

ILION FISH & GAME CLUB 2025

WELCOME TO 2025 !!!

Once again, we are asking members to assist us in a raffle to help pay our taxes, utilities, and maintenance costs. Enclosed you will find five raffle tickets. Please, **SELL THEM, BUY THEM**, or return them (please do not discard them) along with your due's 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. With rising costs, taxes, and insurance, your continued support is needed to meet our obligations.

FARM & GROUNDS

Thanks to Greg Riddle, Don Polley, Vern Wollaber, John Bieksza and Joe Murray for keeping our grounds mowed and trimmed and to Ron Bunce for providing heavy equipment and his expertise running it for various projects. The excellent appearance of our grounds brings compliments from members and visitors alike and is one of our best-selling points to gain new members. Maintenance to the club house area grounds, skeet and trap fields and the rifle range is continual and ongoing. New gutters were installed on the club house to try and eliminate future water problems. Greg Riddle spent many hours repairing and painting gun stands and cutting brush around the skeet and trap fields. Come to some of the work parties and join us in fixing up the place.

RIFLE RANGE

The rifle range (for members only) is in full operation. Vern Wollaber does a great job keeping bench's and target areas in good repair. F-Class has ended for the year but will resume again in the spring for any of you who might be interested. Please read your "Range Rules" and observe the common-sense rules – especially the rapid-fire ban. We value our neighbors and want to keep them happy. Action will be taken against violators of the range rules or stand operation practices. ***Please note that range keys may be purchased only at the clubhouse on the day's skeet, sporting clays and five-stand are in operation. Keys cost \$30 with a \$5 refund upon turning in last year's key. Also, upon your purchase of a range key, you will be given an I.D. card and a "necklace" that must be visible when using the range. Please note that no walk-ins are allowed. **You** are responsible for cleaning up after you are done shooting and you are asked to **"carry-in / carry-out" your targets and shooting materials including brass and shotgun hulls.**

ACTIVITIES

FISH RELEASE AND FISHING DERBY

The membership approved funds for adding fish to the club pond and holding our fourth fishing derby in a row. Any child up through age 15 could enter and 46 kids ending up participating. The weather was sunny and pleasant and approximately 60 fish were caught which included bass, crappies and channel catfish. Three top prizes were given out in three different age groups with all participants receiving a prize. The club provided hot dogs and soft drinks to kids and parents. We plan to continue with another fishing derby this year. In addition to this event, the club also resumed stocking trout in Steele Creek.

PHEASANT RELEASE

The pheasant release took place, once again, on the state land on Robinson Road, the Bodwell farm on North Columbia Road and the Case farm on Hazelton Road.

CLAY TARGET SHOOTING

Thanks to Joe Murray, David Cruger, Sean Conroy, Keith Tripple, Dave Cooley and a number of others who manage the desk and help set up courses so that all runs smoothly. Sporting Clays is shot every **Saturday** morning (8:30am) Skeet and Trap are shot on **Sunday** mornings (9:00am) and Wednesday afternoons (3:00pm) during summer. From January 1st through April breakfast and lunch are available on **Saturday** mornings. Several sporting clay tournaments are held throughout the year; check the website for further information.

TURKEY, BIG BUCK AND FISH CONTESTS

These are member only contests for those whose dues are paid prior to the start of the season. You must bring your properly tagged turkey beard or buck rack to the member's meeting to be scored. The June 2025 meeting prior to 7:00pm is the turkey deadline. The January 2025 member's meeting prior to 7:00pm is the buck deadline. Prizes to be awarded at the respective meetings include 1st, 2nd and random draw. The January meeting is also when prizes are awarded for the largest fish and each freshwater species. A fish prize form can be filled out any time during the year and verified by a board member.

ANNUAL RAFFLE

Our 2024 raffle was a great success. We extend a sincere THANK YOU to all who purchased and sold tickets. This is one of the bigger money-making events of the year. A total of \$3800 was paid out in case prizes.

KITCHEN

Our kitchen crew serves up a supper for each month's meeting, e.g., sausage & peppers, ziti, burgers, hot dogs, chili, chips and pickles. A donation would be greatly appreciated. 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, please let someone know well ahead of time. Kitchen volunteers are always welcome. Thank You to Jordan and Rebecca Wheatly, Rob Tullouch, and our winter-season Saturday breakfast and lunch crews who provide their services for our membership and shooters to enjoy.

COMING EVENTS

The membership has approved the purchase of an ATV to raffle for funds for continued operation of our club. We have purchased a new 2023 CanAm 700cc ATV with 4WD and power steering. The tickets are \$20.00 and includes a trailer for transporting the ATV. Tickets and inspection of the ATV are available at the clubhouse. Special events as well as regular activities can be found on our website.

www.ilionfishandgameclub.com

MEETINGS

Please join us for the membership meetings which are the first Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Due to holidays this year (2025), the September meeting will be September 8th.