

ILION FISH & GAME CLUB 2026

WELCOME TO 2026!!

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 dues 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 in 2025. Unfortunately, membership dues for 2026 were increased by \$5 because of rising costs, taxes, and insurance. Meeting our financial responsibilities will require your continued support.

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 in 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 a continual and ongoing effort. This past year, numerous capital improvements, including repair of the clubhouse masonry, insulation of the front room, installation of a fire control system in the kitchen, and the purchase of a new lawn mower were accomplished. Greg Riddle also 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 the benches and target areas in good repair and many thanks to Vern along with Greg Goodale and Kirk Hilts in maintaining the range. F-Class has ended for the year but will resume 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 standard operating 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**. Please also note that cameras have been installed at the rifle range and this area is under continual surveillance.

ACTIVITIES

FISH RELEASE AND YOUTH FISHING DERBY

The membership approved funds for adding fish to the club pond and holding our fourth fishing derby in a row back in June. Any child up through age 15 could enter and 56 kids participated. The weather was sunny and pleasant and numerous fish of various species (bass, crappies, and channel catfish) were caught. 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. A big "thank you" to Vanessa Saunders for collecting all the prizes and overseeing the whole event. We plan to continue with another fishing derby this year. The club also has a permit to stock brook trout in Steele Creek. Although fish were not available for this effort this past year, stocking could resume this coming spring.

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, Keith Tripple, Dave Cooley, Matt Knoblauch, Matt Losardo, and several 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 1 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 a member's meeting to be scored. The June 2026 meeting prior to 7:00 p.m. is the turkey deadline. The January 2026 membership meeting prior to 7:00 p.m. 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 of 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 2025 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 and a total of approximately \$3800 in cash prizes were paid out.

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 Wheatley, Rob Tullouch, Scott Capes, and our winter-season Saturday breakfast and lunch crews who provide their services for our membership and shooters to enjoy.

COMING EVENTS

Special events as well as regular activities can be found on our website: ilionfishandgameclub.com

MEETINGS

Please join us for the membership meetings which are on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Due to the Labor Day Holiday this year (2026), the September 2025 meeting will be on the 14th.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS AND OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

During the January membership meeting, elections are held for three of the nine Board of Director positions, who each serve a three-year term. The Board appoints the club's officers, with President and Treasurer being appointed every two years (odd calendar years) and the Vice President and Secretary positions selected during alternating (even calendar) years. If you are interested in serving either as a Director or an Officer, please see someone currently holding such a role. Regardless, come to a membership meeting and get involved in YOUR club.