



ILLINOIS DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL EDITION

Page 1

Illinois Deer Farmers Association Newsletter

January 2013

In This Issue

- Presidents Message
- Membership Renewal

Board of Directors

Greg Mills	President
217-202-8644	
Cliff Shipley	Vice President
217-469-2669	
Doug Marsh	Treasurer
217-776-2604	
Candy Parrish	Secretary
217-443-9910	
Sam Petersheim	
217-273-3331	
Jerry Wilson	
618-920-3765	
Dan Painter	
217-821-8880	
Phil Johnson	
217-236-4841	
Matt Harmon	
618-927-3689	
Clint Reardon	
618-367-0356	

Message From Our President

Hello Everyone

It is hard to believe that another year has passed and we are into 2013. The previous year went smoothly for the association but not so well for a lot of our farms throughout the state and across the country. The environmental conditions must have been just right for EHD and there were a large number of you that felt the impact. I hope as I write this that everyone has had a chance to recover from this ordeal and is able to continue in their passion of raising deer. Late last summer our annual membership meeting and fundraiser was held once again at Pin Oak Farm, the home of Lavern and Dorothy Schlabach. Attendance may have been down slightly from the previous year but overall it was a fun time and a success. Thank you to LaVern for opening up his farm to all of us for the event. The first part of January 2013 brought the Top 30 once again to Illinois and the ILDFA had a booth with a silent auction fundraiser plus two items in a live auction on Thursday evening. We had a good amount of activity at our booth and a big thank you goes out to Kevin Grace for his support and to all those who donated and purchased items. The total fund raised from both efforts was 20,044.00. This amount falls a little short of our operating budget of which 21,000.00 is for our lobbyist in Springfield. The total budget for the year is generally close to 24,000.00.

This leads me to what is before us in 2013. In December of 2012 we had to renew our contract with our lobbyist Jim Riemer. Going forward he asked for an increase of 250.00 per month. The board discussed and passed the increase on a unanimous vote. It is the board's position that Jim is an asset to the association that we need to have. This of course raises our operating budget and all of us need to do what we can to fulfill the needs of our association.

Late last week I received a call from Jim Riemer alerting me to a State house bill that is going to be posted and possibly introduced to committee that would ban any new hunting preserves in Illinois. The wording included applies to any mammals and that existing preserves would be grandfathered in. This is a first for us as we have never had a bill introduced on this subject and we believe it is a stepping stone to get rid of all preserves. The bill was brought to the Chicago suburb representative by HSUS (humane society of the United States). Fortunately Jim Riemer was on it right away and has been in contact with the bill's sponsor. He and Representative Phelps will be meeting with her next week to discuss the matter and then myself and possibly other board members will accompany Jim to meet with her in mid-February. We will be attempting to educate her about the cervid industry and the value of hunting preserves as a choice of hunters and property owners alike.

Jim feels confident in killing the bill before or at committee, he actually has had a working relationship with the bill sponsor and has been gathering support for us in the needed areas. I will be keeping you the membership updated as needed as we address this issue.

Cont.

cont. from pg. 1

Before I leave this subject let me go back to our approval of the lobby fee increase. The previous paragraph is probably the best example I could use for why we need the lobbyist that we have. I was very pleased that Jim found out about this bill even before it was posted and notified me immediately. He also has been lining up support to kill the bill along with actually being able to arrange a meeting for us with the bill sponsor. Jim is very well respected amongst his peers in Springfield and I believe he is needed for working with us in assuring our existence. Do we enjoy spending that amount of money to help insure our existence? Of course not, but unfortunately in this day and age that we live in it is a necessity and should be viewed as a cost of doing business.

All of this ties in to the task at hand which is to make sure that our memberships are current with our association and we take an active stand to support it. Do you know someone that is raising cervids and they are not a member? Do your best to encourage them to sign up, there is strength in numbers. Don't forget to support NADeFA at a national level, they do a lot of good work for our industry.

On the agenda for this year als is the new federal CWD rule and how the state of Illinois will adopt its changes. Dr. Ernst has expressed interest in getting our input on this matter and we will be meeting with him on this to hopefully draft some ideas before the livestock board meets in March. Some of the topics we would like to address are CWD contingency plans for positive test on a captive cervid, a 10 mile radius for farms next to CWD in the wild, instead of the adjacent county rule, and recognizing double fencing in other states and possibly our own.

The board is also currently working on coming up with a location for this year's annual meeting we think it is important to move the location around and it would be nice to have a farm location but we realize that that is not an option on a lot of our farms. If any of our members have a suggestion on this subject please contact Dan Painter. A timetable similar to last years is what has been looked at which would be late August.

A few more housekeeping notes:

February 14th is the targeted date for the new TB blood test to go into use in the field. Stay tuned for updates via email and on the ILDFA website.

As you fill out your membership application please verify that you can receive our newsletter and bulletins by email. We are trying to streamline our costs and time by going with the e- letter. The newsletter and any bulletins will also be posted immediately on our website. If you are unable to receive the newsletters by email please let us know on your application and you will receive them in the mail.

Please take a look at our website at www.ildfa.com. It has been updated nicely and is still undergoing some changes. I would like to thank Cyndi Bower for taking on this project and she will be updating and posting information as it comes in. There is also some pages devoted to members farms and bucks that they would like to feature. Go online and check out the available features for current members.

If you know anyone who is interested in starting a hunting preserve, please have them call one of the board members for guidance on this issue. DO NOT CALL THE DNR, the Illinois DNR has repeatedly given false information to people inquiring on this subject.

Your President,

Greg Mills