



Plymouth County League of Sportsmen

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Standish Sportsmen's Association

April 20, 2022

At 7:03 pm we began our monthly business meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for all our family and friends who have died, and for service men and women in our armed forces who have died or been injured while protecting our country.

Opening Statement: President Johnson welcomed all in attendance, thanked the Standish club for the wonderful meal and their support of the Sporting community. Club President Art Cabral also welcomed all in attendance and thanked the Plymouth County League of Sportsmen for all the work we do representing the sporting community.

Roll Call: There were 29 Delegates and 4 Guests representing 11 clubs and organizations in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bonney gave a complete report of our finances. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report.

Bills to be paid: A bill from Fork in the Road catering and the Bartender service associated with the annual banquet were presented for payment. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay both bills.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the March 2022 report as published.

Communications: Received report from Barnstable County League March meeting

Former Plymouth Sportsmen Club Delegate, Bob Maciver's wife passed away. Our Condolences to Bob and his family.

Longtime Carver Club delegate, Dick Thorne is hospitalized. Our well wishes to “Foghorn” for a speedy recovery

Special Guest: There were no special guests present at the meeting

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Report: Ross Kessler attended the meeting and gave a brief report.

Public Access: Salem Willows Park Pier demolition is complete. The project has been expanded to include landing/entry area. The project is being treated as a cost share project with saltwater fishing permit money and the town of Salem.

R. Amidon, D. Cameron, D. McKiernan, K. Creighton, and Ross toured Cape Cod Canal locations to explore possible sites for small fishing platforms to be built.

ASMFC Species: Summer Flounder can allow for a 16.5% liberalization. There are a number of size limit and seasonal recommendations being discussed.

Diadronous: Westport River- the Forge Pond Dam fish passage will allow fish into lake Norachoke in Dartmouth. This will allow for 165 acres of passage in over 100 years.

Jones River- another Forge Pond Dam, this fish passage will open another 640 acres of spawning habitat.

Stump Brook- a tributary of the Satucket River in E. Bridgewater. A fish ladder will be constructed in house. This project was made possible because of the work PCLS did in partnership with the Division of Ecological Restoration which led to the opening of the Satucket River.

Ross also answered a few questions asked by delegates.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report: Jason Zimmer was unable to attend the meeting. Jason forwarded me a report which I have attached to the end of this report.

Seven Person Board Report: No Report was given.

At the April meeting the board approved several changes to the Waterfowl season. Please see the changes in Jason’s report attached to end of this report.

Legislative Report: The M.C.A. working with input from various State Legislatures and the Lobbying group put 3 priorities into State Budget amendments. The 3 priorities decided on are: legalize crossbow use, reduce Archery setbacks, and relax Sunday hunting prohibition.

PCLS received a response from Ryan Fatman in regards to the letter written in opposition to H-1529 the red flag bill.

Massachusetts Conservation Alliance: The MCA is working on a rapid response E-mail list. The list has been reviewed, and contact information for State Senators and Reps was added for those who have signed up. To sign up go to <https://massconservationalliance.org/mca-list-signup.html>

Old Business: Any Club wishing to host a meeting for the 2022/2023 season should contact President Johnson before the September 2022 meeting.

President Johnson spoke with Mark Rasmussen from Buzzards Bay Coalition about the proposed outflow pipe into the Canal. Mr. Rasmussen stated they are writing a report that covers all aspects of the project, and will forward a copy to PCLS when complete.

New Business: After some discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed to make a donation to the Outdoor Writers Association scholarship fund in honor of Randy Julious.

Unfortunately the Plymouth Fur Ban passed at town meeting. The vote was roughly 60% in favor and 40% opposed.

It is time for annual elections. The nominating committee members are: Art Cabral, Ed Birch, and Sue Fernandes. All positions are up for renewal. If any one is interested in running or has questions about positions, please contact Art @508-631-6502, Ed @ 508-254-2889, Sue @ 508-642-3302.

Annual Banquet: Our annual banquet was held on Saturday April 23, 2022 at Camp Kiwanee. The hall was full with many old friends and some new friends who all enjoyed themselves. The catered dinner was delicious with plenty of food for all. A tremendous amount of planing and time goes into putting on the banquet. VP. Jim Smith should be congratulated for putting the whole thing together. There were a huge amount of bucket raffle items as well as silent auction items that were won by many happy guests. President Johnson welcomed all, and gave a wonderful tribute to Randy Julious highlighting his many accomplishments as a writer, artist, guide, and sportsman. President Johnson then presented Randy's wife and family members with a Lifetime achievement award as well as a donation from the PCLS to the outdoor Writers Association Scholarship award program in Randy's name. President Johnson then addressed the guests acknowledging all club presidents and delegates, special guests and dignitaries. He spoke about some of our achievements and what our goals are moving forward.

The Grand Raffle winners were:

1st prize Dennis Raguzzini from the Carver club

2nd prize Dave Morin from the Worcester County League

3rd prize Meghan Nord who bought a ticket at a Standish club breakfast

CONGRATULATIONS to all 3 winners

Good of the Order:

The 13th Annual Saltwater Lure Collectors Club show is Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 8:00am – 2:00pm at Whites of Westport.

Adjournment: The meeting came to a close at 8:03 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled at Upland Sportsmen Club, 76 Upland Rd. Plympton, Ma. On May 18, 2022. Camaraderie at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm.

At the present time there is no state mandate requiring the wearing of masks or social distancing at indoor meetings or events. It is up to each individual to do whatever they are comfortable with. PCLS respectfully asks if any Delegate or guest is experiencing any symptoms of covid, that they please refrain from attending the meeting.

PCLS Secretary

Ed Birch

Southeast District Report April 2022

Trout stocking continues to progress smoothly and some larger fish have started to get stocked. We have had to deal with a couple issues with access including Parsons Pond in Marshfield, which we had to temporarily stop stocking this spring as the road was closed due to construction, and Whittings Pond in North Attleborough, where we were alerted that the Town was requiring fees for access that violated our trout stocking policy. Stocking was suspended pending an attempt to consult with the town to bring their fees into compliance with our policy.

🕒 The 2021 Massachusetts deer harvest data has finally been released. The delay was due to a number of factors, but primarily due to the difficulty and logistics associated with transferring data from our old MassFishHunt system to our new one. The total deer harvest was 13,363. This is in line with the previous 5-year average. A breakdown by season can be seen below:

- o Youth: 79
- o Paraplegic: 7
- o Archery: 5,894
- o Shotgun: 5,008
- o Primitive Firearms: 2,375

Our spring prescribed fire season well underway and all of the work my staff performed during late winter has been paying off by allowing for safe and effective burns due to the excellent fire breaks they created and maintained. We have completed prescribed burns at Penikese Island Sanctuary and the Mashpee Pine Barrens, Frances A. Crane and SE Pine Barrens WMAs. Additional burns expected/planned for other units at Mashpee Pine Barrens, Frances A Crane and SE Pine Barrens, as well as Camp Cachalot WCE and the Hyannis Ponds and Noquochoke WMAs.

🕒 All SE District fire crew completed their annual required refresher training and completed the required work capacity test and fire shelter training.

🕒 As I mentioned last month, beavers and beaver-related issues are increasing throughout southeastern Massachusetts. In the past couple of months we have worked with several towns to find solutions to flooding issues caused by beavers, which often includes permitting through the local BOH and Conservation Commission and the involvement of a licensed trapper with specific beaver experience. As one might suspect, most towns in the District have virtually no experience dealing with beavers and it takes a lot of work to help guide them through the difficult/confusing laws and regulations pertaining to nuisance beaver management. Fortunately, all the towns have really taken an interest in the process and have been very easy to work with. We have also been dealing with our own beaver issues at the Burrage Pond WMA, where multiple colonies of beavers have damaged or threatened water control structures, one such situation also involved the City of Brockton water supply and the dam on Stump Brook.

🕒 Parking lots were improved and/or maintained at several WMAs and gravel was added to lots at Frances A Crane, Burrage Pond, Taunton River and Erwin Wilder. Additional lot maintenance/creation is planned over the next couple of months.

🕒 Boundary marking has been ongoing with work done recently at Rocky Gutter and Sippican Headwaters. Additional boundary marking is getting started at Black Brook WMA this month. Surveys

have been completed where needed on difficult boundary lines at Hockomock Swamp and Fox Island WMAs.

- ⌚ Staff assisted the Buzzards Bay tern project by moving boats used for the project and helping to brush cut habitat at Bird Island Sanctuary.
- ⌚ The annual spring bald eagle survey was completed on April 8. Staff visited all known eagle nests in the District and also investigated a few leads. All of our known nests were confirmed to be active with nesting birds. No confirmed new nests were located, but we are certain there are other nests out there so please keep any reports of adult eagles this time of year coming in. We also are continuing to receive additional nesting reports on Cape Cod in a few locations that sound very promising.
- ⌚ Wood duck nest box checks has been completed for the year. Our wildlife biologist checked a total of 51 boxes at 13 different sites. Box usage was good, however we have been noticing a general increasing amount of use by hooded mergansers.

Winter black duck banding was completed successfully and we worked with a graduate student out of the University of Saskatchewan to affix solar-powered satellite transmitters to female black ducks as part of a study looking at migration patterns, nesting attempt and brood survival. We have also recently completed some mallard banding using a tub launcher at several sites. Most of our female black ducks have now made their migration back north to their breeding grounds. Two birds from Cape Cod are still on the Cape, but the other birds are currently in Maine near Bar Harbor (4), 1 in the St Lawrence River and 1 on Prince Edward Island.

Fields mowing has been completed for the season at both the pheasant and quail area at Myles Standish SF. This mowing helps keep woody shrubs and tree saplings from encroaching into the fields.

- ⌚ The District has been coordinating with the Groundwater Remediation personnel at Camp Edwards on a required cleanup of former grenade ranges. A portion of these former ranges falls on the northern edge of Frances A Crane WMA. The work was designed to match existing habitat management on the WMA, where a portion will be converted to grassland and a portion turned into Savannah-type habitat. All of the tree clearing work has been completed and the contractors are now going through their subsurface investigations to clear the site of materials (all dummy grenades, as this was not a live grenade range).
- ⌚ The District Fisheries Biologist continues to provide technical advice and support to the ongoing restoration of the Coonamesset River.
- ⌚ Ongoing PIT (passive integrated transponder) work continued on Red Brook, Quashnet and Childs Rivers including monitoring and maintenance of in-stream antennae.
- ⌚ Mill Brook Bogs WMA restoration project will be going to construction this year. All but one permit is in hand. MassWildlife is collaborating with our sister agency, the Division of Ecological Restoration, to complete a major wetland restoration within the former cranberry bog complex, while also doing upland oak/heath woodland and sandplain grassland restoration abutting the bog complex. The upland habitat work will be completed prior to June 30 and the wetland work is expected to start sometime this summer/fall.
- ⌚ Restoration of former cranberry bogs at the Taunton River WMA was completed this month. The site was part of an EPA and Department of Justice enforcement order against the prior owner and MassWildlife worked with the EPA to acquire the property and design and go out to bid on the restoration project. MassWildlife worked with the contractor closely and monitored the ongoing work. The only remaining item to complete on the site is seeding of exposed soils with native wetland seed

mixes.

- ⌚ The District has been monitoring the herring run at our Red Brook WMA and working closely with DMF to make sure we are following the operation and maintenance plan for the run. The first few herring of the year passing into White Island Pond were observed the week of April 18th
- . ⌚ We have been working on some maintenance and repair work at the seasonal staff housing at Red Brook. Multiple District staff removed and replaced a bunch of rotted soffits and fascia board, removed an old unused chimney and repaired the siding and made some repairs to the back deck/railings.
- ⌚ The April meeting of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board was held at 9AM on April 19 and there was a public hearing on annual waterfowl seasons and regulations at 10AM. The board approved a number of changes to the regulations, many of which required by changes in the Federal frameworks we have to follow, as summarized below.
 - o Combined sea duck and regular duck season into one duck season with a single bag limit
 - o Removed the 2-bird restriction for hooded mergansers
 - o Removed the 4-bird limit for any one species restriction
 - o Added a NEW Berkshire Zone late goose season
 - o Shifted one of the youth/veteran duck hunting days from September to Feb 4th
 - o Extended coastal duck season to the latest possible end date (Jan 31)
- ⌚ Annual spring surveys are being completed in the next couple of weeks including ruffed grouse drumming surveys, woodcock peenting surveys and waterfowl breeding plots and indicated pair surveys.
- ⌚ District staff and our Deer Biologist completed inspections of two permitted deer farms this month. Inspections focus on ear tagging requirements, the number of permitted individuals per species, fencing, food/water/shelter and records of sales. Both farms were found to be in compliance. ⌚ Staff are gearing up for the annual controlled turkey hunting programs at Camp Edwards. The youth hunt will be held on Saturday April 23 with hunting hours from ½-hour before sunrise to 5PM. The regular spring hunt will be held Monday May 2 through Saturday May 7th, marking the first time we have ever been able to offer Saturday turkey hunting during the regular season.