



# HASTINGS ISLAND HUNTING PRESERVE



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## COVID - 19 UPDATES

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your family well. Thankfully, everyone at the Club has remained healthy.

The Club is looking forward to the upcoming 2020-2021 Season. We have been busily conducting field work and the cover looks excellent. The rental dogs are primed and ready to go and all of us at the Club are looking forward to seeing you this fall. With the current local and State regulations related to COVID - 19, there are a few new procedures in effect at the Club that we are following until further notice.

First, per State Health Department guidelines, face masks are required in the Clubhouse. This applies to all Members, guests and the entire staff of Hastings Island Hunting Preserve. This will be required until further notice.

Second, the Club is asking everyone to maintain proper physical distancing at all times, while at the Club and in the Clubhouse. Please strive to remain at least 6 feet apart. To that end, we will only be allowing one person at a time at the front counter and in the bird cleaning pickup area.

Third, our employees will be regularly disinfecting all areas of the Clubhouse, which may cause a small delay for you to use them. We appreciate your patience.

The Club is responsible for maintaining adherence to all County Public Health Regulations. As these Regulations may change with little notice, the procedures we are currently following, could be impacted.

The Club is currently open to all hunting activities, dog training, trap shooting, and fishing, during regular Field Hours. We also offer bird cleaning. Presently, we are open on a reduced basis, Thursday to Sunday, 8:00am to 4:00pm. Once the regular pheasant season begins, we

plan to be open every day except Tuesday, 7:00am to 4:30pm.

The Coffee Shop will have significant changes in place this Season in order to meet the County Public Health Guidelines for prevention of COVID-19. We are monitoring relevant State and Local Regulations and will tailor its operations, accordingly.

The Club regularly updates our hours of operation and operating procedures and rules on our website at: [www.hihp.com](http://www.hihp.com). We also make updates to our Facebook Page, as necessary.

Although the County or State may mandate a closure period in the future, we do not foresee this occurring at this time.

You are welcome to call the Club Office and our staff will be happy to answer your questions. We look forward to another great Season.



Tara Griffin along with Jewel & Tucker. Jewel placed 1st in two different events. Tucker took 1st and 4th. Good job to all three of you!

## 2020 - 2021 BIRD CARDS

The 2020-2021 Season will begin on September 26th, 2020 and conclude March 21st, 2021. Please remember that all Bird Cards must be paid in full by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. After that date, unpaid cards will increase to the Late Season Price. There are no refunds after Sept. 30th.

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### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Chukar Hunts	September 2, 2020
New Member Orientations Begin	September 5, 2020
Bird Cards Ready to Pick Up	September 5, 2020
Pre-Rooster Shoots	Sept 5, 6, 11, 13, 19, 20, 2020
Club Annual Trap Shoot	September 12, 2020
2020-2021 Pheasant Season Begins	September 26, 2020
Last Day to Pay off Bird Cards	September 30, 2020
Women's Hunt Event	October 10, 2020
State Season - Hens only Releases	November 14, 2020
State Season Over - Roosters Releases	December 27, 2020

## Bird Cards

(continued from page 1)

Our best value card for pheasants remains the 40 bird card. With a 40 bird card, you will receive the best per-bird price and the opportunity to participate in the post-season Clean-Up Shoot held on Monday, March 22, 2021, when you have the opportunity to take up to 10 additional pheasants, at no additional charge. See our website for details.

The most popular card remains our 20 bird Full-Season card. This card grants you a full 6 month hunting season to harvest pheasants, and access to all of the Club's amenities throughout the year.

For those Members who prefer to trade a shorter hunting season for a significant discount on their Bird Card, we offer the 20 bird Early Season Card. You can purchase as many of these Early Season Cards as you wish, but all pheasants must be taken by Friday, December, 11th, 2020. After that date, you may not hunt pheasants at the Club, even as a guest. This is a good card choice for many of our members who are waterfowl hunters, as they are typically hunting ducks and geese by the middle of December. This card gives you access to the Club facilities when the Club is open throughout the whole year, and a great opportunity to tune up your dog before switching over to waterfowl.

We continue to offer 100 bird Corporate Cards. These cards allow the Cardholder to designate up to four other authorized shooters. Each may hunt individually or with their guests. Every authorized shooter on a Corporate Card may harvest any of the birds on that card, so this is a good way to avoid losing any birds at the end of the Season.

## RESERVED FIELDS

For the first time, the coming Season will see the Club dedicating one field, commonly referred to as the Duck Pond, for advance reservations. The Duck Pond will be divided into 9 sections, each of which will be available to be reserved for your exclusive use. You will request a specified number of pheasants, to be released in "your" reserved section of the field. That section of the Duck Pond will be closed to all other hunters, not otherwise in your group, from 8:00am to 11:00am. After 11:00am, you may hunt anywhere on the Club, as usual. Members that are not in a Reserved Field party will be prohibited from entering the reserved field, until after 11:00am. The quantity of requested birds will be pre-punched off your Bird Card but you will have all day to harvest them..."shoot them or lose them".

The remainder of the Club will remain open for Free Roam hunting for all Members and their Guests, just as we have always done for the past 50+ years.

While we are pleased to try this as an experiment, rest assured that we are committed to remain a "free roam" club.

If you are interested in a reserved field, please call the Club for further details and to make your advance reservation.

## PRE-PAID BIRD CLEANING DISCOUNT

You may be aware that the Club allows Members to prepay for bird cleaning, at the time you purchase your card.

By checking the appropriate box on the right side of the enclosed application, and including the additional fee of \$5.25 per bird, your bird card can have pre-paid cleaning associated with it. This is a great convenience for many of our members, as they no longer need to remember to bring a few extra dollars for the bird cleaning fees every time they hunt and they get a discount on their bird cleaning.

Pre-paid cleaning needs to be purchased by the time you make your final payment to your Bird Card or September 30th, whichever comes first. After September 30th, our cleaning prices will be increased to \$6.25 per pheasant.

The Club also offers regular bird cleaning services for chukar, ducks and geese for our Members. Please call the Club for current prices on bird cleaning services for these species.

## IMPROVING THE FIELDS

You may have noticed some of our fields this Season have new, fresh cover and flattened terrain. This is part of the Club's ongoing efforts to take the worst portions of the club fields every spring and recondition them for the next season. We disc the ground to remove the root balls of grasses and deep cracks and divots in the ground. Then they are floated, leveling the ground so that it is easy to walk and will drain properly.

Finally, we reseed to provide fresh new cover for the pheasant. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Club has been conducting a regular annual field improvement program.

The overall increase in the quality of the fields is easily seen across the entire Club. The ongoing program is providing better hunting environments and easier access into most of the Club fields for our Members and their guests. We look forward to continuing this maintenance process for the fields, in order to generate a better environment for upland game hunting each Season.

## PRE-SEASON ROOSTER HUNT

The Club will be hosting several Pre-Season Rooster Shoots this fall. These popular shoots are a one day rooster-only Hunt. You can either purchase a 4 Rooster Hunt for \$125.00, or a 10 Rooster Hunt for \$225.00. Advance reservations are required.

One guest may accompany each Member for these special hunts. Since these are Pre-Season Hunts, the roosters you take are not counted against your bird card or pre-paid cleaning, and must be paid for separately. All birds must be taken on the day of the hunt and cannot be carried over to the regular season. Bird cleaning is offered at the regular price. Field Hours for the Pre-Season Rooster Shoots are 8:00am to 1:00pm.

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATIONS



The Prudhel and Vymheister Group with dog getting ready for the Season start.

The Club requires all new Members, as well as anyone who has not been an active Member within the past two years to attend a brief Orientation session before picking up their Bird Card.

The purpose of this short 30 minute session is to explain the Club's expectations for our Members and their guests and clarify any questions you may have regarding the Club's operations and Rules and Regulations.

Due to current social distancing requirements, there will be two sessions offered on each day orientations are scheduled. The first session will start at 8:00am and the second session will begin at 10:00am. Orientations are limited to a maximum of 20 people for each session and will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Advance reservations are required. We will not accept "walk-ins".

Please call the Club office to make a reservation for the day and class time you desire. Classes begin on September 5<sup>th</sup> and will continue every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday until December 24<sup>th</sup>. After that date, only limited classes will be given, so plan accordingly.

## BECOMING AN OUTDOORSWOMAN

The Becoming an Outdoorswoman Program, previously scheduled for October and sponsored by the California Waterfowl Association, has been canceled.

In its place, Hunting Club has decided to host a Hastings Island Introductory Women's Hunt on October 10th. This Hunt is open to women who are new to hunting. To attend you must possess a valid California hunting license and upland gamebird stamp. The event will include trap shooting, a gun safety class, a guided pheasant hunt with an opportunity to take up to 3 birds, bird cleaning and lunch. The price for this hunt is \$225.00 per person.

If you have a wife, daughter or granddaughter that you would like to introduce to a day of hunting, this is an excellent opportunity. Please call the Club office to reserve a space for this hunt.

## HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

We are sorry to say that we will not be allowed to host a Hunter Education Safety Course at the Club before the 2020-2021 Season starts. Currently, no face to face classes are allowed by California Department Fish & Wildlife, and they will not be allowed until further notice. The Department has made provisions temporarily, for completing an online only Hunter Education course, which can be used to procure a hunting license.

Just like before Covid-19, signing up for the approved course is done online at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website: [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov) Cost is \$24.95.

The class is separated into chapters, with a quiz at the end of each chapter. Each quiz must be passed with a score of 80% or higher. If a quiz is failed, it may be retaken until a passing score is achieved. The course must be completed within the deadline period given when you sign up for the course. Once the final chapter is passed, you can print your Proof of Course Completion and Hunter Education Certificate.

To access the online course, follow the procedures below:

- ❖ Log into [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov).
- ❖ Click on "Hunting" Tab.
- ❖ Click on "Hunter Education" Tab.
- ❖ Find the link on the page for "hunter-ed/california".
- ❖ Follow the directions to sign up for, and then complete the course.



Scott Azevedo, Jim Simmons with judges, for a win with Cole!

## HASTINGS ISLAND WEB PRESENCE

At the end of last Season, a number of Members asked why we didn't call them, when we had to curtail our activities, due to the State and County's COVID-19 restrictions. Calling each Member individually simply isn't practical, nor could we do so in a timely fashion.

The Club maintains a website: [www.hihp.com](http://www.hihp.com) and Facebook page. Short of calling the Club office, those are the best places to access important information about the Club. But, those are not good places for you to contact the Club, as they are maintained by an outside service. If you have a question or need help, please call the Club office.

## COURTESY IN THE FIELD

The Club makes every effort to create a pleasurable hunting experience, while maintaining safety as the cornerstone of the Club. There are a couple of things our Members can do to make the Club more enjoyable.

Hunting styles vary tremendously. Some Members use 12ga shotguns while others use 20ga shotguns. We even have Members who hunt with a bow and arrows. Some people hunt for just a couple of hours; others prefer to spend the entire day at the Club. Many people prefer to harvest just a couple of birds each outing, while a few prefer to make a weekend of hunting and wish to shoot an entire 20 bird Card. You may have a favorite field that you choose to hunt each time at the Club, or you might be one of our Members who like the idea of using all the open fields each trip out to hunt.

All of this leads to the most common complaints that the Club receives. Members perceived as having rude hunting habits, cutting off other hunters in the field or letting their dogs run out of control. Sometimes these perceptions are accurate. Such practices are indeed not only rude, but often create an unsafe situation in the field. If this occurs, then the Club Management will take appropriate actions to correct the poor behaviors.

Our Patrolmen may stop you as you enter the field or during any time they see an unsafe or discourteous action. They may ask you to see your ammunition being used, or for your hunting license and field pass. Patrolmen may ask you if you signed in, and they may call in to verify this. They will also come out to talk to you if they see a discourteous action occurring. In addition you may be asked at the Front Counter for your Driver's License, so we can ensure you are using the correct Bird Card. These policies exist to improve the Club, the safety standards of Hunting Club and to ensure our Members are responsible and courteous hunters.

With nearly 40,000 pheasants planted on the island over a 6 month period every Season, there are plenty of birds for all our Members. Paying attention and working together makes every hunt safe and enjoyable for all concerned.



The Cunningham Family are celebrating Independence Day by enjoying a day on the water, at the Club!

## REMEMBERING GORDON THEILEN....

We are sad to share with you that long-standing Club Member, Gordon Theilen, recently passed away at the age of 92.

Gordon's passion for hunting started as a young boy walking with his father near Montevideo, Minnesota during the fall pheasant season. It wasn't until later in his life, while hunting pheasants on Dixon farmland, that he recognized the value a good bird dog adds to the experience. He purchased a Brittany pup from a breeder in Sacramento as a pet and hunting companion.



Gordon is hunting at the Club with Kyle Tetlow with dogs, Gabe and Runner.

Through the years, Gordon gained experience selecting breeding partners that improved hunting performance. After his retirement in 1993, with knowledge gained in breeding and training, he became interested in American Kennel Club competitive events. He was heavily involved with the American Brittany Club and local Brittany clubs. He was a competitor in the field, a volunteer and judge for many events, and an organizer and officer in the Club to which he belonged.

Dr. Theilen was a leader at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. He was known as a great instructor, a veterinary educator, cancer researcher including assistant professor and chief of clinical oncology. His research, pioneering vision and leadership helped advance specialty cancer medicine for animals and humans. Gordon was the first president and one of the founding members of the Veterinary Cancer Society.

Gordon's contributions to the community and fellow Club Members will be greatly missed.

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