

Game Reserve Association

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Please note- from summer of 2020 point forward, all GRA Newsletters are online, via gamereserve.club

Trustees

Chris **Anderson**, Website; Bob **Black**, Sergeant at Arms; Charlie **Brown**, Vice President; Tony **Girard**, President; Bob **Farnsworth**, Field Maintenance; Carl **Hendershot**; Troy **Hendershot**, Membership Secretary; Shane L. **Johnson**, Recording Secretary; Richard **Longfellow**, Treasurer; Andy **Mark**; Dan **Miller**; Steve **Miller**; Paul **Rogers**; Mike **Rutledge**; Ralph **Salvino**

A Word from our President, Tony Girard

Welcome to the new year; hopefully it will be better for all of us than last year. Many thanks go out to our volunteers and land owners for making our hunting season a success. Everyone hunted safely and sportsmanship won the day.

Thanks to brothers Shane Johnson and Bob Black, our grants were a success; as everyone saw there were more birds than any previous year. Again, thank the volunteers when you see them. They are there every day, releasing and feeding the pheasants. This year's grants have been submitted, hopefully they will be the same as last year.

Our Appreciation Dinner is on hold again. We are hoping to have one later this year if possible. **The General meeting is May 11th at the farm.** The clubhouse at Sippo remains closed; possibly it will open for our Oct. meeting. Bob Black has the dues and raffle info in his message. **There is a misprint on the tickets; they are 5 for \$20. NOT 50 for \$20 as printed.** Also, June 1st is the deadline for the dues; however, we are waiving the late fee again this year.

I want to welcome all the new members. If you have time, attend meetings and get involved with the club. If you have any questions or comments, contact a trustee. Again, we are needing to acquire additional land to secure the future of the club. If you know of any possible land, contact a trustee.

Any changes to the operations of the club or meeting info will be on the website. If you have any pictures that you would like to put on the website, send them to the secretary (either Shane Johnson or Troy Hendershot) for review. Nothing is better than seeing our kids and grandkids smiling dressed in hunter orange.

Have a safe summer,

Tony Girard

GRA President

A Word from Bob Black, Sergeant at Arms

I hope everyone is surviving the doldrums after the hunting season is over. Now we just have to wait until Old Man Winter is over and spring turkey season is here. Speaking of hunting seasons, we had a very successful pheasant hunting season again this year. There seemed to be plenty of birds for everyone to hunt and it was a safe hunting season as well. All members who came to hunt were able to hunt. There were no drawings and everyone got the opportunity to hunt.

Thanks to Shane Johnson, we once again were awarded two grants from ODNR—one for a youth hunt and one for a public hunt. Because of Shane's efforts we were able to have 5 pheasant releases on state property —2 for the youth hunt and 3 for the public hunt. Many people got to hunt pheasants on the state land, adjacent to our property, that would have never had the opportunity without the efforts of our club. A special thanks to all those club members who helped with the releases. Shane will be applying for these two grants again this year.

A big shout out to Bart Keiser for providing a new flag for the club. Bart was a Colonel in the US Army and a West Point graduate. Bart, Mike Bossart, and Bill Bryan had a little ceremony while putting up the new flag. Thank you guys for your thoughtfulness.

Now for some un-pleasantries. It has been brought to our attention that some members have been cleaning pheasants at the club and throwing the carcasses in the burn barrel. This is completely unacceptable. Whoever is doing it, would you throw the carcasses in the burn barrel at your house? I don't think so. After removing the carcasses from the burn barrel we put some card board in the burn barrel and lit it. While it was burning we heard some pop-pop noise coming from the barrel. Once the fire burned down we went and looked. Someone had thrown live shotgun shells in the burn barrel and they had exploded. It does not take too much common sense to realize that is not a smart thing to do. Please dispose of old ammo in a safe manner. A few bad apples can spoil the whole bunch. Let's all of us show respect for our club property and do the right thing.

Everyone stay safe and get your COVID vaccine shot when you are eligible so we can get things back to normal once again.

Results of the fall 2020 Raffle

The fall raffle was held at the GRA club house on Tuesday October 27, 2020. Thanks to the support of our members we had another successful gun raffle. I just want to again remind our members that **our raffles are our only fund raisers we have. Without these fund raisers, our club could not exist.** A big portion of our dues goes to pay for property and liability insurance, so we definitely need the revenue from our raffles to support our projects. A special thank you to Ryan Hendershot for selling \$100 worth of raffle tickets. He was the winner of the special drawing for \$150. The following are the results of the fall raffle:

1 st place Mike Weiss	Sold by Mike Weiss
2 nd place Chris Troyer	Sold by Andy Mark
3 rd place Mike Muncy	Sold by Mike Muncy

4th place Dom Spinelli Sold by Dom Spinelli

Thanks to all those who sold your raffle tickets.

2021 Spring Raffle

The spring raffle will be held at the GRA club house on Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 7PM. The same rule applies again this year as in the past. To hunt on GRA property you must sell \$80 worth of raffle tickets. We will have another fall raffle. To hunt you must sell a combined total of at least \$80 worth of tickets from these two raffles.

You have received or will be receiving two books of raffle tickets. For each 10 tickets, you sell, you will receive one free ticket. To encourage members to sell tickets, we are going to have a special raffle for those who sell \$100 worth of tickets. For every \$100 worth of tickets you sell, your name will be put in for the special drawing. In other words, sell \$200 worth and your name will be put in the special drawing twice. The winner chosen will receive \$150.

Please send your stubs and money for the raffle to:

Bob Black

6285 Race Rd. NW

Strasburg OH 44680 Phone 330 340-8331 or 330 878-5294

If you need additional tickets, contact Bob.

Appreciation Dinner

Now, it looks like our annual appreciation dinner that we have every March will not be held again this year due to COVID. If things get back to normal we may try to schedule it later in the year. Thanks for your understanding.

Bob Black

Annual Dues

Our annual dues are due by April 1, 2021. Dues are \$70/year. If you are 62 years old and retired, dues are \$50/year. For those who are life members there are no annual dues. If you have any questions call Troy Hendershot at 330 815-4032. Dues can be mailed to:

GRA

PO Box 8467

Canton, OH 44711

The Last Word...On Rules

On more than one occasion, I've seen tempers fly at the farm. Tempers flare over the darn'dest things-

Gundog breeds, O/U vs SXS vs pumps vs autos vs single-barrels, safety, lack of safety, how to set the bird, how to shoot the bird, who shot the bird, who flipped the bird, politics, religion, truck brands, 12 vs 16 vs 20 vs 28 vs 410, and on and on and on...you get the point.

I'll sadly admit that I played a role in two of those altercations. In the first one, I reacted well, and kept my Christian composure. In the second, well...not so well. I won't go into the details, but I had a seemingly harmless disagreement with a fellow member that escalated into shouting and other unmentionables. This took place in the presence of at least 4 members, two of whom were younger and impressionable. (My sincere apologies to them.)

I vented, instead of keeping my mouth shut, and then went home. After I cooled down, I re-read the **Game Reserve Association Farm Code of Conduct**, available on the GRA website (gamereserve.club). Wouldn't you know, big as you please, there was rule #11, staring me in the face- "*Members that release birds prior to the hunt are in charge of the way the hunt is conducted.*" You see, the fellow member with whom I had "words" was *the bird releaser of the day*. Thus, it didn't matter what I thought about the issue- per the rule, he was in charge, and I was not. In retrospect, I should have complied.

A couple days later, at the leading of the One above, I wrote an email of apology. He was gracious, and I tried to be the same. In the spirit of friendship, we agreed to move forward.

The male ego is a dangerous thing, susceptible to all kinds of temptations. This was not the first mistake I've made at the GRA, and it sure won't be the last. What did this teach me?

1. know the rules
2. obey the rules
3. the angrier I get, the less I should talk
4. because I'm human, I'll probably forget this and must relearn it, again, at some future, embarrassing point

And there you have it friends; the last word, on rules.

Many Blessings,
Dr. Shane L. Johnson
Recording Secretary