

RANGE/GROUNDS USE DURING PHEASANT RELEASES & CLEAN-UP HUNTS

The Board of Directors is republishing what seems to have become the forgotten rules of when the ranges are available during Club Pheasant Releases. There have been a couple of occurrences in past Hunting Season. In the interest of Safety, we would like to remind the Membership to have a Safe and Balanced use of the Club Grounds year-round, but, especially during the Hunting Season.

Before any Hunting at the Club can take place, and in accordance with Weslaco's Ranges/Hunting Safety Plan, All Hunters, Guest Hunters and Walkers must have successfully completed a State of Ohio Hunter Education Safety Course. Furthermore, they must forward the Certificate of Completion to the Club Secretary. All who are Hunting **MUST** wear at least a **Hunter Orange Vest/Jacket and Cap**. Birds must be shot in the air. No shot size larger than number six (6) may be used on Weslaco property and per the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Commercial Bird Shooting Preserve Requirements, under General Information & Requirements. **All birds taken by hunting must be banded with bands supplied by the Division of Wildlife before being transported outside the preserve. Also, a log of the band numbers and general information of those who were hunting, is to be properly recorded and maintained by the License.**

On Pheasant Release Hunts the following applies: Only Members and their immediate family members may purchase, in advance, a Pheasant Release Hunt (Consult yearly Pheasant Program Flyer on cost). When a Pheasant Release is ongoing (on the days of Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday) **NO RANGE USE, OF ANY KIND, IS PERMITTED UNTIL 3:30 P.M.** All Hunters are to wrap up their hunts and exit their Pheasant Field by 3:00 P.M. Also, on Release Days, there is NO Dog Training and/or exercising your dogs permitted on Club Grounds.

On Clean-Up Hunts the following applies: Only Members and their immediate family members may purchase a Clean-up Hunts on non-release days (Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) for \$10 per day, per Hunter. Please place your money in a Clean-up Hunt envelope and deposit it in the lock box just inside and behind the Front Door entrance to the Club House. Bag limit per Hunter is two (2) pheasants. **Hunting hours North of driveway are 8:30 A.M. until 10:00 AM. and Clean-Up Hunts after 10:00 A.M. MUST be South of the driveway to allow Range use.** All Clean-Up Hunters are to wrap up their hunts by 3:00 P.M.

North of the driveway is defined in the following: Rifle Range, Trap Ranges, the Pine Tree Forest Area, Trap Ranges (including the Manual Hand Trap), the Skeet/5-Stand Area, the Pistol Range and the Northwest Hunting Field/Old Dog Training Area. **A reminder, that there is not bird hunting in the Northeast/front 8 acres area along the driveway and is for Archery/Bow Hunting only due to the closeness of homes and commercial storage facility.**

Scheduled Pheasant Releases and Clean-Up Hunts are only to take place on Club Grounds West of the Dominion Gas Line that runs North to South along Weslaco's Eastern Property Line. *The Front 8 Acres (between the Main Driveway and the Storage Unit Container Facility) is set aside as an Archery Deer Hunting Area Only.* This long-standing policy at Weslaco is due to the homes on one side, the storage facility on the other and per The State of Ohio Revised Code.

Members are to be mindful of Weslaco's self-imposed 200ft. Hunting Buffer Zone around the entire Perimeter Boundary of Weslaco's 213 Acres. The Zone is identified on the Deer Tree Stand Map in the Club House.

Pheasant Hunters, please be courteous to the Archery Deer Hunters, Turkey Hunters and Waterfowl Hunters who are out in their areas. To help avoid them, **PLEASE**, check their Hunting location in the Sign-in Logbook, and on the Deer Tree Stand Map, just inside and behind the Front Door entrance in the Club House.

Hunters are encouraged to arrive one hour before the Hunt to help catch and release birds. At least one Hunter from each group must attend. Please Hunt only in your assigned field. Please keep dogs leashed prior to the start of the Hunt.

***The above information/rules have been taken from the Pheasant Program Flyers, previous Weslaco Newsletter articles (specifically those from 2014 and 2018), Weslaco's Range/Hunting Safety Plan and The State of Ohio Revised Code. Research of this information was done by Archivist/Director Dave Hobart with the grateful assistance his wife Christine.*