

PLEASANT RIVER FISH & GAME CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 261, COLUMBIA, ME 04623
www.prfgca.org

2025 NEWSLETTER

Members and friends,

The past year has been another of growth in all regards, which has resulted in new improvements to the facility as well as catching up on deferred maintenance. We remain committed to providing a top notch campus with a broad range of interesting and fun activities.

A CHANGE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Our Membership Secretary, Dave Klausmeyer recently stepped down due to some temporary conflicting demands on his time. We look forward to seeing him back around the club soon. Meanwhile, we welcome Sam Diefenbach as our new Membership Secretary.

Fred Urban has agreed to a volunteer position as our tech liaison, maintaining our records and keeping our website updated. Grace Falzarano is now our bookkeeper, assisting Treasurer Mike Warnock.



Pres. Robin Burns welcomes Sam Diefenbach to the board

FROM THE RANGES



Action pistol

Down East Coast Action Pistol (DECAP): This segment continues to grow, with strong attendance at every event. Investments in infrastructure are paying off handsomely, enabling us to offer fun and challenging matches that continue to draw more participants from further away for fast paced competition. The July "Lobster Shoot" was a great success, a special tip of the hat and thanks to Mike and Josh Warnock for conceiving of and running it! This year's Lobster shoot will be held July 27. Participation in the match isn't required, support your club and stop in for a lobster lunch! Recently Keith Albee and John Look completed National Range Officer's Institute



Lobster shoot

training and are now certified to officiate at matches. The May 25 shoot will mark the Fiftieth USPSA sanctioned match we've offered at the club. We've started offering lunch after the shoots, open to all for a \$10.00 fee. A special thanks to Skip Sprague who planted the seed, and the

rest of the crew who have nurtured it into what it is now. Curious? Feel free to stop by and watch to see what it's all about. For information, contact Skip Sprague, decapskip@gmail.com tel. 207-610-9109, or Mike Warnock, steel@prfgca.org, tel. 207-598-6767.

Clays shooting

Our longest continually running program has been the sporting clays group. Braving all but the most ridiculously inclement weather, the group meets year round, Fridays, 10:00am during standard time, and 1:00 pm during daylight saving time. Competition is spirited but friendly, and beginners are welcome (loaner shotguns are available). The past year has seen upgrades to the machinery that make for a much better shooting experience. Whether you're looking to up your game for the upcoming bird season or seeking a relaxing past time with friendly folks, sporting clays at Pleasant River may be what you're looking for. For further information, please contact Joe DePasquale, engraver25@gmail.com, tel. 207-963-2525.

.22lr Benchrest matches

Precision is the name of the game in this activity, where competitors shoot .22 caliber rifles from a benchrest at 25 yard targets. Classes are open for both scoped and iron sight rifles. This is a very relaxing, leisurely paced endeavor where skill can supplant expensive equipment, and where your ultimate competitor is yourself. Both iron sight and scoped loaner rifles are available for those who wish to dip a toe in the water. Next match Saturday, May 24, 9:00 am. Match directors are Brian and Patty Dorzuk, please contact them for information, briandorzuk, tel. 207-272-2552 .

Steel Challenge

The past year saw sanctioned Steel Challenge matches begin in earnest at Pleasant River. This is a fast paced activity fired on a course of five target arrays of five steel targets for a total of 125 rounds. This is a great activity for those wishing to increase their target acquisition speed and for those who may have mobility issues that limit their ability to shoot action pistol. It's great fun, not to be missed! Competition is open to all non-magnum pistol caliber firearms, including .22 lr. The first match of 2025 will be the Mother's Day match, Sunday, May 11, which will be followed by a grilled lunch. Can't figure out where to take mom on her special day? Be a hero, give her the day out she deserves! Take her shooting! For more information, Mike Warnock, steel@prfgca.org, tel. 207-598-6767.



Mother's day Steel Challenge

Attending; matches, events, and otherwise

While walk-ons are welcome, pre-registration for both USPSA/DECAP action pistol and Steel Challenge matches is available (and suggested) by signing up for a free account at www.practiscore.com. Follow the club calendar at our homepage, www.prfgca.org for a listing of all scheduled matches, range reservations, meetings, events, and closures. Find fun things to do and avoid disappointment by knowing what's going on at your club!

EVENTS, PAST AND UPCOMING

Greg Molatch organized and ran a CMP Sanctioned M-1 Garand Match, the first at the club in many years, despite having maintained affiliation. Shooters had a great time shooting these classic rifles.

Spring of 2024 saw the return of our “Late to Lunch” river



Garand match competitors

race after several years hiatus coinciding with the Downeast Salmon Federation not holding its annual smelt fry. With the return of the smelt fry, we were back in the river race business! It was good to see old friends and new, both at the race and the smelt fry. By the time you read this we'll have done it again!



Stroking hard for the win at the river race

Saturday, June 7 we'll be kicking off our first annual Fly Casting Competition and fishing gear swap meet, in cooperation with the Downeast chapter of Trout Unlimited. Gate opens to the public at 8:00am. Categories will include two person team, individual men, women, and youth (14 and younger), casting for distance and accuracy. Tables will be available for the swap part of the meet. The event will be held at the PRF&GCA campus, concessions and refreshments will be available during the event. For more information and fees please check our website or contact Al West, aldime04658@gmail.com, tel. 207-632-7267.

The ninth annual Puckerbrush Primitive Gathering came off without a hitch, despite illness and some other factors taking some of our regulars out of the game. They'll all be back and more for 2025, our tenth annual



Blacksmithing at Puckerbrush

event! One of the highlights of the '24 event was the presentation to the club of a Barred Owl nesting box built by Ray Menard. It was installed and is visible in a tree to the left of the field when looking westward from the clubhouse window, where a spotting scope is available for observation. Apparently, it can take a while before owls decide to nest in one, but

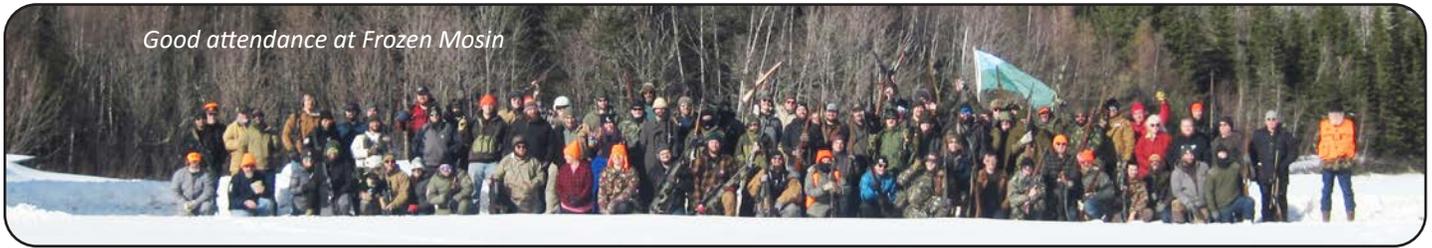


Rick Henion installing the Barred Owl nesting box

we're watching in anticipation! Our 2025 Puckerbrush Primitive Gathering will take place the third weekend of July, the 18th – 20th. Plans for new workshops are already in the works, with the event theme being “The Path Forward”. If you want to get your kids or grand-kids disconnected from their phone for a few days, Puckerbrush is the place to be. For questions or further information, please visit the event web page at our website, or contact Larry Balchen, puckerbrush@prfgca.org, tel. 207-497-5621. Updates and discussion can be followed at the Puckerbrush Primitive Gathering Facebook page.

The first event of 2025 was the Frozen Mosin shoot, this having been the twentieth annual event! Like last year, we set new records, the event just continues to grow! A great big thank you to the many folks who make this a success, from the parking staff to the range bosses, and our amazing guests, it wouldn't happen without them. Once again, we had no safety issues, proving to any doubters that ours is a safe activity, and that a hundred folks

with guns can get together and have fun responsibly. It has become one of our major yearly fund raisers, and it's fun to boot, so a winner by any measure.



WORKS IN PROGRESS

The club received a very generous grant from the Cascade Foundation, which will be used to complete work on the 200 yard range environmental management project, build a dedicated archery range, as well as renovating our archaic plumbing and bringing our restroom to a modicum of civilized standards.

Preliminary plans are under consideration for relocating and reconstructing the 100 yard shelter, making it a multi-use space, while increasing our parking area. Be sure to check out the model in the club house built by Tim Beal.



COMMUNITY SERVICE AND EDUCATION

Our club maintains two canoe landings as a service to the community. Mike and Mary Roukas, along with Rick Henion are currently working on a grant proposal for the improvement of the canoe launch at the Clifford Stevens Landing. The hoped for funds would come from the recent Trail Bond which was approved by voters last November. They have been working in concert with Mike Sloan at the Downeast Salmon Federation, with an eye toward developing a primitive riverside campsite on DSF property. This would make the Charlie Robbins Canoe Trail suitable for short overnight trips for local youth groups, people with mild disabilities, and the public at large who might otherwise never have an opportunity to experience such an outing.



Rendering of proposed 100 yard structure



Trail work volunteers

A small crew of volunteers from the club helped clear existing trails on the DSF Community Forest, which abuts the PRF&GCA campus. Part of our mission statement is to foster relationships with organizations with shared goals.

Paul and Pat Favolise have been busy educating the next generation of trappers, and have held a couple of state sponsored Trapper Education Courses

over the past year. In addition, the Pleasant River chapter of the Maine Trappers Association was just formed. While not officially part of the club, the group meets the third Thursday of even numbered months,



Paul Favolise giving a trapping demonstration

6:30pm at the PRF&GCA clubhouse. For more information about courses or MTA meetings, please contact the Favolises at 207-483-4779 or littleverrat@outlook.com.

The club continues its tradition of supporting other community service groups such as the Maine Search and Rescue Dogs (MeSARD), the Epping Volunteer Fire District, and the Machias Christmas Giving Tree. Camp and academic scholarships were also presented to deserving youth.

2024 saw the introduction of wi-fi internet connectivity at the clubhouse. A large television with HDMI connection was donated by Mike Elkavitch.



MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWALS

Please keep in mind that the GATE COMBINATION CHANGES JUNE 1! If you don't return your membership renewal/liability release in a timely manner, you'll not be able to access the facility after that date. This applies to life members as well.

Currently there are 239 active memberships. By category, 140 family, 70 life, and 29 disabled vet/ active military/ law enforcement.

Members will note there has been a modest increase in our dues. This was approved by the membership several years ago, to be implemented as needed at the discretion of the executive committee. While reluctant to do so, the time has come. It is the position of the committee that membership dues should cover the recurring expenses and upkeep of the club, with event/activity income going toward the improvement of infrastructure and expansion of our activities. With the continuing devaluation of the dollar, no matter how the numbers are skewed, this goal has not been achieved over the past several years.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

If the membership at large comprises the body of the club, it's the active members who volunteer their time who are the heart. This manifests in ways large and small, from leaving the range cleaner than when you showed up, noticing the trash cans are full and taking the bags to the dump (we have an account at PRSWDD in Columbia Falls), and showing up to help at the larger events (even if the activity isn't of interest to you). Several members are actively running raffles to raise funds for the club. You can help by taking some tickets and selling them among your circle of friends or co-workers. Tickets are usually available at local stores such as Pineo's True Value, Elmer's Discount, and Noel Marine. The list goes on. We should all be working for the benefit of the club as a whole, as it makes possible the activities we enjoy. For those who don't have the time or live out of town, even a modest donation to the Capital or Community Service Fund is helpful and very much appreciated.

The arrival of warm weather is a good time to review the range safety rules. Let's have another safe and fun year!

Robin Burns, President

CLUB INFORMATION

Officers: President, Robin Burns
Vice President, Alton "Al" West
Secretary, Rick Henion,
Treasurer, Mike Warnock
Membership Secretary, Sam Diefenbach
Chief Range Safety Officer, Skip Sprague

Executive Officers: George Openshaw
Robert Jones
Andy Hutnik

President Emeritus and wandering woodsbum: Larry Balchen

Governance advisor: Greg Campbell

Health Safety Officer: Joe Bragg

Bookkeeper: Grace Falzarano

Environmental stewardship officer: Andy Hutnik

Technical wizard: Fred Urban

Newsletter editor: Larry Balchen

Spiritual advisor: Tom "Blackfly whisperer" Bazzolo

Facebook administrator: RJ Heller

Contacts: President, Robin Burns info@prfgca.org, tel. 207-546-0368

Membership: Sam Diefenbach, membership@prfgca.org, tel. 704-728-7384

Range scheduling: Bob Jones, 207-483-4348

Hunter Safety: Larry Balchen 207-497-5621, huntersafety@prfgca.org

Trapper safety: Paul Favolise, 207-483-4779

Special events: Larry Balchen 207-497-5621, events@prfgca.org

*Pleasant River Fish & game Conservation Association is a 501c3 non-profit corporation.
The campus is located at 1597 Tibbettstown Rd., Columbia, ME 04623*