidney beans  
 Three bell peppers, one each of red, yellow and orange, diced  
 Two large diced onions  
 Three dried ancho peppers, rehydrated and diced  
 One quarter cup chopped garlic  
 One half cup sliced celery  
 Two quarts chicken or pheasant stock  
 One pint whole whipping cream  
 One and one half cups flour  
 Pheasant breasts – Two pheasants, cubed  
 Two fresh bay leaves  
 One and one half TBSP chili  
 One and one half TBSP cumin  
 Salt and white pepper to taste  
 Nacho chips and a bit of fresh cilantro

### PREPARATION

Heat a stock pot until it is very hot, then add olive oil and quickly brown the pheasant pieces. Add cumin and chili powder, cook a minute or two, then add the garlic. Add peppers, onion and celery, then stir. Add two fresh bay leaves, the flour, and then stir.

Add the pheasant or chicken stock, beans and whipping cream, then stir. Add the ancho chili, and simmer for 45 minutes. Finally, add salt and white pepper to taste.

Garnish with nacho chips and a bit of cilantro. Best enjoyed with a frosty adult beverage.

declined in recent decades, and the number of people who enjoy wildlife in other ways, like wildlife watching or bird-watching, continues to expand," says Michael Markarian, executive vice president of the Humane Society of the United States. "Efforts to reverse these trends are futile."

Rachel Brittin, spokeswoman for the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, says hunters are a great source of revenue, but they can't do it alone.

U.S. wildlife is threatened by more issues than ever: increasing urbanization, invasive species, climate change and new diseases. States receive \$1.5 billion a year but need an additional \$1 billion annually to accomplish goals, Brittin says.

Efforts to raise enough elsewhere have failed, says Dave Chadwick of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Lawmakers came up with a plan to buy land with \$350 million a year in offshore oil and gas revenue, he says. Environmental groups squawked about taking money from the oil and gas industry, and property rights advocates balked at the land acquisitions, Chadwick says. The effort died in 2000.

## Winter Training Clinics

We will run a forced retrieval clinic this winter during the end of January beginning of February. The clinic is open to SNE members only. The clinic will involve 3 meetings. During the first meeting, 1 - 2 handlers with dogs will be paired to a senior trainer. Times and dates of the next 2 meetings will be determined at this time between this smaller group (we will split up). The idea is that your senior trainer will help you/the 2 of you, to develop a plan from start to finish. Homework will be given and proficiency proven to move to the next step. Pairing of handlers and Senior trainer will be such that the 3 meetings can occur quickly and your dog will be force broke properly. Members desiring to participate as handler or senior trainer should contact Mark Snyder by the Annual meeting.

*Warning: this clinic is not for casual trainers! If you fail a quiz (beginning of the 2nd and 3rd meeting), you and your dog will be excused from the remainder of the clinic(s)! Cost - not sure yet, should be minimal I am only looking to cover any expenses like fire hall for first meeting...*



**Upcoming SNE Events**

**Jan 20, 08 Annual Mtg**

11AM, Pomfert Rod and Gun  
Pomfert, CT  
Mike O'Donnell (860) 684-7890

**May 17 - Spring Pre-Test**

7 AM, Millstream Preserve  
Hebron/Columbia, CT  
Lon Ruddock (401)-364-8878

**May 31- June 1 - Spring Test**

7 AM, Millstream Preserve  
Hebron/Columbia, CT  
Lon Ruddock (401) 364-8878



**Southern New England Chapter Officers**

**PRESIDENT:** Mike O'Donnell, 148 Orcuttville Road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076 (860) 684-7890  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Jim Levins, 20 Susan Ct, Wolcott, CT 06716 (203)-879-4199  
**SECRETARY:** Mike Mularczyk, 94 Allen Road, North Easton, MA 02356 (508) 230-5565  
**TREASURER:** Neal Cunningham, 153 Monson Road, Stafford Springs, CT 06076 860-684-4856

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Newsletter Information: The Southern New England Newsletter is published on a quarterly basis. It will be posted to our website on or around the 15th of each month. We would like to publish it at least 6 times a year, but that depends on YOU!!! Without your contributions we can not make this happen. Please submit your articles, brags, calendar items and pictures via email to Mike Mularczyk mmularczyk@mms.org. I will do my very best to get them into the next issue.