



# Snake Meadow Club, Inc.

Moosup, Connecticut

**Snake Meadow Happenings**

Volume XXIV September 2011

### **Two very special hunts**

Tom Dufficy

**O**ur tenth annual Tim Brennan Jr. Hunt will be held Sat. Oct. 1, 2011 from 8am to 1pm. This hunt is open to junior hunters age 12 to 15 who have completed the Firearms Safety Course and possess a Junior Hunting License. Sign-up will be @ 8am. This much-anticipated event will be limited to 15 junior hunters. Coffee, donuts and lunch will be served to all attending.

We will need support from members to make this hunt a success. Help will be needed to cook, stock birds, and from members with dogs to assist the youths. Safety instructors will also be on hand to guide the young hunters.

This hunt is funded by our Tim Brennan Jr. Fund, **but any donations will be greatly appreciated** and can be forwarded to Paul Chase, 1011 Route 163, Oakdale, CT 06370.

To sign up a junior hunter please call me at 860 376-5071 or email [dufficyt@aol.com](mailto:dufficyt@aol.com). I will need his/her Junior Hunting License number, and we will need to have this on the day of the hunt. Again, any members wishing to help out are asked to please contact me.

Also, our ninth annual Veterans' Day Hunt will be held Friday Nov. 11, 2011 at 8am and is open to members who have served in our armed forces. These members may also bring one guest who must also have served. Please

contact me to register. Deadline to sign up is 11/5/11. Thank you all.

### **Snake Meadow Happenings is 23 years old!**

Paul Chase

**T**he first issue of *Snake Meadow Happenings*, done on an electric typewriter, was produced in July of 1988. Following is a reproduction of that issue...

Well gang, we have the makings of a newsletter. I agreed, at the urging of President Ken Dugas, to put one together on a somewhat regular basis (as yet to be determined). We would appreciate your input of newsworthy items, i.e. welfare of the club, items of sporting interest, information regarding members and their families (accomplishments, births, deaths, etc.) and suggestions for improvements to *Snake Meadow Happenings*. Please call me at 376-4444 (days) or 848-8008 (evenings) with your news and/or suggestions, Oh, I guess it's O.K. to use this newsletter for your wants and "for sale" items—this way all the membership gets to see what might be on the club bulletin board.

We were all deeply saddened to learn of the death of Wayne Davis on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Wayne was an ardent fisherman but will perhaps be most remembered for his sporting art hanging on the club walls. He will be missed. Our condolences to his wife Barbara and family.

Your board of directors voted to accept five new probationary members. They are:

Steven Curry  
Lewis Kerr  
Henry Kobelski  
Ronald Pelletier  
Normand Racicot

P.O. Box 52, Niantic, CT 06357  
13 Cheryl Court, Niantic, CT 06357  
123 Chesterfield Rd., East Lyme, CT 06333  
127 Baltic Street, Norwich, CT 06360  
P.O. Box 395 Central Village, CT 06332

Welcome to Snake Meadow Club! We hope that each relationship will be long, giving and rewarding. Incidentally, Paul Goyette and committee will be reviewing the interviewing process by which we take in new members.

**T**he fishing program fared well this year, about the only hitch being 12 trout found dead below the lower dam (for no apparent reason). John Dudek reports that Greenwalk fulfilled our orders for fish...John Melodich and helpers planted hemlock trees along the west shore of the upper pond...Ron Pelletier donated children's life preservers to the club...John D. also states that members are doing a good job hooking up boats...It appears that our false alarm problem has been solved; the culprit may have been a defective battery—which has been replaced...Don Collins is in the process of replacing the two urinals (?) in the upstairs bathroom...It's reported that our generator is now fully functional...Joe Langevin is evaluating the price of gravel that the club is charging and has been authorized to set same, if necessary. Don C. is also chairing a committee to clean up the skeet field...Bob Quintal has donated a new sign to be installed at the entrance of our club telling the world who we are—a much needed addition. Thanks all for your interest and participation in the improvement of our club.

**H**ey wow! The club picnic is set for Sunday, Sept 18 at 11:00 a.m. 'til whenever. Co-chairmen Steve Bartlett and Pete Lena have promised a great time for all with ample fare of food, drink, fun and games. More to come on this shortly, but reserve the date now! I think it's important for each member to make every effort possible to attend. Let's do it right.

I'm sure many of you hunters have been asked, "How can you love nature and kill things?" Well, do you have all the right answers for your non-hunting or anti-hunting friends? I recently read an essay entitled "Why I taught My Boys to be Hunters," written by Archibald Rutledge (1883-1973), a famous author, now deceased. Anyone interested in fine sporting literature would be well served in its reading.

"The privilege of hunting is about as fine a heritage as we have, and it needs to be passed on unsullied from father to son. There is still hope for the race when some members of it are not wholly dependent upon effete and urbane artificialities for their recreation. A true hunter will never feel at home in a night club. The whole thing would seem rather pathetic and comical—somehow not in the same world with solitary fragrant woods, rushing rivers and the elegant highborn creatures of nature with which he is familiar. Hunting gives a man a sense of balance, sanity, a comprehension of the true values of life that make vicious and crazily stimulated joy a repellant thing."

FOR THE CLUB,  
LONESOME PAUL

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As a contemporary postscript to Mr. Rutledge's "that make vicious and crazily stimulated joy a repellant thing," I would add that the former Poet Laureate of South Carolina

would be aghast at the electronic entertainments of today's youth!...Of the new members voted into the club at that May 1988 board meeting only one remains in the club— Steve Curry. Hi Steve!...Our own Wayne Davis was a nationally recognized sporting artist.

### ***Fishing & Hunting News***

Don Greene

**W**eed control in the upper pond was successful this year; consequently the pond will still be relatively free of the *elodea* that overtook the pond last year. The lily pads were not affected by the treatment and gave good habitat for bass. Bass fishing has been good all summer with a few large fish (4-6 lbs.) being caught and released. Trout fishing seems to be off this year with only 176 trout recorded as being kept out of the 600 that were stocked. A fall stocking is planned for this year; this should take place in late September and will consist of about 275 brook trout. This should result in some excellent fishing following a morning of bird hunting!

A few trees were dropped in the upper pond for bait fish and bass habitat. This has worked out very well with bass being caught at these locations on a regular basis. I suggest that a couple more trees be dropped in both the upper and lower ponds to create more fish habitat and cover.

Don't forget the upcoming **Third Annual Seafood Dinner on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**. This is an important fundraiser for the club, and member participation is encouraged. Tickets will be mailed to all members in early September. This will be a great event with first-class food and numerous raffle prizes.

On a different subject, deer hunting at the club should be better than last year. Several nice bucks have been recorded on my trail cameras this summer. It has been suggested that a Deer Hunting Committee be formed so that deer hunting is a little more organized. In the past, stands have been put up in various areas by club members, and it is not clear to others if they should venture near those areas. It has been suggested that several stands be purchased by the club and put in certain areas

for any club member to use. Members would still have to sign in and designate from which stand they would be hunting. If more and more members start deer hunting we may have to go to some type of "lottery" system for the days and stands that can be hunted. I think the Committee should be formed prior to this hunting season, to be discussed at the September board meeting.



Also, creation of a 3D archery course has been discussed, and I think this is an idea that needs to happen. There are several archery hunters in the club that would make use of this facility, and it will be a draw for potential new members.

### ***International fly fishing competitor,***

**Zach Acunzo**

*By Francis Aconzo*

**Z**achary Acunzo, Rich Falvey's grandson, who has often times fished the streams and ponds and hunted birds at Snake Meadow, placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the US Youth National Championship this past June. In addition, he has been named a member of the United States Youth Fly Fishing Team. He spent a week in July training with the team in Montana and is very excited about being one of 5 selected from the team (16 total members) to represent the US Youth Team in the 2011 America's Cup to be



held in Vail, CO in mid-September. This is an international competition with mostly adult teams that come from all over the world to compete in hopes of winning this cherished fly fishing title.

Zachary started fly fishing when he was 5 years old, and he immediately embraced the sport with a passion. A few years later he convinced his dad to take him on his first fly fishing trip to Montana where he fished the Yellowstone, Black Foot and Gallatin rivers. He was also very lucky to have his grandfather join him on that trip. As Zachary grew older, his grandfather began to take him on many great fly fishing trips including tarpon fishing on Key Biscayne and salmon fishing on the Miramichi River in New Brunswick. Over the years, this driving passion strengthened, and now at age 16 he is excited to be combining his life-long recreational fishing with competitive fly fishing. This summer he spent a fair amount of time chasing stripers and blues along with other species that inhabit Long Island Sound, which is adjacent to his home in Branford, CT. When not salt water fly fishing you will find Zachary on one of the local Connecticut Rivers: the Salmon, Farmington, Hammonasset or Farm (or often at the club). His experience in Montana was one of a lifetime where he fished with his coach and teammates on many of the great rivers of Montana, including the Madison and the Ruby.

Zachary is a junior at Branford High School where he is an honor student, gavel-winning member and vice president of Model Congress, vice president of Student Council and a member of the cross country team.



Zack surveys his beat on Bald Eagle Creek in Lamar, PA prior to beginning Session III at the Youth National Championships

Zachary is looking forward to representing the United States youth in the upcoming America's Cup and hopes to bring home a medal.

Zachary aspires to become a member of Snake Meadow Club.

***Special recognition for 40-year member Dr. Hugh Lena given at club picnic.***



Recognition to Hugh Lena for long-time service 6/18/11  
L-R: Peter Lena, Hugh Lena, Greg Teifert (Sandi McCourt photo)

***Kitchen Committee memo***  
Stan Ward, Jr.

I would appreciate volunteers to help in the kitchen making bread, soups, etc. Please notify me of your interest at 860 848-2058 or warduncasville@aol.com. Thanks.



Happy Father's Day! - Club Picnic June 18, 2011  
L-R: Treasurer Paul Chase, Pres. Greg Teifert and Kitchen Chair Stanley Ward (Sandi McCourt photo)

### ***Notes from Bill Kuchy, Jr.***

Bill has indicated that thanks should be noted to the following:

To Charlie Corson for his efforts in smoothing the rutty road to the Rifle Range by providing 60 tons of rip rap and 60 tons of gravel; then using his equipment to finish grading. As a result of "Irene," Charlie also moved several tree limbs out of harm's way, cleared the debris from the Olearos Road gate to Heart Attack Hill and the easterly entrance on Snake Meadow Road (along Areas 9 & 10) to the clubhouse.

To Del McCartney for his tireless and ongoing work in maintaining our grounds and for his extra duty in cleaning up and fixing the clubhouse, i.e. pouring a threshold and fixing the door in the backroom, repair and painting of the concrete steps leading to the porch.

To Joe Meier and sons for laboring 50 hours scrubbing the porch interior and painting the floor, walls and ceiling.

To Mike Franklin for bush hogging Areas 4 & 5 using his own equipment.

And to others I may have missed.

Well done, all!

Your editor will add that Bill, along with Del, in many respects, served in the role of "coordinators" in crossing committee bounds in determining the multifaceted tasks that needed to be accomplished.

Our garage can now be locked.

Power was restored to the club on Sunday, Sept. 4. We were lucky!

Bill noted that Bourdeau's Pheasant Farm suffered little or no storm damage. No information as to Peaceable Hill Farm in VT.

### ***This 'n' that***

Editor

**O**n August 6, former President Tim Falvey, Jr. experienced a "mishap" on Fisher's Island, NY when his motorized scooter ran into his friend's scooter that had stopped short. Initial pain and subsequent x-rays revealed cracked ribs and other knee/foot bone trauma, but fortunately no operation was necessary as the afflicted areas were diagnosed as self-healing. Tim is back to work on crutches after a week off. Bottom line: Tim will be fine with a little rehab. Incidental to this little episode was a recent trip to Rangeley with Tim Sr. where he experienced "the best fishing ever" for brook trout and landlocked salmon.

### ***Fishing in Kodiak Alaska***

Bruce Roberts

**F**ive years ago my friend Jack asked if I had ever fished in Alaska and if I wanted to take a trip there with him to give it a try. I had not really thought about it before but said yes. It turns out he had been to Kodiak eleven times so he knew where he was going and what to do. I asked him why Kodiak continued to be choice. He said I'll tell you when the trip is over, and you can judge for yourself.

I always thought of Alaska as being gray and bleak, but I was wrong. It turns out the 21-hour days of summer make everything so green, it's like a jungle. I see why Kodiak is called the Emerald Jewel. If wildlife and the outdoors are your love, you can't help but find the scenery stunning. Everywhere you look is like something you would see on a calendar. It is truly the last American frontier.

Kodiak is about the size of CT with about 4000 residents and boasts 12 world class streams and too many lakes to count. It is part of the North American rain forest so it is usually

overcast and wet with moss growing throughout the conifer trees. The streams are usually chalky looking from all the shale and minerals in the run-off.

I find July/August the best time to visit Kodiak because it's too hot for the bears in the lowlands where we fish. They stay up in the mountains till early fall, although you may see one at night. The pink salmon come in to spawn during this time and if you catch the timing right, there are thousands in every stream. They are aggressive and eager to strike any bright colored fly or lure, pink being the favorite. It's very possible to catch 50 fish per day from 4-10 pounds.

If the salmon have not yet come into the streams, they are usually sitting right near the mouth where the stream meets the salt water. With so many stacked up waiting to enter, it is easy to hook up on the outgoing tide, which on a normal day changes about 9-10 feet.

At the end of the trip Jack said to me, "Now that you have seen all that Kodiak has to offer you may understand that coming here every year is like slipping off to visit your mistress; I just have to do it."

It is 5 years later and I've been back to Kodiak 3 times and know exactly how my friend Jack feels.

***From the prez***

Greg Teifert

Following are a few notes on changes planned at the club. First, Stan Ward will be taking over as Kitchen Committee chairman. Bill Kuchy, Jr. will be taking over as chairman of the Hunting Committee and Del McCartney will be taking over as chair of the House & Grounds Committee.

During a Kitchen Committee meeting, Paul Chase summarized profit and loss for the 3 steak dinners held this year, which showed an average net profit of \$315 each, including bar and raffle. In reviewing the profit and loss statement, Stan Ward suggested we have 2 game dinners, January 21, 2012 and April 21, 2012—both on Saturdays starting at 5 p.m. verses Friday evenings in the past; three steak dinners (down from 9)—the first to be held

Thursday, October 6, 2011, the Nov. and Dec. steak dinner dates to be determined Oct. 6 by a survey indicating customer preference. The menu will be modified to include salad, soup, different veggies, potato, bread, the same 1½ pound + premium steak and a possible variety of desserts. Price will remain the same—\$25.

Further suggestions include a barbeque chicken dinner and a barbeque ribs dinner in July and September 2012, the dates to be determined as above. Detailed menus for all the above venues will follow.

Stan is planning to go back to the old system of member assignments and specific levels of work support for steak dinners and other scheduled events.

One of the objectives of these changes is to realize a higher level of profit. By having two game dinners (which have generated an average net profit of \$3,944 for 2010 and 2011), the second game dinner should, with proper planning, generate as much as all 9 steak dinners this past year. I am sure these changes will generate more interest. Details will be discussed at regularly scheduled board of director meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month except for annual and semiannual meetings).

The club hired John Dudek to perform monthly pest control services, which are proving to be a good investment.

In addition to the club work day held August 27, Stan had a crew cleaning the kitchen, steak pits, windows etc. Del had a crew cleaning, pruning and wire-fencing the new apple trees. Stan also cooked burgers and hot dogs for about 20 members. Many utilized their work hours to maintain our club and its resources. Thanks for everyone's help; the club is now looking very good.

We were very lucky with Tropical Storm Irene. We experienced roiling waters representative of yet another "100-year storm," but I'm happy to report that our dams held up very well.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Greg

For the club,  
Lonesome Paul