

A growing and evolving destination for clay shooters is fast developing in the southeast corner of Dutchess County (NY), about 80 miles out of the City – right in the middle of some of the most picturesque rolling hills and deep green forest one could imagine. In the Fall, as everyone knows, the colors turn to the red and gold of autumn. I say this as a prelude to mentioning that for the non-shooters in the family, this is a great day trip or escape (depending on your city life) for other activities besides top notch shooting.

Dover Furnace is ‘work in progress’ for Jim and Jeanne Muncey, the owners of this facility, as well as its sister property which is a private shooting and gun club, not far away, called Ten Mile River Preserve. According to Jim, the plan is to make Dover Furnace the best available for the public with facilities that can accommodate corporate functions ranging from 75 to 200 guests. Currently they have completed the first lodge that has six suites and by the spring will have completed many more. The suites are modern and well

appointed as well as spacious for guests wishing to spend time and enjoy some serious shooting.

Dover Furnace is built around an old iron ore furnace that was erected and put into use in 1881 –



THE DOVER FURNACE.

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AL HAGUE REPORTS FROM DOVER FURNACE AND TEN MILE RIVER PRESERVE

FOR SPORTING CLAYS





and still stands today as a reminder of the industry once located here. The Muncey's bought the property in June 2008 from the NY City Mission Society which was used at the time as a summer camp. Like all old summer camps, many buildings for housing and administration existed but had fallen into disrepair. As part of an extensive investment plan, the Muncey's are restoring some of the buildings that fit the plan and removing those that don't. When the plan is complete, they expect to have lodging, meeting places and the finest food services to meet the needs of the corporate and other outings expected to utilize this unique venue.

The shooting facilities currently include more than 16 sporting stations (including towers), 4 FITASC fields, Trap and Skeet ranges, a 5-Stand and field shooting (in season – bird and whitetail deer hunting). Future plans include regular sporting clays tournaments and numerous instructional clinics by top shooters – including Anthony Matarese Jr.

The property incorporates a beautiful lake and the sporting clays courses wind their way through the hardwood woods, with beautiful shooting stations that even in the hot

summer weather always have enough shade to keep shooters quite comfortable. The layout is clearly designed from experience gained over the years at the Ten Mile River Preserve and has a wide array of target presentations to challenge all levels of proficiency. The equipment is first class with Promatic being the trap of choice. Each station has comfortable seating and shooting positions making the experience of each course more than pleasant. The traps are operated by Long Range wireless key systems – with pre pay and pay as you shoot options. Golf cart rentals are available to travel the winding

clays courses. RV parking is also available – and space is plentiful.

Dover Furnace offers 'Couple Packages' that include 200 rounds of clays, dinner and breakfast. If you're partner doesn't shoot, there's much to do in the area. A short drive from Dover, antique shops are to be found in the small towns of Amenia and Dover Plains and if you enjoy nice wines you can even visit Millbrook Vineyards. (Getting there is very easy and pleasant using the Merritt Parkway or even the back roads that will take you through many small towns and past small farms and beautiful scenery.)

For those who prefer a more individual and upscale experience, then visit Ten Mile River Preserve and inquire about a membership where you will find a full lodge, kennels for the dogs for bird hunting, guides and a full Pro Shop with Browning and Beretta as the main lines. Whatever your preference, both locations get the same attention to detail from the Muncey's every day – and your shooting experience will be one that you will want to repeat. (www.doverfurnace.com) (www.tmrp.org) ■

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