



The Bullet



The Newsletter of The Holliston Sportsmen's Association, Inc.

April 2003

April 2nd Meeting Notice

The April meeting of the Association will be held at the clubhouse on Wednesday April 2, 2003 starting at 8:00PM. Topics for discussion include the trap shoot against Medfield that we are hosting this year, and the youngsters trout derby coming up on April 26th. Some other reasons to attend: the attendance raffle prize is up to \$60 but you have to be there to win, and you get one half hour credit against the work assessment fee. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. Lots of good things are going on at the H.S.A. so come on out and be a part of it. See you there.

Junior Conservation Camp is On for 2003 - Campers Needed -

The Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp will be pounding in tent stakes at the Chesterfield Scout Reservation in the western end of the state from Sunday, August 10 through Friday, August 22, 2003. Chesterfield was chosen after an intensive, year-long search, triggered by the loss of the traditional camp facility in Plymouth and Carver. According to MassWildlife Chief of Information and Education Ellie Horwitz, "The Chesterfield Scout Reservation has everything the Junior Conservation Camp needs: space, a pond, target ranges and access to some beautiful areas that will serve as outdoor classrooms. All we need now are the campers, boys and girls age 13 through 17 with an interest in conservation and the environment." The Camp affords an introduction to fish and pond life, forestry, wildlife management and soil conservation and teaches outdoor skills including archery, camping, fishing, orienteering and marksmanship with rifle and shotgun. Traditional camp activities like swimming, boating, crafts, softball and volleyball round out the recreational opportunities. The Holliston Sportsmen's Association will sponsor at least one camper this year so get your candidates into the Board of Directors soon.



H.S.A. March 16, 2003 - Don Hastings at the tying vise building a white bunny fly, one of several patterns Mike Martineck taught members at the fly tying classes at the club.

H.S.A Fly Tying Class

Bill Hammond organized a two day fly tying class for H.S.A. members on March 15th and 16th. Eight members enjoyed the event that featured instruction by the world renowned fly tier Mike Martineck. The first morning members tied patterns for trout and fresh water. The second session was devoted to flies for use in pursuit of saltwater species, including Martineck's own Electric Sushi pattern. Tiers sustained themselves with several pots of coffee, doughnuts, muffins, and bagels. Fishing stories were told and a good time was had by all.

Paid Your 2003 Dues Yet?

Stay up to date ! See the H.S.A. on-line at www.hsaneews.com

April 2003

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 .22's On Tuesday	2 April Meeting	3 Firearm Safety Class	4	5
6 Intro to Light Rifle Trap	7	8 .22's On Tuesday	9 Junior Rifle Club	10 Firearm Safety Class	11 Scouts at Club	12 Scouts at Club
13 Scouts at Club Trap	14	15 .22's On Tuesday	16 Junior Rifle Club	17 Firearm Safety Class	18	19 Trap Shoot
20	21	22 .22's On Tuesday	23	24 Firearm Safety Class	25	26 Trap Shoot
27 Medfield Trap Shoot	28	29 .22's On Tuesday	30 Director's Meeting			

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
7:00PM - .22's On Tuesday

April 2
8:00PM - March Meeting

April 3, 10, 17, 24
7:00PM - Firearm Safety Class

April 6, 13, 19, 26, 27
1:00 pm Trap Shooting

April 9, 16
7:00 PM - Junior Rifle

April 11, 12, 13
Boy Scouts at Club

March 22
2:00 - Practical Pistol

March 26
7:30 - Director's Meeting

H.S.A. News & Notes:

Annual Youngster's Trout Derby May 3rd

The trout derby has been re-scheduled. Originally planned for April 26th, the Derby has been moved to Saturday May 3rd. The derby is a great time to bring the kids and grand kids to the club. The pond will be stocked with brook, brown, and rainbow trout, just for the kids. Breakfast, and registration starts at 6:00AM. Fishing starts at 7:00AM and runs to 11:00AM. Prizes are awarded in several categories, and a good time is had by all. The Sport Fishing Committee is looking for help in running this event. Contact Rich Girvin for information, or to volunteer to help.

Boy Scout Camp Out At the H.S.A

A local Boy Scout troop will be camping out at the club on Friday evening April 11. They will be at the club on Saturday, staying that night, and will depart by noon on Sunday.

Trap Shooters - Time to Practice for Medfield

The weather is warming up and the H.S.A. trap shooters need to do the same. Practice shoots are set for Sundays 4/6 and 4/13, and Saturdays 4/19, and 4/26. We are hosting Medfield on 4/27 and need people to help out with scoring, and refreshments. Come and shoot, or come and help out.

Heritage WebPages

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program pages on the www.masswildlife.org website have been updated and expanded to include more biological information and an interactive BioMap feature. Stay current with the Bay State's rare plants and animals, learn about natural communities, report an observation, check out the publications or certify a vernal pool. Scan the recently released BioMap and zero in on your city or town to see the habitat that has been protected, and what still needs to be protected to keep wildlife populations healthy and viable. Contact David Szczebak, 508.792.7270 x161.

Romney “The Sportsmen’s Friend” of November Turns On Us with Budget Proposals

As the month of February came to a close the long awaited Governor’s budget proposal was released to the public. Other than catching the public’s attention by being the first budget in recent history to NOT be released in a printed version, causing everyone in the state to access it on the web, this budget made history by certainly being the first that was not understandable anyone we talked to. Throughout the budget there were long lists of line items and agencies that were lumped together with no explanation of what the purposes or intentions are. For instance, the Executive Office of Environmental affairs has been eliminated and replaced by the Executive Office For Commonwealth Development. Beneath this new agency is a new Department of Environment. Within this new department is created a new division called Division of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Enforcement Administration. This division is going to be created by merging Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Administration, Waterfowl Management Program, Division of Marine Fisheries, Marine Recreational Fisheries Development and the Division of Environmental Law Enforcement Administration. In doing this the Governor has also done away with many dedicated funds including the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Fund, Public access fund, Environmental challenge fund, Firearms records keeping fund, Inland Fisheries and Game Fund, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Fund and the State recreation areas fund. All of these funds under the Governor’s plan will be thrown into the General Fund, thus sacrificing all the federal matching dollars that go along with them. This move creates many questions such as: What does an environmental agency have to do with development in the Commonwealth? Who is going to run these new agencies? Are we going to have new commissioners or are they out of the picture? What happens to all of the Directors of these agencies? Why is a state that is in fiscal trouble giving up federal sportsmen dollars totaling in the millions? What happens to the seven-person board? What happens to the sporting programs such as pheasant stocking? If this were not bad enough, the Governor also included the following “outside sections” to the budget that if passed would raise our firearms license fees.

Firearms Identification Card Fees (a 200% increase)

SECTION 162. Clause (9) of section 129B of said chapter 140 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking the fourth and fifth sentences and inserting in place thereof the following sentences:- The fee for such application shall be \$75, which fee shall be payable to the licensing authority and shall not prorated or refunded in case of revocation or denial. The licensing authority shall retain \$12.50 of such fee; \$37.50 of such fee shall be deposited into the general fund of the commonwealth, and \$25 shall pay the fees for an interstate fingerprint check; provided, however, that any renewal applicant for a firearm identification card issued for the sole purpose of purchasing or possessing chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate shall not be subject to such application fee.

License to Carry Firearms Fees (a 200% increase)

SECTION 163. Subsection (i) of section 131 of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking the fourth sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentences:- The fee for such application shall be \$75, which fee shall be payable to the licensing authority and shall not prorated or refunded in case of revocation or denial. The licensing authority shall retain \$12.50 of such fee; \$37.50 of such fee shall be deposited into the general fund of the commonwealth, and \$25 shall pay the fees for an interstate fingerprint check.

Permits to Purchase Firearms Fees (a brand new fee of \$75 for each new purchase?)

SECTION 164. Section 131A of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking the second paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: The fee for such permits shall be \$75, which fee shall be payable to the licensing authority and shall not prorated or refunded in case of revocation or denial. The licensing authority shall retain \$12.50 of such fee; \$37.50 of such fee shall be deposited into the general fund of the commonwealth, and \$25 shall pay the fees for an interstate fingerprint check.

As our members would expect, GOAL is working hard to bring a sound resolution to these problems. We also would ask that concerned individuals standby for further information from GOAL as to how to respond to this new crisis. (from www.goal.org)

Practical Shoot Results

Practical pistol shooters met at the club on March 22nd for the first match of 2003. Top gun of the day was Jim Maxant. Second place went to Bruce Hastings. Peter MacMurry placed third. The course of fire included 5, 7, 10, and 15 yard stages, and used several different targets. The other variables included strong hand / weak hand stages, and time allowed for five shots. In the photo to the right (l to r) Rich Girvin discusses the course of fire with Jim Maxant, and Dana Stagg. Peter MacMurray is in the background.



Photo: Bruce Hastings

Few Things in Life are Certain.
One is Taxes.
Another is an ad for L.A. Jones
in the April Issue of The Bullet

**L.A. Jones
Tax Preparation,
Accounting, and
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*Specializing in Individuals
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(508)634-2711
laj@kersur.net

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**The Bullet
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**Meeting Reminder:
Wednesday April 2, 2003 at the HSA Clubhouse
Meeting Starts at 8:00PM**
