

March, 2014

Dear DRC members and friends,

We extend our greetings and our thanks to all of you who have supported the Duluth Retriever Club in the past. Because we are a non-profit and all volunteer organization, our success depends on the contributions from every member.

For this year, we will continue all of the great offerings from 2013:

- Hundreds of acres of fields and ponds will be available for use by members.
- “Train the Trainer” sessions will be held weekly for 10 sessions beginning in late May. This program is designed to help the newer members learn the basics of training dogs for hunting and competition under the guidance of some of our most experienced people.
- AKC licensed Hunt Tests will be held August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- AKC licensed Field Trials will be held August 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and again on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The “Fall Youth Expo”, put on by the DRC in partnership with the Izaak Walton League, will be held Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. At this event, we provided a wide range of educational outdoor activities for the young people of our region.

New this year, we plan to offer a “Beyond T-3” program. Weekly sessions will provide training for handlers and dogs that have completed basic training and are ready to begin transition training.

Our membership form has changed for 2014. Gone is the distinction between participating and non-participating members. Instead, we will offer just one category of annual membership. The price of this membership is \$50, and assumes that each member will provide two days of volunteer participation. This new dues structure and work requirement reflects a balance of several factors. Included among these factors are steadily increasing costs, the requirement to maintain newly acquired grounds, and the need to simplify the process of obtaining volunteers. Perhaps most importantly, the strength of our club is contingent on all members helping out in some capacity. The price of a life membership will remain at \$500.

Please return your 2014 promptly, and make sure your e-mail address is legible so that we can keep you informed all year. Life members, please report any changes in your contact information.

Further DRC information is available at [www.duluthretrieverclub.net](http://www.duluthretrieverclub.net). Questions and comments can be e-mailed to [drcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:drcsecretary@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Steve Rannenberg, Duluth Retriever Club President