

**The President's Message**  
**Dr. John E. Flaherty**  
**Field Trial Clubs Association. Inc.**

On behalf of the Flaherty Field Trial Association, I welcome you to the Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial grounds in beautiful East Windsor Connecticut. Since its inception the Flaherty Field Trial area has been a work in progress. For the past 78 years, the Association and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) have enjoyed an excellent working relationship that allows us to keep moving forward which is essential to our success. Ann Kilpatrick and Laurie Fortin, Wildlife Biologists from the DEEP Wildlife Division, continue to work with the Association to maintain the grounds and keep them up to the standards we have come to enjoy. The DEEP Wildlife Division oversees the administration and habitat management work completed on the Flaherty grounds working in cooperation with the DEEP Field Support Services (FSS) Division. Their work included herbiciding invasive plants, grounds maintenance (lawn mowing, brushwork, sign posting), and boundary marking. In addition, habitat mowing, and electrical work was completed by FSS, The FSS division did substantial work on culvert placements on the grounds and will finish the culvert and road improvement work in 2021. This work is being done due to the help and persistence of Ann Kilpatrick of the Wildlife Division. Thank you all for your work on the grounds.



2020 came in with a bang. With Covid 19 on the rise all spring trials were canceled to ensure the safety of contestants and spectators. All improvements to the building and the grounds were put on hold through the summer. The DEEP mowed the grounds in August and did a fantastic job with the driest summer we have seen in a very long time. The mowers were able to get in to places they have not been able to get to in recent years. A Covid-19 plan was written using input from the executive board and the AKC to help the Association and the clubs be able to hold successful events in the fall. Ten of the twenty-seven events scheduled were held in the fall.

Continuing the Association's history of making improvements we continued with our addition to the horse corral adding two corrals. Thank you, Dick, Cory, Jeremy, and Allen, for spending the weekend working on the project.

Due to Covid 19 we were unable to support the Junior Hunter Initiative this year, but we hope to resume the program in 2021.

If you have never attended an event at Flaherty all of our events welcome spectators. Please come out and enjoy the spectacle of high-quality bird dogs doing what they were bred for. When using the grounds please respect them and leave the grounds as clean as when you arrived or better. We are all acting as ambassadors to the sport whenever we are at any field trial in the Country treat everyone you encounter with respect and understanding be a good sportsman be helpful to your fellow competitors. Be a mentor to a new competitor it will help to grow our sport.

The CT DEEP is focused on bringing in new hunters and revitalizing hunters that have stopped hunting. The Association supports the DEEP in this endeavor. We all need to find a way to bring new sportsman into our rank's - neighbors, friends or even a young adult that needs a mentor. Anyone that uses the grounds I urge you to get a Connecticut hunting or fishing license if you are an active Field Trialer, AKC Hunting Test participant or just a hiker, biker or dog walker. The licenses help support the wildlife management areas. If you prefer you can go to the DEEP Hunting license website and make a donation in lieu of a hunting or fishing license.

In conclusion, the association would like to wish all the competitors that will attend the Field trials and Hunt Tests on our hallowed grounds. Best wishes and thank you for continuing the tradition. Thank you to our partners from DEEP who maintain the grounds and manage the habitat.

Dick Frawley,  
President  
Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Association