

ILION FISH & GAME CLUB 2018

WELCOME TO 2018 !!

HELP !! Once again we are asking members to assist us in a raffle to help pay our \$5000+ tax bill. We need your help. Enclosed you will find five raffle tickets. Please **Sell them, Buy them**, or return them (please do not discard them) along with your dues payment as soon as possible. If you can sell more tickets and help lessen the burden on the Club's finances, please include a note with your first return and more tickets will be sent to you. Thanks to you, and your continued involvement we were able to meet our tax obligations. But, with rising costs and taxes, and insurance, without your continued support we will have a tough time meeting fixed expenses this year

FARM & GROUNDS

The 2017 annual spring cleanup went very well. Thanks to all who helped out. Thanks to Joe Murray and Randy Griffin and Greg Riddle for keeping our grounds mowed and trimmed and to Ron Bunce for his heavy equipment expertise. The excellent appearance of our grounds brought compliments from members and visitors alike and is one of our best selling points to gain new members. The pavilion rest rooms provide service to the renters. This summer saw the purchase of several skeet, trap and sporting clays machines (paid in part by generous contributions from the shooters). Thank you to all who helped. Don't know who they were? Come to some of the work-parties and join us in fixing up the place.

RIFLE RANGE

The rifle range (for members only) saw several upgrades and improvements during 2017. Twelve members donated \$125 each to pay for materials to build new tables. They, and other members, then built 12 tables for use at the 100 and 200 yard ranges. The pistol area of the range was expanded by one more table. In addition, work was done to improve the roadway and facilitate drainage. The range is strictly for the use of dues paying members who have purchased a range key. No one is allowed to bring a guest to the range or to allow anyone, who is not a member, access to the range. If a member has purchased a Family Membership and a range key, the range is open to the member, spouse and children under the age of 18 (who must be accompanied by a parent or other adult member of the club). Special thanks to Vern Wollaber, our Range Chairman and Safety Officer for his dedicated work on the range. He and his helpers did a remarkable job keeping things neat and tidy. ***Please note that range keys must be purchased at the clubhouse during days we are open for skeet, trap and clays. Keys cost \$30 with a \$5 credit for a returned key. You must present proof of firearms safety training to purchase a key (hunting license, pistol permit, GI identification or other. Please also note that no walk-ins are allowed; and the key fee only begins to pay for the maintenance of the range--you are responsible for cleaning up after you are done shooting and you are asked to "carry in / carry out" all materials.

NEW: Family membership available at a cost of \$60 (for husband, wife and minor children). (Senior family membership cost \$30.

ACTIVITIES

FISH RELEASE – Dale Lewis, Chairman

Once again, last year's release of 500 8-9 inch Brook trout stocked Steele's Creek.

PHEASANT RELEASE – Ron Bunce, Chairman

The pheasant release program was reinstated this year with pheasants being released in the Robinson Road State lands area and the Pence Farm in Columbia Center (you must secure permission to hunt the Pence property).

CLAY TARGET SHOOTING – Ed Freedman – Chairman

SKEET – The John P. Brown Memorial Shoot is our main skeet shoot. Thanks to Gary Blaise, Dave Cooley, and John Grabski for maintaining our traps.

SPORTING CLAYS – Our 2017-2018 sporting clays league and open shooting has begun—but since we'll be shooting for 21 weeks until May, you still have time to sign up for some fun and games. Thanks to Sandi Lorraine and Suzanne Cruger, Dave Mackin, Howard Anderson, Jim Minosh, Jim Lorraine, Kim Norman, Robbie Tulloch, Chrissy Grogan, and their crews for the tasty meals served up last year. Come up and give it a try. We shoot in the woods during the summer (see below for dates).

5 – STAND CLAYS and New WOBBLE TRAP – We are fully automatic, with one trapper pushing the buttons, and the challenge awaits you—usually every Wednesday from April thru September (and then on Sundays from October through March). We have loaner guns and qualified instructors—please feel free to use them.)

TURKEY & BIG BUCK CONTESTS – Rick Bunce, Chairman

These are "members only" contests for those whose dues are paid prior to the start of the season. You must bring your turkey beard and the leg tag or your buck rack and game tag to a member's meeting to get it scored. The December 2018 member's meeting, prior to 7:00PM, is the turkey deadline. The January 2019 members' meeting, prior to 7:00PM, is the buck deadline. Prizes to be awarded at the respective meetings include 1st, 2nd, and random draw.

ANNUAL RAFFLE

Our 2017 Membership Raffle was a great success. We extend a sincere THANK YOU to all who purchased and sold tickets. This is one of the biggest money events of the year.

KITCHEN

Our kitchen crew (usually Rick and Tina) serves up a tantalizing goodie (free of charge) for each month's meeting, e.g. sausage, burgers, dogs, chili, chips and pickles. A dollar donation would be gratefully accepted. Get a full belly for a buck !! In addition we hold our Annual Meeting--Roast Beef Dinner every January and we have our Annual Wild Game Dinner every February. If you wish to donate any game for the dinner in February, please contact Rick Bunce. Kitchen volunteers are always welcome.

HUNTER EDUCATION COURSES

Classes are scheduled throughout the year. Most all reservations must be done on-line. Check out the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation website for more information.

COMING EVENTS – Some of them are listed here---check out the Clubhouse bulletin board and posted calendar for more details---

--Summer Clays Begins May 12 2018 IN THE WOODS

--Winter Clays every Saturday from Dec 2, 2017 to May 5, 2018

--Sunday Skeet and Trap October through March (8AM-12 Noon) and then

Wednesdays from April through September for Skeet, Trap and 5 – Stand (3PM to dark)

(check bulletin board for exact dates)

(Note: Range keys available on Wed., Sat., Sun. as above—8AM to Noon)

Please note – Member meetings start at 7:00 PM

Special Note:

CLUB EMAIL: the club has a second email address (notice@ilionfishandgameclub.com) for the purpose of keeping members informed of club news, activities or special or newsworthy events. If you would like to be updated or informed by email just send a request to the new email address asking to be included on the club news email list.

CLUB FACEBOOK:-----Check us out on the Ilion Fish & Game Club Facebook page.

NYSTATE SAFE ACT: Every club member and LEGAL gun owner should be aware and concerned about this law. The law has the ability to make you a FELON and confiscate your legally owned firearms! The club has attempted to keep its members informed of the law's potential impact with monthly discussions and updates at our club meetings. Currently "ALL" legal challenges to the law by the NRA, NYSR&PA, SCOPE and private individual lawsuits have been effectively stalled by our NYS judiciary. You can stay informed about the SAFE ACT, its status or new developments by requesting to be included on the club's email list (notice@ilionfishandgameclub.com).

JUNIOR SHOOTERS: A junior shooter must be accompanied by an adult/guardian member of the Ilion Fish & Game Club to use the range.