

THE CROOKED SPORTSMAN

Newsletter for Crooked Foot Upland Bird & Game Hunting Club.

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HOW COVID-19 WILL IMPACT HUNTING SEASON

Dear Friends,

As you are all aware, COVID-19 has changed how our whole world does business. The virus' effect on lives, health, and the economy is well documented. The question all sportsmen and women now have is how will it impact hunting seasons?

When I first heard of the Coronavirus, I reacted like most people - I blew it off. But shortly after, the stock market was hit and businesses were forced to close. A month later I felt as if I was living in a weird episode of the Twilight Zone. Governor Whitmer said it was legal to buy alcohol and lottery tickets, but deemed the sale of lawn fertilizer illegal. She even made it easier to buy marijuana by allowing curbside pickup - but if you go fishing - you could be arrested. What?

On a personal note, my employer sent us all into a work-from-home norm, which I used as an opportunity to work on home projects that I had been putting off. Most importantly, I got to spend quality time with my kids and was even able to have some alone time walking, reading a few books and binging Netflix - without the normal distractions getting in the way.

Due to stay at home orders, more people have been out hunting than ever before. As of the beginning of June, we are cautiously optimistic that we have turned a corner and things will start to return to some kind of normal over the next few months, but of course none of us know what the future will hold.

Our hope at Crooked Foot is we will be able to celebrate traditional European pheasant hunting and walk up hunts similar to how we have operated in previous years. We do not anticipate that physical distancing restrictions will impact the pheasant hunts, as each hunting party should be able to physically distance while hunting and should not come in contact with other groups during the hunt. Onsite registration and food preparations may have to be altered. We will let hunters know as we develop registration procedures and meal options to ensure our participants and our staff/volunteers remain safe.

The bird hunting season will be here before you know it and we will all look back at this weird and sad period as yet another life event that we all lived through - together. I wish all of you a safe and healthy remaining 2020 and like you, can't wait to see you all back at Crooked Foot Hunt Club for some awesome pheasant hunting!

My best,

Kim

Kim Capone
Crooked Foot Hunt Club Assistant

4TH ANNUAL VETERANS HUNT

On Sunday, October 27th, 2019, Crooked Foot Hunt Club and Safari Club International held the fourth annual Veterans Hunt. Crooked Foot Hunt Club, built on over 300 acres of farmland in Owosso, Michigan, became home for one day to 75 hunt participants that included 13 Navy, 37 Army/National Guard, 3 Coast Guard, 11 Marines and 8 Air Force military men and women.

The Veterans Hunt mission: bring together all 5 branches of the military and honor servicemen and servicewomen with an incredible free bird hunt, food, competitions and prizes. This mission could not be possible without the help of our incredible 10 sponsors and volunteer handlers/workers.

After the playing of the National Anthem, a morning welcome and thanks was given to Veterans from owner Tony Mazzali. Ten randomly chosen veterans, two from each branch, had the honor of participating in the morning's clay shooting competition. Gene Hembrook and Mike Ivey from the Air Force took home the honors and were declared the 5 stand shooting competition winners!



Veterans



Dog Handlers



Volunteers

Our Biggest Hunt TO DATE!



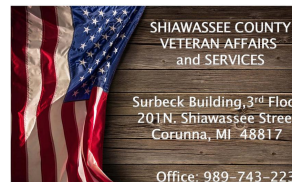
4TH ANNUAL VETERANS HUNT (CONT.)



Raffle Ticket
WINNERS!



SPONSORS



SCI Lansing Chapter

SCI Mid-MI Chapter

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Michigan Duck Hunters Association

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CROOKEDFOOTHUNTCLUB.COM

To bag more roosters, look for habitat edges and corners...then get sneaky

LOOK FOR PLACES WHERE HABITAT FEATURES MEET AND MIX

Pheasant hunting can be challenging. That's half the fun of the hunt. If you're afraid of walking - a lot - you probably shouldn't be a pheasant hunter. That said, there are ways to cut back your search time per-bird-found. The secret is understanding pheasant habitat and recognizing the types of places birds like to be.

Pheasants thrive best where there is a mix of land uses. All crops are no good because there are no year-round hiding places. All grass might hold a few birds, but land with grainfields for food will hold more. Wetlands (think cattails or willows) provide essential winter cover. Brushy thickets and tangles give birds places to hide from predators, including human hunters. Mix it all together - a mosaic- and you have prime pheasant habitat.

Within that pheasant habitat, the places where components meet and mingle will hold the most birds. Pheasants thrive best when their food is close to their bedroom - is close to their daytime hiding spots and valued escape cover.

So look for seams, edges and transition zones where cover types mix and blend together or butt up to each other. Concentrate your efforts on these kind of zones to start. You can spread out from there, but it helps to have this focus to begin the hunt.

PHEASANT HUNTING

SECRETS



Rooster pheasants are tough to find, and tough to catch up with if you wing a bird. A good dog - of almost any hunting breed - is the solution.

By Tom Carpenter

Forever Outdoors Fall 2018

RESPECT PHEASANTS AND HUNT WITH STEALTH

It's easy to think of pheasant hunting as a social occasion where you can talk a lot, laugh some and just have a good time in the field. Having a good time is important. But you'll have an even better time if you shoot a few birds. That's why being quiet, smart and a little sneaky about your hunting approach is so important.

Pheasants are as wary as wild turkeys and white-tailed deer. Give roosters the same respect you would bigger game, or your gamebag will stay empty. Surprise the birds. This means:

- Don't slam vehicle doors or tailgates
- Speak only in whispers as you get ready
- Use whispers and hand signals to communicate to hunting partners as you work cover
- Train your dog to be under control with just a little whistle toot or "hup" so you don't have to yell
- Walk slowly and quietly, with your shotgun always ready
- Zig-zag, backtrack and do little loops as you move, to keep the birds guessing
- Give your dog plenty of time to work the cover
- Go back through good-looking spots again

Crooked Foot

Upland Bird & Game Hunting Club



MEMBERSHIPS

We believe that Crooked Foot Hunt Club is both a unique place and a special experience; we encourage you to be a part of it as a member of Crooked Foot. Individual and corporate memberships are available and entitles you access to the Club's Private Property (nearly 300 acres of undeveloped hunting land), ponds, 3 hunting towers, 5 stand shooting range, walkups, approved overnight lodging in our Grand Club House and access to our kitchen facilities and outdoor grills.

Membership will extend to the member's immediate family which is defined as the member's spouse and dependent children.

2020-2021 Membership Fees:

- ▶ \$1,500 Individual 6 Month Membership
- ▶ \$1,750 Individual 12 Month Membership
- ▶ \$2,500 Corporate 6 Month Membership
- ▶ \$3,000 Corporate 12 Month Membership



Memberships: October 2020 - April 2021

With a Crooked Foot Membership you will be invited to exclusive events throughout the bird hunting season that is only available to our members!

If you are interested in Membership at our Hunt Club, please contact us at **989-723-9823** and see how you can become one of our very own Crooked Sportsman!

INTRODUCING DELANEY FARMS BEEF



DON'T WAIT TO ORDER YOUR WHOLE, HALF OR QUARTER BEEF FOR FALL & WINTER!

Order now our all-natural, premium-quality, aged, grain-fed beef. Animals in our care receive no antibiotics, hormones or steroids. We take orders until sold out, so be sure to get your order in early and reserve today!

The order process is simple: Please complete the form on our website at <https://www.crookedfoothuntclub.com/delaney-farms-beef-order> and click on Delaney Farms Package Beef Order Form.

When your meat is ready, we will let you know how many pounds of meat you'll receive and send you an invoice for the balance due to Delaney Farms. You are responsible for picking up beef from processor and paying the butcher directly their processing fee.



ESTIMATED COST PER POUND

\$4/lb

A whole beef 'take home' weight is about 600-800lbs depending on the animal, a half is about 300-400lbs, and a quarter 150-200 lbs.



ESTIMATED PROCESSING FEE

\$350/whole

PHEASANT CACCIATORE

By Hank Shaw as seen on honest-food.net



Photo by Holly A. Heyser

I do a lot of comfort food with big, flavorful, stew-y things loaded with tomatoes and herbs and some sort of meat. In this case the meat is pheasant, and what better dish than pheasant cacciatore?

Hunter's style. The French call it *chasseur*, the Spanish *cazadores*, the Italians *cacciatore*. This dish in its variations exists in all 3 countries and requires these things:

- A white meat, such as chicken, pheasant or rabbit
- White wine
- Tomatoes
- Mushrooms
- "Woodsy" herbs such as sage and rosemary

Could you use chicken here? You bet! What sort of mushrooms? A variety. What sort of wine? A dry white: think Pinot Grigio. Herbs? Definitely sage and rosemary, but you could play with thyme, oregano and parsley, too.

This dish is so satisfying, the way only the combination of tomatoes, wine, mushrooms and meat can be. Buon appetito!

Prep Time
20 mins

Cook Time
2 hrs

Servings
4 people

Ingredients

- ▶ 2 young pheasants, cut into serving pieces
- ▶ 1/4 pound pancetta or 4 strips bacon
- ▶ 3 tablespoons olive oil
- ▶ 1 chopped celery stalk
- ▶ 1 chopped carrot
- ▶ 1 onion, sliced into half moons
- ▶ 1 quart crushed tomatoes
- ▶ 2 cups white wine
- ▶ 1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage
- ▶ 1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
- ▶ 1 teaspoon crushed juniper berries (optional)
- ▶ 4 bay leaves
- ▶ 1/2 ounce dried mushrooms (about a handful)
- ▶ 1/2 pound fresh mushrooms, any kind
- ▶ Salt and pepper to taste
- ▶ 4 tablespoons minced parsley

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

1. Cut the pancetta into little batons about 1/4 inch thick. In a large braising pan or dutch oven, heat 2 tbsp olive oil over medium heat and cook the pancetta or bacon. Remove and reserve.
2. Add the pheasant pieces and brown them well. Take your time and do it in batches. Remove the pheasant pieces as they brown.
3. Add the carrot, celery, onions and fresh mushrooms and turn the heat up to high. Sauté them until the onions are wilted and beginning to brown. Add more oil if needed. When they begin to brown, add the garlic and cook for another 1-2 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Add the herbs and the dried mushrooms and the white wine and turn up the heat to maximum. Stir well. Let the wine cook down by half. Add the tomatoes and mix well. Add some salt if needed. Add the bacon and pheasant pieces, skin side up. Do not submerge the pheasant, just nestle the pieces into the sauce so the skin stays out of the liquid.
5. Cover and cook in the oven for 45-60 minutes. Check to see that meat is tender, remove the cover from the pot and cook until the skin crisps, about 30-45 more minutes.
6. Move the pheasant pieces to the plate. Add the parsley to the pot and mix to combine.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Season Opener

8:00 am • Friday,



5th Annual Veterans Hunt

8:00 am • Sunday, October 24, 2020
