

History of the Activities of
**THE DELAWARE COUNTY
FIELD AND STREAM ASSOCIATION
1939 - 1989**



50 Years of Service
TO THE
SPORTSMEN
OF
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**DELAWARE COUNTY
FIELD & STREAM ASSOCIATION**

713 Chester Creek Road
Middletown Twp., Delaware County, PA

AN ORGANIZATION OF OUTDOOR SPORTSMEN
DEDICATED TO HUNTING, FISHING
TARGET SHOOTING, YOUTH EDUCATION
AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES



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Dedication

This anniversary edition of the 50 year history of the Delaware County Field and Stream Association is hereby dedicated to all of those men and women who work for and support the organization and its principles, and contribute to its growth and success, in the past, the present and the future.

Ed DeRienze, Editor

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION

To quote from the club's charter, dated March, 1940, the following is set forth in the opening paragraphs:

"It shall be the object of this organization to draw into fellowship, persons interested in wildlife: To promote the true sportsman's view in regards to rehabilitation of wildlife resources: To encourage and promote conservation; and to support and inspire legislation to achieve this objective."

CREDITS:

The information for this booklet was compiled and edited from various publications of the organization and from material contributed by former club presidents, Bill Hunter, Jim VanValkenburg, Bill Perkins, Ira Joffe, and Ed DeRienze.

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DELAWARE COUNTY FIELD AND STREAM ASSOCIATION

History Of The Association, 1939 To 1989

The First Beginning

The first beginning of the organization of sportsmen that was to become one of the largest and diversified clubs in the Delaware Valley, began in November, 1938. Outdoor columnist Bill Everman, was writing about hunting and fishing for two local papers, Chester Times and Interboro News. In a series of articles, he stirred a few local sportsmen into doing something about forming a club for the purpose of raising and stocking fish and wild game and also to enjoy the pleasures of shooting shotguns and rifles.

First Meeting, March 1939

Bill's offer to help in any way that he could was immediately taken up by several interested sportsmen in the area. A few weeks later, at a meeting in Bill's home with local outdoorsmen, Nick Young, Dick Newman, Harry Sauers and Leroy "Shorty" Manning, plans were formulated to organize a local club. At that time they decided to name the club The Delaware County Field and Stream Association.

By Laws Adopted

On the first Monday evening in March, 1939, thirty five sportsmen met in the garage of Griffith's Funeral Parlor in Norwood. Seated on coffin boxes and other makeshift seats, the group made their first major decisions and elected club officers. Bill Everman was elected president with Harry Sauers, vice president, Dick Newman, secretary and Al Deger treasurer.

Annual Dues and Meeting Place Established

The annual dues were set at one dollar per member and a membership drive was immediately organized. After a month, the group had grown to over 100 members and the meeting place had become too small to hold them. The meeting place was moved to the Norwood Grammar School for several months and with the ever expanding membership, decided to use the Norwood Fire Company's hall. This was the club's meeting place for the next twenty years.

By Laws Adopted

With the club firmly organized, it was decided that permanent by-laws should be adopted. It was unanimously decided by the members at that time that no intoxicating liquors would ever be bought, sold or be dispensed or possessed at any club function or on the club's property.

Incorporation As Non-profit, Conservation 1940

The club became incorporated in March, 1940 as a nonprofit, conservation organization. The purposes of the organization, as stated in its charter are: *"To stimulate the interest of the people of Delaware County in general outdoor activities and to develop the opportunities for the enjoyment of such recreation by the restocking of fish and game, the procurement of laws and enforcement thereof for the protection of wildlife; and to educate the general public in the principles of conservation in relation to our natural resources; all by publicity, exhibitions and public meetings; and for these objects to organize as a group for their earlier attainment."*

Dues Structure Established

The dues structure that was established at that time and is still in effect is that this money can not be used for anything other than conservation related activities. Membership dues, as it was known then, has risen from its original one dollar to its present rate of ten dollars. However, in recent years, the title has been changed to Conservation Member.

First Field Day, 1939

In May, 1939, the newly formed organization held its first field day on a farm owned by club member Chris Walters in Elwyn. The members and guests enjoyed rifle, pistol and trap shooting along with deadmark and archery contests. The day's activities brought in a profit of over \$100 and at the next meeting \$50 was allocated for the purchase of game for restocking open land in Delaware County.

Permanent Club Grounds Sought

The interest and good fellowship generated by the first field day event aroused the members to seek a permanent club site. A search for available land was organized and soon found a large tract of land in Middletown Township which was owned by John Chatley. The sportsmen negotiated with the owner and arranged to lease part of the land with an option to purchase it at a later date.

Property Purchased in 1942

After renting the property for 3 years, it was decided to purchase it and in 1942 the club obtained the 40.83 acres for the total sum of \$5,500. Soon after that, the members decided that they required a good access road to the property and had to borrow \$7,500 to have one built. It was a good road and has lasted all of these years as the main access to the club grounds.

Club Grounds Helps Growth

With the completion of the entrance road and more improvements to the club grounds, the members began to schedule regular field days and shooting contests and sportsmen flocked to the area. Many large events were held with prizes of all kinds, including a new automobile, going to the winners. Much profit was made from the shoots and it did not take too long to repay the loans and the club property was clear of all debts.

First Shooting Facilities Installed

On the newly purchased land the members installed a trap field, a rifle range, trout rearing pens and a club house, all built with their own willing hands. They worked hard at their new club site and soon enlarged the club house, installed a 100 yard and 200 yard rifle range, a smallbore range, pistol range and added two 16 yard traps and two skeep layouts. Later a roof was built over the high power rifle range and a garage and lunch counter were added.

Members Active During War Year

During the war years, 1942 to 1945, the members were active in assisting local farmers who were in need of help to harvest their crops. This created a mutual friendship and understanding between landowners, and sportsmen that eventually became a large cooperative activity. Project 83, the first and only farm-game project in Delaware County, was the result of many friendly contacts that were made by club members.

Junior Membership Established

In 1945 the club decided to accept junior membership in the organization and to develop a youth program as part of the club's endeavors. The annual Junior Field Day was established with the winners of the events scheduled for that day being awarded a three day, expense paid fishing and conservation seminar. The annual Campfire of the Brotherhood of the Junglecock was selected to be the hosts for the young members outing. This annual event has been a major project for the organization every year since that time.

School Teachers Sponsored For Conservation Course

Beginning in 1946 and up to the early 1970's, the club sponsored and paid for a school teacher in the Delaware County School District to attend a two week course about conservation during the summer at Pennsylvania State University. In addition, several junior members of high school age were also selected to attend the university to learn about conservation. Both of these activities have since been curtailed because of high costs and an absence of interest that would warrant a continuance.

Archery Field Course Added

In 1951, archery which had only been a token sport in the club, was seriously considered to be added as another major activity that would attract more members. A few expert archers, from other areas, were invited into the club to expand the sport. These few archers built the first 28 target field archery course on the club grounds.

New Leadership And Improvements

During the period between 1945 and 1955, the club existed with makeshift ranges, basic facilities without water, no electricity or phones and a basic nucleus of hard working members who managed to perform the needed services to keep the club alive and solvent. Beginning in the late 50's, a new generation of sportsmen gradually took over leadership and instituted a few changes that helped to improve the organization.

Pipelines Cause Closing Of Trout Rearing Pens

Because of several pipelines built across the club property, the trout rearing pens had to be closed. With this loss of facilities the club had to seek other means in which to contribute and help to provide better fishing within the county. Beginning in 1953 and continuing each year, the organization purchases approximately \$2500 worth of legal size trout for restocking in the local streams.

Trout Buttons Established To Defray Costs

In the mid 1960's a program was developed that would bring in additional funds to help defray costs of purchasing trout for restocking. By selling "Booster Buttons" each year, the Fish Committee augments the annual budget of money allocated for trout stocking.

First Range Fees Established

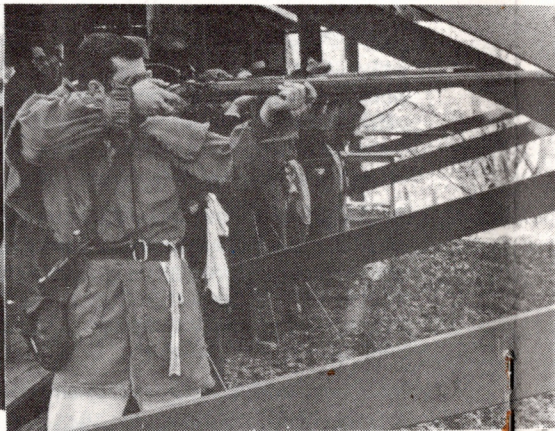
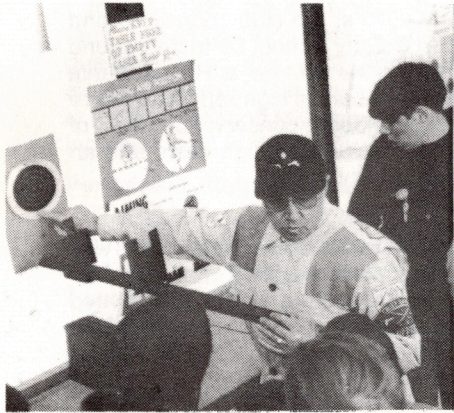
In 1957 the first range fee of one dollar additional to all shooting members was established. There was also an additional fee of fifty cents for junior members who used the ranges. These range fees were to go into an earmarked fund in the Ways and Means Committee for use in improving the ranges and maintenance at the club grounds. It was also at this time that a guest fee of fifty cents was charged to all non-members who used the ranges.

Accounting And Budget System Organized

The period between 1957 and 1960 produced a few changes in some areas that heretofore had been handled casually by volunteer help. A new accounting system was put into effect; annual budgets were established for all committees; a membership committee was organized and new rules for the collection of fees and dues were initiated.

Progress And Improvement

From 1960 to 1965 the club showed much improvement and progress. A home was built on the club grounds to house a permanent custodian; the club by-laws were revised and updated; and the annual Conservation Award



A HALF CENTURY OF ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES FOR SPORTSMEN

Marksmanship & Hunter Safety Training, Youth Education, Fish & Game Restocking, Stream Restoration.

Competitive matches for: Shotguns, Rifles, Pistols, Blackpowder and Archery. Shooting ranges for members to practice.

was instituted. It was also during this period that the club's membership dues and range fees were increased to offset the rising costs of operation. By 1965 the dues and fees were adjusted to a combined total of \$7.00 annually for adult membership with shooting privileges.

Soil Conservation District Influenced By Club

Beginning in the mid 1960's, the club became interested in obtaining a Soil Conservation District of Delaware County. By using publicity and promotion in the Club News and obtaining the cooperation of other local organizations, the final achievement of a County District was finally established in 1970.

Jefford's Estate Becomes State Park

During the 1960's, the organization worked diligently to convince both state officials and public of the necessity of acquiring the long dormant Jefford's Estate for use as a State Park. Finally, after years of effort by sportsmen, Ridley Creek State Park became a reality in Delaware County.

National Hunting and Fishing Day: A National Holiday Began in the Club

An annual club event known as Sportsmen's Day, which began in the early years of the 1970 decade, was the beginning of what was to become National Hunting and Fishing Day, celebrated all over the country. The idea to set aside a special day for all sportsmen to show the public what they do, took hold all over the state. Former club president, Ira Joffe, who conceived the idea first, was invited to the official signing of the proclamation.

Additional Land Purchased

The decade of the 1965 to 1975 was the period of most improvement that the club had shown since its beginning. In 1967, 14.9 acres of additional land was purchased from a bordering neighbor. The rifle ranges were rebuilt with new range houses and backstops. A new safety baffle system was installed on both the pistol range and high power rifle range. The muzzle loading range, which had been added in the mid 1950's was improved with adequate backstops and baffle system; and a target storage and statistical offices were constructed at the pistol, archery and shotgun ranges. The dues and fees were increased to \$15. and two years later, in the face of increased expenses and liabilities, they were again raised to a total of \$25.

Tinicum Marsh Project Pioneered By Club

Early in the 1970's, the organization became active in the movement to preserve the Tinicum Marsh area as a wildlife preserve. By enlisting the aid of other organizations and individuals, the final goal of establishing the marsh area as a wildlife sanctuary was achieved.

New Club House And Facilities

In 1972-73 another major range rebuilding program was begun which included a new club house and trap and skeet fields. It was at this time that the club was the recipient of the NRA's "Best Achievement Award" which is presented each year to the outstanding club in the nation for showing the most progress.

Fish Committee Promotes Stream Improvement

The club's Fish Committee, after successfully completing a dam building project on Darby Creek in the 1960's, decided to concentrate more effort to cleaning up the portion of Chester Creek that flows past the club grounds. During the early 1970's, the committee convinced the Pa. Fish Commission to provide more trout in the cleaner waters which benefitted all local fishermen.

Meeting Place Changed

Monthly meetings of the members were held in, first the Norwood Fire Company, then the Collingdale Fire Company and finally, for a short period in 1976-77, the Green Ridge Fire Company. Beginning in January, 1978 the newly built club house became the meeting hall for all club meetings.

Management Becomes Professional

In the mid 1970's and progressing each year, changes in the management of club affairs became more professional and business oriented. Over the years the organization had assumed many financial responsibilities making it mandatory that a competent record and conduct of club affairs be maintained. The purchase of additional land with the attendant mortgages coupled with higher income and disbursement of funds made it necessary for the club to reorganize its financial affairs. It was during this period, in the 1970's, that the club acquired the services of a few members who were knowledgeable about insurance, real estate and taxes. Their expertise, coupled with that of others whose advice on matters of building construction, range maintenance and inventory control, contributed most to the future success of the organization.

The Rebuilding of the 1980's

At the beginning of the 1980's, the complete rebuilding of the trap and skeet membership house was a large project. Many club members contributed their time, labor and materials toward the project which lowered the cost considerably.

Additional Land Purchased

In the fall of 1983, the club decided to purchase 9.6 acres of additional land which was for sale by the same neighbor from whom it had purchased land in 1967. Although the price of the land had increased considerably, it was the feeling of a majority of members that the expenditure of \$160,000 was worth it in order to provide a buffer zone against the possibility of future encroachment by housing developments.

The purchase of land also included a home which was to be utilized as a rental property and an additional source of income for the organization.

Higher Costs Cause Dues Increase

Over the years, many of the club's range facilities required renovation and rebuilding in order to maintain safety and comfort for the members. Ranges such as the high power rifle, black powder and pistol ranges require annual repairs in order to maintain the backstops and baffle systems. The archery range, which in the beginning used earthen butts to shoot arrows into, now requires expensive bales of wood by-products in order to function. All of these maintenance items and construction costs along with various other increased costs, has necessitated the gradual increase in range fees.

The dues structure was increased in 1983 to an all time high of \$40. for adult members and \$10. for juniors. This increase was deemed necessary in view of the high costs of maintenance along with the many fees and salaries that were being paid to certain club personnel. The personnel who receive a stipend or pay for services include: the custodian, news editor, bookkeeper, cashiers and trap attendants.

New Ranges For Airguns Installed

In 1985, a new range especially for the use of air rifles was established. This was temporarily installed as part of the smallbore rifle range until such time that a permanent structure and range would be warranted. A year later, in 1986, the pistol range also installed a facility for the use of air pistols.

Associate Member Classification

Late in 1986, the membership committee and the financial secretary, proposed a new system for accepting new applicants into the organization which was approved by the Executive and Ranges and Facilities committees. The new procedure stipulated that all new applicants would be accepted under a new designation to be known as "Associate." The new category would carry the limitations of non-voting privilege and of being ineligible to holding any club office.

Facilities Open To Others

During its tenure as an organization dedicated to training and education, the club has generously permitted, without charge, the use of its ranges and facilities by other groups and organizations. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Police, Military and other sportsmen's clubs have enjoyed this hospitality for many years.

50th Anniversary Celebration

In 1989, the Delaware County Field and Stream Association will celebrate its 50th birthday as an organization for outdoor sportsmen and conservation minded individuals. The club will look back at its past 50 years of success and re-establish or set new goals for the future. It will be quite evident that its successful past was largely accomplished by many individuals who dedicated their time and efforts toward making the organization successful. The success of the future years of the organization is mainly within the grasp of a younger generation. With continued foresight, coupled with the knowledge gained from the past, the Delaware County Field and Stream Association will move forward and into the 21st century!

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

William Everman	1939-44	Fritz Lechner	1969-70
Harry Sauers	1945-48	William Perkins	1971-72
Leroy (Shorty) Manning	1949-52	Robert Livingston	1973
Jack Meehla	1953-54	Ira Joffe	1974-75
John Crockett	1955-56	Bud Feindt	1976-77
J. Kenneth Manning	1957-58	Al Paolone	1978
Hank Rosen	1959-60	Jim VanValkenburg	1979-80
Ed DeRienze	1961-62	Lee Zaffiri	1981
William Hunter	1963	Carmen Coccozza	1982
Tom Quartermus	1964	Tom O'Chuida	1983-84
Ed Kinden	1965-66	Lance Walser	1985-86
Jim VanValkenburg	1967-68	Ken Eckler	1987-88

VISION STATEMENT

The vision for the next five years and into the 21st century for Delaware County Field and Stream Association is one of involvement, change, and modernization. With a growing membership as strong as 4,000 the club will continue to improve the current services to its members in a safe and enjoyable atmosphere. In addition, some major undertakings will emerge over the next five years, continuing a safe recreational environment for all members, their families and their guests. Some of the highlights of the future will be the construction of a multifunctional indoor range servicing archery, air gun sports, pistol and small bore rifle shooting.

The indoor facility will replace our current clubhouse giving us an increased capacity for club meetings, activities, and food services. The current clubhouse will accommodate offices for club officers and serve as a meeting area for smaller committees and functions.

Each range over the next decade will be reviewed to meet the needs of the casual shooter and the competition shooter alike with a variety of innovations to satisfy the needs of all range participants. Serious considera-

tion will be given to new and emerging sports such as Sporting Clays, Hunter Clays and Action Pistol, as well as enhancing our Air Rifle and Air Pistol programs.

The addition of new ranges and the expansion of our current facilities will be dependent upon the dedication and involvement of our range officers and executive committee officers. Recognition of this limited group of individuals must be the top priority in order to continue to succeed and accomplish the same type of dedication we have had in the past fifty years.

In order to accomplish these major tasks, club officers will encourage active voluntary involvement of club members in minor repairs and improvements on the ranges where they participate and enjoy the range activities. Funds will be diverted to major improvements and construction. The net result of non-mandatory volunteer help should hold increases in club general dues to a minimum, allowing all members continued enjoyment of club facilities.

The association will also encourage the membership to enroll in other associations, such as the National Rifle Association, for the purpose of increasing the involvement and awareness that the overall impact the lobby groups have on the survivability of our sport and freedoms. We will support our range officers and members who care to become certified instructors in firearm handling and safety in order to offer to the general membership clinics, demonstrations and training sessions at periodic intervals.

The involvement in community and public affairs must be developed to present a positive image to the local communities. Awards for conservation at high school graduations and contributions to community projects are desired. Positive continuous exposure in the local newspapers would go a long way to prevent unforeseen single events being blown out of proportion.

In the immediate future, efforts will be made to computerize much of the club's administrative procedures. Membership renewals will be automated and membership utilization will be at the fingertips of club officers who require quick and accurate information. Mailing lists and event programs will be available in a timely matter to allow for maximum participation in club events.

We must address the inconveniences that plague our club grounds during the year, such as poison ivy, ticks, and other insects. We should attack these problems with a conservationist attitude by planting shrubs and trees that will combat these pests while at the same time adding to the natural beauty of our club grounds.

We must honor the accomplishments of our members who contribute to the community, compete nationally or statewide, and give of themselves for the betterment of the club through their participation and involvement. An avenue to honor such members would be social events such as Award Dinners and time set aside during our Game Dinner. Pictures of Club Teams and trophies both they and other individuals have won should be prominently displayed in the clubhouse. We should actively promote and encourage participation in the Club Championship Activities.

To accomplish all of the above, communication to club members will play an important function. The Club News should play an important role in the next five years and more members should be encouraged to write articles. In addition a large screen monitor will be installed to communicate upcoming events and activities, request for membership involvement, present videos for training and sportsmanship interests, and assist in conducting range orientation.

In the next decade we should all be looking for a great club standing ready to serve its members in the future as it has done for the past fifty years.

The Planning Committee

Golden Anniversary

50



1939-1989