

The club has received the final ten curtains from Hope Global so that we can now complete the project. Until now the club had been using twenty curtains and the curtains are working successfully and now with the remaining curtains in hand we can complete the project. For those who aren't familiar with what's been going on, here's a briefing on what the experiment's about. The clubs president John Fabroski has been going to meetings held by the Dept. of Environmental Protection for a number of years along with a number of other organizations that would be affected by the subject matter (Lead Shot). The concern was the effects of lead in the soil, especially wet lands. Without going into the specifics of the meetings it was obvious that there where concerns. Addressing the concerns the club started by building bullet traps on the out-door rifle and pistol ranges, 8 ft wide openings, 5 ft. in height and tapered 12ft. back, using 1/2" steel for the top and 1/4" steel for the sides, this enabled us to retrieve and process the spent lead. It works great. Next john contacted the University of Dartmouth knowing that they where experimenting with fabrics that would stop lead shot on trap and skeet fields. The people most involved Professor Armand Louis and DR. Yong Kim responded to john and set up a meeting at the club and agreed that if the club would build the infrastructure to hang the curtains they would supply the curtains through Hope Global for testing. So after a year and a half of building and re- building, the method of hanging the curtains is finally in use. Thanks to Jerry Snuffer, Jay Doherty, John and other club members a method to hang, open and close the curtains is now in use. Many methods where thought of but we had to consider the cost factor, if we didn't build this with cost in mind, clubs wouldn't build it. That is why we've decided on what we call the draw drape system. We have found this to be most cost effective and above all very simple for two people to open and close the system, we've made it so that drawing on one line draws five curtains easily, we are working on another method to draw even more curtains with one pull. I'm sure over time methods will change and someone will come up with a better solution, but for now it's the best way. Whether this system is used by others will be up to them, there's no question that across the country shooting clubs will have to address the lead shot issue especially if there's wet lands involved. Realizing this, is why we as a club took on this challenge. Because of the experiences that we went through, we can help others with their projects. A number of organizations have already contacted us from all over New England. Again thanks to Professor Lewis and Dr. Kim from the University of Dartmouth and Hope Global.

