

ILION FISH & GAME CLUB 2024

WELCOME TO 2024 !!!

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, Owen Cooley, and Shawn Carney 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. Numerous projects have been completed during the past year including renovations to the bathrooms at both the pavilion and the club house, repair/replacement of skeet house fences, and building site preparation for potential future development. Greg Riddle spent many hours repairing and painting skeet and trap house and fences. 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. 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 third fishing derby in a row. Any child up through age 15 could enter and 52 kids ending up participating. The weather was cool and rainy but a total of 64 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 Pence farm on Spohn Road and the Case farm on Hazelton Road.

CLAY TARGET SHOOTING

Thanks to all who maintain the traps and set up the courses each week. With the purchase of many automatic traps over the last several years the course is now fully automated. No more waiting for a trapper to take you around the course. Sporting Clays is shot every Saturday morning (8:30am) Skeet/Trap are shot on Sunday mornings (9:00am) and Wednesday afternoons (3:00pm) during summer. From the end of the Big Game Hunting season through April breakfast and lunch is 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 2024 meeting prior to 7:00pm is the turkey deadline. The January 2024 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 2023 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 \$4000 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. A huge Thank You to Scott Capes for coordinating and providing much of this service.

COMING EVENTS

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 (2024), the January meeting will be held on January 8th, and the September meeting will be September 9th.