

S O U T H S H O R E

WATERFOWLERS

ASSOCIATION, INC.



October 2023

Web site: sswa.org

P.O. BOX 217 • BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

**43rd Duckboat Show Saturday Oct. 28 Cedar Beach
Marina Raindate — Sunday Oct 29th
REMINDER: Your Membership Has
Expired. Send Your Dues Today**

YOUTH DAY MENTORS NEEDED

***All SSWA members who wish to
be a hunting mentor for the Youth
Day hunt, Sat Nov. 4th, please call
Curt at 631.355.6258. We are
generating a list for Kelly of
mentors so she doesn't have to
scramble to get good help. Thank
you for helping our future hunters***

Annual Raffle

1st Prize - \$500 VISA Gift Card

2nd Prize - Framed Print

3rd Prize - Shooter Pack - \$50 Suffolk Trap & Skeet

4th Prize - Decoys

5th Prize - \$25.00 Visa Gift Card

Tickets drawn at Duckboat Show. Winner need not be present.

Please sell or buy all your tickets.

For electronic e-mail receivers your tickets will arrive in a separate envelope.

SSWA DUCKBOAT SHOW

The Annual Duckboat Show and Waterfowl Festival is **Saturday, October 28**. The Location is Cedar Beach Marina, Ocean Parkway, Babylon. This is our fundraiser for the year. ALL members mark your calendar and come down and please lend a hand. It is your club after all. Raindate is Sunday Oct. 29.

Please print out copies of the flyer in this newsletter and post in your local stores, delis, and hang-outs.

We will be having a club table at the show to sell merchandise so we can raise money for the club. If you have hunting or fishing related items that are in good shape that you are willing to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. Please bring these the day of the show. Vendors interested, fill out enclosed application for a spot or please contact Curt at (631) 661-0379 for info. The price will be \$40 for a table or spot. Send it now to reserve a spot. It is \$50 if you show up on saturday without reservation.

I encourage all members who have a boat (grassed or not) to bring it whether or not they intend to enter it in the contest. The boats are our main attraction of the show and always generate a lot of interest.

****We are holding our monthly meetings at the

VFW Hall, 330 North Dunton Ave, East Patchogue, Please make every effort to attend the November 6rd meeting.

South Shore Waterfowlers

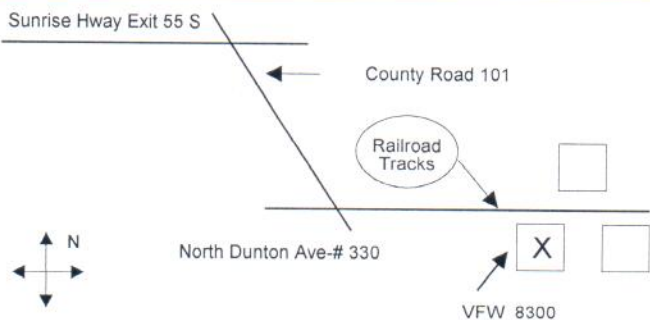
Voice of the Long Island Waterfowler

The South Shore Waterfowlers meet at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Monday of each month from September through April. If the 1st Monday falls on a holiday, the meeting will take place on an alternate date (to be announced). (A library holiday is the same as a U.S. Postal holiday.) **NEW LOCATION**

Meetings are held at the VFW Post 8300

330 North Dunton Ave East Patchogue 7:00 PM.

For additional information, please call Curt (631) 661-0379 or Ron (631) 902-2220.



South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

- President Kate Sohm
516-413-8476
- 1st Vice President Steve Pliszak
631-255-2162
- 2nd Vice President Fred Burkhardt.
929-282-3544
- Secretary John Adams.
631-618-5728
- Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Duckboat
Show Chairman, Membership, Historian,
Club Dinner, BBQ Chairman, Feed
Fund, and Fundraising. Curt Matzinger
631-661-0379
- Sergeant at Arms Joe Daly
516-860-8725

President's Corner

The days are getting shorter, and the weather is getting cooler. We all know that means the holidays and hunting season will soon be upon us. So be sure to get your hunting license, duck stamp, and hip number. Also time to check your boats, grass them and check your decoys are in working order.

Our duckboat show is Saturday, October 28. It is our ggest fundraiser of the year. So please come down and support your club. Remember to bring your sold raffle ticket money which you can turn in at our table. We will be selling raffle tickets that day as well. I want to thank our members who signed up at the October meeting to help out at the show. If you haven't signed up yet, please come down and donate a couple of hours the day of the show. It is YOUR CLUB and it will be appreciated.

We will have a club table at the show, so if you have any items you no longer use and want to donate them to the club, please bring them to the show.

Remember, **DUES ARE NOW DUE**. They can be paid at the duckboat show, or at the next meeting.

Next meeting is November 6. Please make every effort to attend this meeting as we will discuss and vote on how to use funds from the emergency fund.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Thank you.

Kate

GIL HERZY (1937-2023)

PAST PRESIDENT OF GREAT SOUTH BAY WATERFOWLERS ASSOCIATION

As far as name recognition goes in this century, Gil Herzy is perhaps best recognized as Kathy Herzy's husband, as he was always at her side when Kathy displayed her artwork at decoy shows, DU dinners, and the like. Kathy's artwork has graced many items utilized by SSWA and our predecessor GSBWA over the years.

However, this generation needs to become aware of, and recognize the many significant roles Gil Herzy himself played in waterfowling circles on Long Island. Gil passed away in his home on April 30. It was his wish that no services be held.

Born in Babylon of very modest means in 1937, Gil certainly qualified as an "old timer." He once told me about living in the attic of his aunt's house which had no heat up there. He put himself through college and paid for the Herzy's first house by clamming during the heydays, and then went on to a long and successful teaching career at North Babylon School District. Gil spent countless hours on the bay between the mainland and Captree Island, where he and Kathy had a beach house until recently.

Gil was one of the original members of Great South Bay Waterfowlers Association and served as its President for two years in the early 1970's. He also served as Chairman of the US National Decoy Show, the primary fund-raising event of the organization during that era. At that time the GSBWA had over 300 active members and usually 50-60 people at every meeting. Gil was also active in founding the Western Suffolk Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, the second earliest chapter on Long Island.

Two things put GSBWA "on the map" so to speak. One was the US National Decoy Show, bringing carvers from all over the continent. The second was the effort to become instrumental in the Atlantic Flyway Council, which continues today. Most importantly, Gil along with several other founding members, petitioned the Council to have representation, and then were responsible for successfully lobbying for the "Special Broadbill Season"-15 days at the end of January with a 5 broadbill bag limit.

Gil continued to be relatively involved in both the SSWA, where we would see him each year at the boat show, as well as being active in the Long Island Decoy Collectors Association, making meetings and Christmas parties until he no longer could.

This "old-timer" will surely be missed in our waterfowling circles.

Craig Kessler

2023 Summer Flyway Report

By Ron Sineo

The 2023 Summer Flyway meetings were held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania' this year. I travelled by car. I left home on Sunday morning, September 10th and checked-in at the conference center in the late afternoon. I checked out on Thursday morning, but stayed long enough after checking out, to confirm with the Committee Chairs that there were no changes to their recommendations, which are summarized here:

That the USFWS adopt the liberal regulations package for duck hunting seasons in the Atlantic Flyway in 2024-25. This consists of a 60-day season, between the Saturday nearest September 24 and January 31, with a daily bag limit of 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (2 hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, the hybrid season for scaup (2/day for 20 days and 1/day for 40 days), 2 redheads, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, and no harlequin ducks. 4 total sea ducks (no more than 3 scoters, 3 eider (1 hen), 3 long-tailed ducks), Possession limits to be three times the daily bag limit.

Additionally: Brant are expected to be a 30 / 1 season again, and on Long Island, the season and bag for Canada Goose will stay the same as this year. (Upstate, Canada Goose will probably go to a 30-day season with 2 birds / day in 2024-2025.

Please note, that all the above recommendations are for Next year's hunting season. This year's hunting season has already been established, and the hunting season has started. We have had early Canada Goose in September, and our Western Long Island Zone for Canada Geese opened on October 8th - Oct 22nd with 8 / day bag limit. On Long Island, we are scheduled for the regular duck season opener on November 18th.

TIPS ON BECOMING A BETTER WATERFOWL SHOOTER

By Ron Sineo

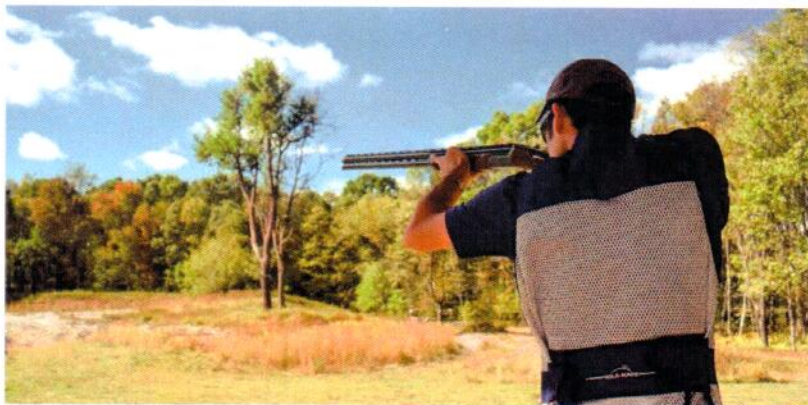
A number of years ago, a famous outdoor writer & radio host, Wade Bourne, wrote an article about tips on becoming a better waterfowl shooter. I am going to attempt to summarize them here.

1. *Make sure that your gun fits:* It should not catch on your hunting coat because it is too long, or bite you on the cheek because the stock is too short. Guns tend to come in a “one size fits all” category, yet the shooters vary greatly in size. If you have doubts about your gun’s fit, see a gunsmith, and take his advice. A properly fitting gun, should mount effortlessly, and smoothly. If you find yourself mounting and remounting the gun, until it feels right, it probably does not fit as well as it could.



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to

2. *Practice shooting your gun before the season starts:* You cannot expect to have success if you wait until opening day to dust off your gun from last year. According to Wade, if you can do some early season dove hunting, (Pennsylvania offers some great early fall dove shooting) this will tune you up for the waterfowl season. In our state, the dove is not a game bird, so unless you take it on the road to another state, this is not likely to happen.



A good second choice is to shoot some “sporting clays”. These clay target courses are set in the woods, and many of the shots they offer, imitate the flight and angles of incoming,

quartering, rising, landing, and going away birds. Shooting a few rounds of Sporting clays in the off season is a great way to be ready when that trophy shot presents itself in the marsh.

3. *Don't be in a hurry!*: A key reason for missing ducks and geese is shooting too fast. Some hunters rush their shots, thinking if they shoot quickly the birds will not flare out of range. The truth is, when hunters do wait that extra second or two when waterfowl are coming in, then rise-up to shoot, there is plenty of time to take some well-spaced shots before the birds get too far away. Concentrate on hitting your target, and good things will start to happen.



4. *Shoot 'em one at a time*: When a flight of birds starts to come in, single out one bird and stay with it. Wait until you are certain that you have that bird in your sights, then take the shot. Do not "flock shoot" even when the air seems thick with birds. The odds are that if you shoot at the whole flock, you will just punch holes in the air.



5. *Shoot the trailing bird in the flight*: This is perhaps my favorite tip, and I find it most effective, when birds are out in front of the rig, coming straight on, or quartering towards the rig, as they are dropping in to land. Under these conditions, if you take the highest and furthest bird (in range) for your first shot, two things are likely. First, your hunting buddy probably won't also have tried to shoot the same bird. (how many times have you had a few birds come in, only to have both of you shoot at the same bird? Simply put,



since the two of you are sitting close together, the bird that looks best to you, probably looks best to your buddy too!) Try to shoot at the trailing bird. As it falls and the others start to flare, they will pop back into your line of sight and you may get a second bird to take.

6. *Rely on instinct to know how much to lead the bird:* There is no formula for this...every shot is a different circumstance. Let your instincts take over. Instead of measuring the lead in your mind, just know that you will pull the trigger when it looks right.



7. *Don't stop the gun:* the bird is flying, not hovering! Keep that gun moving as you pull the trigger and you will find that your shooting improves. There will be more solid kills, fewer cripples, and fewer misses.

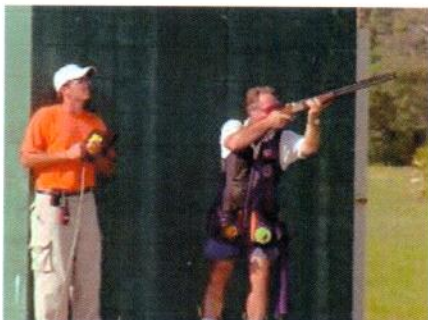
8. *On long passing shots, lead more than you think!*

This is not an encouragement for 'Sky-busting' (shooting at birds that are truly out of range) If a bird was clearly well within range, and you missed with the first shot, it will still be in range for a second shot and sometimes even a third shot. Common sense says that with each shot the lead becomes greater as the bird gets farther away.

9. *When waterfowl are coming head on, blot them out and shoot:* As the bird gets well within range, put the end of the barrel right on the bird if it is flying level. If it is dropping, put the barrel just below the bird so that the shot intercepts the bird as it drops.



10. *If possible attend a shooting school:* Professional one- on- one instruction



is the fastest way to become a proficient shotgun shooter. Of course, this stuff is not cheap, but you will see quick results.

I hope that you find some of these tips useful. Perhaps it is time to dust off the duck gun and get in some practice because the season is upon us.

QUACKS TIPS

Protecting your waterfowling gun!

Use a floating gun case for all your waterfowl hunting. These cases have a shoulder strap sling so you can “wear” it to a field blind, and they are generally waterproof enough to keep your gun dry. They are equipped with foam, to keep the gun afloat (instead of sinking like a rock) if it should accidentally fall into the water from a boat, dock, or just from fording a stream.. Naturally, like most products, you get what you pay for. Cabela’s carries several types, varying in price from \$25 - \$100.



Their loss leader is \$24.95, and is described as follows:

*Protect your shotgun from rough treatment in the field with the Northern Flight® Floating Sleeve Gun Case. **Designed to keep your gun afloat if dropped in water**, this protective gun sleeve combines a durable, weather-protective polyester shell with a sealed-in layer of buoyant foam. This 52" case comes equipped with an adjustable thick shoulder strap with shoulder pad and sling-style carry handles.*

Take your gun case with you to your hunting spot. Keep your gun in the case until you are fully set up from your boat, blind or pit. Some brands have an outside pocket. Keep a silicone cloth in the pocket. If there is no pocket, you can slip the folded cloth right inside the case. When the hunt is over, be sure to empty all the shells out of your gun. **Never put a loaded gun in it. Once empty**, use the silicone cloth to wipe it down. The case is a smart investment, (and makes a nice gift). It protects your gun from the weather, keeps it from “banging” around, and makes it easier to carry other gear, because of the shoulder sling.

BLIND DEDICATION
November 14, 2023 11:30 A.M.

Cedar Point County Park. I am so very proud to be announcing the completion of the Handicapped Blind, located on Alewife Pond, in the Suffolk County Park at Cedar Point, NY. This the 4th blind in the series. We did Southaven County Park, Blind 9. Penney Pond in Flanders. Big Reed in Montauk County Park, Now Cedar Point. The guys out in Cedar Point erected this blind in record time, and they did such a great job. Thanks goes out to Nick, Mike and the crew who orchestrated this project. Many thanks to Freddie Graham who funded most of this project. We will meet at the check in station, and at around 11:30 ish, we will head over to the blind. We will dedicate the blind, then we will get some food afterwards that I am providing. Then head on home. I cant believe that all 4 are completed. It seems like only yesterday that John Adams and I were in a blind at Southaven saying "It sure would be great to get Jean out here to see the park. Hard to do that, she is in the wheelchair. Why can't we make a ramp?"That is the history of the birth of the Suffolk County Parks Projects. Thanks to Riverhead Building Supply for their help. D.E.C. for making sure it's done correctly. Mostly Nick at S. C. Parks for pushing everything through. Call Curt at 631.355.6258 so I can get a food head count for that day. See you there.
Curt



Waterfowler's Classifieds

FOR SALE:

SBE2 BARREL — \$200
Call Curt at 631-661-0379

OUTBOARD MOTORS
25hp and 10hp 2 stroke
outboards. Both run.
Call Curt - 631.355.6258

WANTED

Decoys and all types of waterfowling items.
Call Butch at 631.796.3818

REMEMBER

Duckboat Show- Saturday - October 28
Raindate October 29

Members Receiving Paper Newsletters

To receive the password for the MEMBERS ONLY section of the sswa.org website, call Curt at 631-661-0379 and give him your e-mail address so he can add it to the mailing list so you can receive your newsletters electronically.

— **South Shore Waterfowlers Association** —

P.O. Box 217 • Brightwaters, NY 11718

Membership Enrollment / Renewal Card (please print legibly)

Address Change Address Correction New Member Renewal

Name _____ Today's-Date: _____

Street _____ Amount-Paid: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dues: 1 year \$40.00

e-mail: _____ Phone- _____

(Mandatory to receive e-newsletters)

South Shore Waterfowlers Association
P.O. Box 217, Brightwaters, NY 11718

presents the 43rd Annual
**DUCKBOAT SHOW
& WATERFOWL FESTIVAL**



Please support our projects and programs by purchasing Raffle Tickets

Featuring: Duckboat Contest Swap Shop Vendors & Exhibitors
Sporting Clays Paintball Shooting Food Truck
Dog Dock Jumping Greenwing Event Raffles & Prizes
Sport Fishing Museum Door Prizes And Much More

SATURDAY, October 28, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Cedar Beach Marina, Ocean Parkway, Babylon, NY
— Rain Date: October 29, 2023 —

ADMISSION just \$5 per person

Call Curt Matzinger 631-661-0379 or Kate Sohm 516-413-8476

Visit sswa.org for vendor application or info

Please bring canned goods or non-perishable items for our Annual Food Drive to help feed Long Island's Hungry

S O U T H S H O R E
WATERFOWLERS
A S S O C I A T I O N , I N C .



P.O. BOX 217 • BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

Web Site: sswa.org

APPLICATION FOR THE SSWA

ANNUAL DUCKBOAT SHOW AND WATERFOWL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 28, 2023 – 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Raindate:** Sunday, October 29

Located at Cedar Beach Marina, Ocean Parkway, Babylon, New York

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MailAddress: _____ PHONE: _____

PLEASE ENTER NUMBER OF TABLES/SPACES NEEDED:

\$40 each – PICNIC TABLE (Provided): _____ – OR 8 Ft x 8 Ft SPACE (1 boat per space): _____

TOTAL (Picnic Tables + Spaces) x \$40.00: _____ Reserved Table or Space Donation

NOTE: Non-Reserved Day-of-Show Arrivals: \$50.00 per Table or Space

Payment due PRIOR to Show Date – Call Curt at 631-661-0379 for more info

Please make donation check payable to: **SOUTH SHORE WATERFOWLERS ASSOCIATION**

and mail check AND application to:

Curt Matzinger – Chairman

Att: Vendor Applications

32 Magro Drive

North Babylon, NY 11703

Checks **MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE OCTOBER 20th** to reserve your table or space

Tables are assigned in the order that checks are received (check 1 = table 1, check 2 = table 2, etc.)

Please bring non-perishable food items for our Annual Food Drive

43rd Annual Duckboat Show & Waterfowl Festival

1st Prize - \$500.00 GIFT CARD

2nd Prize - Framed Print

3rd Prize - Shooters Package - \$50.00 gift card from Suffolk Trap & Skeet

4th Prize - Decoys

5th Prize - \$25.00 Gift Card

Raffle Drawn at the Day of the Duckboat Show

WINNER Need Not Be Present to Win.

NAME

PHONE

\$10.00 EACH -or- 6 for \$50.00

43rd Annual Duckboat Show & Waterfowl Festival

1st Prize - \$500.00 GIFT CARD

Prize - Framed Print

3rd Prize - Shooters Package - \$50.00 gift card from Suffolk Trap & Skeet

4th Prize - Decoys

5th Prize - \$25.00 VISA GIFT CARD

Raffle Drawn at the Day of the Duckboat Show

WINNER Need Not Be Present to Win.

NAME

2nd

PHONE

\$10.00 EACH -or- 6 for \$50.00

43rd Annual Duckboat Show & Waterfowl Festival

1st Prize - \$500.00 GIFT CARD

2nd Prize - Framed Print

3rd Prize - Shooters Package - \$50.00 gift card from Suffolk Trap & Skeet

4th Prize - Decoys

5th Prize - \$25.00 VISA GIFT CARD

Raffle Drawn at the Day of the Duckboat Show

WINNER Need Not Be Present to Win.

NAME

PHONE

\$10.00 EACH -or- 6 for 50.00

43rd Annual Duckboat Show & Waterfowl Festival

1st Prize - \$500.00 GIFT CARD

2nd Prize - Framed Print

3rd Prize - Shooters Package - \$50.00 gift card from Suffolk Trap & Skeet

4th Prize - Decoys

5th Prize - \$25.00 VISA GIFT CARD

Raffle Drawn at the Day of the Duckboat Show

WINNER Need Not Be Present to Win.

NAME

PHONE

\$10.00 EACH -or- 6 for \$50.00

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NAME

PHONE

\$10.00 EACH -or- 6 for \$50.00

— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- October 28** — Annual 42nd Duckboat Show and Waterfowl Festival (see flyer for details)
- October 29** — Rain date for Duckboat Show
- November 4** ---- Youth Hunt at Southaven and Flanders
Mentors Please call Curt to get on the list. See page 1
- November 6** — SSWA meeting, VFW Post 8300—330 North Dunton Ave, East Patchogue
7:00 pm
- Nov. 11 & 12** --- Veterans and Active Military Hunt
- November 14** --- Dedication of the Cedar Point Blind. See Article
- December 4** — SSWA meeting and holiday party, 330 North Dunton Ave, East Patchogue
7:00 pm

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



SOUTH SHORE
WATERFOWLERS
ASSOC., INC.

P.O. BOX 217
BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

Dedicated to Waterfowl Conservation on Long Island