

SOUTH SHORE  
**WATERFOWLERS**

ASSOCIATION, INC.



December 2019

Web site: [sswa.org](http://sswa.org)

P.O. BOX 217 • BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

**Happy Holidays to All Our  
Members and Their Families**

***SSWA Second Photo Contest***

We are trying it again.– The Photo Contest. We are trying to get our members to record some of their memories from this season. Here is how we are going to do it this year.

**First** – Take a picture (pick one of these categories):

A – Best Hunt – Harvest of birds, hunting group,  
retriever.

B – Nature – Sunrise/set, marsh, water scene.

**Second** – Text it to me at: 631-355-6258

Include your name and phone number,

**Third** – We post it on our Instagram page and Facebook. We will only post the photo with a number (example: Nature 19, Hunt 3). On March 1<sup>st</sup> we count up the # of Likes and Comments for each picture. Likes get 1 point, Comments get 2 points.

Prize for each category is a free one-year membership to the SSWA. This contest is for fun and we hope to involve our members and friends to take pictures on their hunts, and get them to visit our social media pages.

Instagram – [southshorewaterfowlersassoc](https://www.instagram.com/southshorewaterfowlersassoc)

Facebook – South Shore Waterfowlers

**Good Luck – Have Fun – Visit our sites**

**Youth Day Hunt Recap**

I was happy to be a mentor for the 22nd time at the DEC Youth Day program. It has been going on for 22 years with thanks going out to the DEC, Suffolk County Parks, Ducks Unlimited, and the SSWA. The number of kids was light, but they all had a good time at the educational days and even more the day of the hunt. All the kids were at Southhaven 10 kids got 7 birds, fun was had by all, and thank you to President Ronny for setting up the lunch the SSWA always provides. Many thanks to Kelly & Mary – Terrific Jobs usual. Thanks SSWA Members

**St, Jude Fundraiser**

At the December 2nd SSWA meeting/holiday party, we held a 50/50 Raffle for a donation to St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital. \$400 was collected. \$200 went to winner and \$200 was for St. Jude. An anonymous couple matched the amount, so \$400 was donated to St. Jude on behalf of SSWA. Thank you and Happy Holidays.

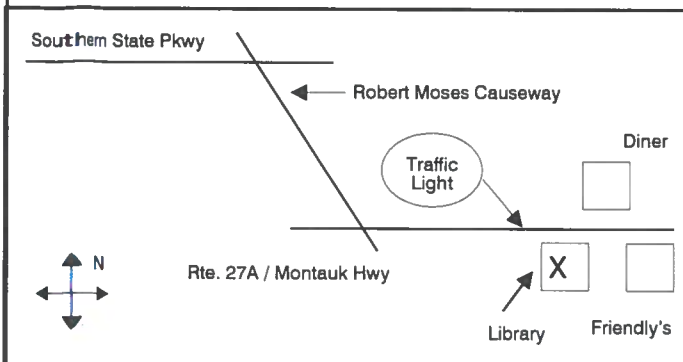
## South Shore Waterfowlers

### 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.)

Meetings are held on the first floor conference room of the Brightwaters/Bayshore Library located on Montauk Highway (Rte. 27A) in Brightwaters/Bayshore (see map below).

For additional information, please call John (631) 874-7459 or Ron (631) 902-2220.



## South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

- President . . . . . Ron Pliszak  
631-902-2220
- 1st Vice President . . . . . Kate Sohm  
516-413-8476
- 2nd Vice President . . . . . Erik Tallbe, Jr.  
516-799-6613
- Secretary . . . . . Dani Karam.  
631-921-3633
- Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Duckboat  
Show Chairman, Membership, Historian,  
Club Dinner, BBQ Chairman, Feed  
Fund, and Fundraising . . . . . Curt Matzinger  
631-661-0379
- Sergeant at Arms . . . . . Erik Tallbe  
516-799-6613

## President's Corner

With the holidays upon us and the year coming to an end I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of the members for making our club a success. Without your continued support and efforts we would not be able to continue to be the voice of the Long Island waterfowler.

I'm turning the rest of the column over to Curt Matzinger who wrote a letter to the club members.

**"Dear SSWA Family,**

**I want to reach out to All of you and thank you so much for your love and concern when my wife Jean passed back in September. It is a rough time and I really appreciate all you did for me both emotionally and financially. I so needed shoulders to lean on and I got a whole lot of them. The turnout for her celebration was beautiful to see. You really cared for us both. Things are changing for me in a big way and I am truly Blessed to have such a terrific group of men and woman in my life. Between the family I was born into and the one I have with you all, I see some brightness in my future. Baby steps.**

**Thank you again for being in my life.**

**Curt Matzinger"**

In closing I hope everybody had a healthy and happy holiday with great hopes for the upcoming year. See you at the meetings.

*Ron Pliszak*



Jon Sweezey

1877 New York Ave., Huntington Station, NY 11746

(631) 271-4969 • Fax (631) 271-9621

e-mail: campsiteli@aol.com

Your Source to the Outdoors Since 1964

## How To Break Ice by Ron Sineo

I first wrote this article for the newsletter over 10 years ago. Every 3 years or so, we re-print this to caution our members to be safe, and to live to hunt another day.



By the time you receive this issue, we will be a little more than half-way through the regular duck hunting season. One of our members suggested that it would be a good idea to discuss how to break ice when you are in a duck-hunting skiff. We all know that the birds are concentrated when there is ice everywhere, so how do you get through this ice safely? In an attempt to do research on this matter, I consulted with <http://www.waterfowler.com> and I got over 2 dozen responses. Mostly, they were from guys from Michigan, and Minnesota, and other big water, cold weather states. In summary, here's what they had to say:

1. Never try to break serious ice when you are alone! (Serious ice is anything thicker than that clear "skim" ice)
2. With one man in the bow (for weight), go slowly, and ride the bow onto the ice, letting the weight of the boat break through it, stop the boat long enough to allow the bow man to use a paddle or iron bar to break up the big pieces on the sides of the boat.
3. Ride the boat slowly up onto the ice again, and repeat this process.
4. As the ice approaches 1 ½ inches thick, the weight of the boat alone may not do it. Then the bow man must work at a slow even pace to

crack and break the ice in front of him. This is very strenuous work. It should never be done in haste because there are no do-overs. Life vests should be worn! and the bow man must be careful not to reach too far or hang over too far. Falling through ice can be a one-way trip.

5. **If the ice is thicker than 1-½ inches or so, it is probably better to put the boat back on the trailer and go get a cup of coffee at the diner! No duck is worth your life!**
6. If you are at the launch ramp, and you have to break more than about 200 feet of ice to get to open water, **don't launch the boat....it just isn't worth it.**
7. If you plan on staying out a while, you have to be concerned about the trip back. On a really cold day, the broken ice will seal up behind you rapidly, and become even thicker than it was before. It is wise to take your time and clear the ice as thoroughly as you can. Break the huge floating chunks into smaller pieces, using your paddle or iron bar, and clear a path that is somewhat wider than the boat. When you have gotten to open water, turn the boat around and go back through the path you have cleared. This will give you a good sense of how fast the ice is reforming. If you have to break ice on your way back, you should probably pull your boat out of the water, because it will surely be all locked up by the time you planned to return.

Almost all of those who responded cautioned that this is only the beginning of "ice safety". They were quick to point out that whenever you are hunting in a tidal flow, moving ice can be very dangerous. Most of the time, there is more ice below the waterline than there is above it. The force of the currents is not to be fooled with. Fiberglass and home-made duck boats are no match for tidal and current driven ice, and hulls can be pierced in a blink. Don't think that aluminum johnboats will fare much better either. What often begins as a simple chore to retrieve some decoys that have been picked up by the moving ice, can quickly escalate into a bad situation! Locally, we have regular tide changes. You can be stooled out in a "clear" spot for a couple of hours, when suddenly the tide reverses, and the ice flows begin.



*It is the smart hunter who knows when to call it quits for the day.*

Road Trip?  
by Ron Sineo

Whenever I have some time to “surf” the internet, I try to search for possible Road Trips I might enjoy taking. I recently came across this news story from Reuters, and it gave new meaning to an expression I have heard on occasion. That expression is, “*you got relatives in Stuttgart?*”

Below is a reprint of the article. Please do not be put off because the article is 8 years old. As you read it, I promise you that this place is as real today as it was when the article was written. It does exist.

**DUCK HUNTING IS AN OBSESSION FOR ARKANSAS TOWN**

U.S. NOVEMBER 21, 2011 / 9:11 PM / 8 YEARS AGO  
By Suzi Parker

STUTTGART, Ark (Reuters) - Rucker Ted Nugent has hunted duck in Arkansas. So have former Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.\*\*

They are not alone.

Stuttgart, about 55 miles east of Little Rock, is known as the duck capital of the world. For the next two months, thousands of hunters will descend on eastern Arkansas and drop millions into the state's economy. The Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce estimates that duck hunting contributes **more than \$1 million a day** to the town's economy. This year's season opened on Saturday. Stuttgart thrives on its duck hunting heritage. Businesses erect banners welcoming hunters. The Best Western is named the Duck Inn and has the Duck Blind Lounge. The Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie hosts a “Waterfowl Wing,” a permanent exhibit that replicates a duck hunt along with a collection of decoys and guns. Posh duck lodges, sitting on hundreds of acres of prime hunting land, pepper the outskirts of Stuttgart.

*The Queen Mallard and Junior Queen Mallard pageants* kicked off the weeklong Wings Over the Prairie Festival on Saturday. The week closes with a street festival and the world championship duck calling contests, which began in 1936, and a duck gumbo cook-off.



Former Arkansas Governor and presidential candidate Mike Huckabee calls Arkansas the “holy grail of duck hunting.” “A crisp clear morning on the Arkansas prairie, standing next to a tree in flooded hardwood timber waiting in the stillness before sunrise, is as close to heaven as one can get without dying,” Huckabee told Reuters.

Stuttgart, population 9,745, sits in the Mississippi Flyway near the Arkansas and White Rivers. Several bayous and lakes also surround the area. Those draw waterfowl, as do the area’s flooded rice fields. Stuttgart is home to Riceland Foods, the world’s largest miller and marketer of rice. The combination creates a hunting oasis. **In the 2010-11 season, more than 1.4 million ducks were harvested; 700,000 were mallards.**

While the state faced severe drought conditions this year, state Game and Fish officials point to artificially-flooded areas and those with permanent water as good hunting spots this year. Nearly 80,000 of the state waterfowl stamps required for hunters were sold in the 2010-2011 season, according to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Of those, 48,000 were sold to Arkansas residents. Even non-hunters visit Stuttgart for the hoopla around hunting.

Mack’s Prairie Wings, a waterfowl outfitter mega-store, lures hunters and tourists from around the world. A mammoth mallard duck statue greets visitors outside the store. Inside, hunters can buy an array of goods from essentials like ammunition, decoys, guns and camouflage clothing to expensive lodge furnishings, women’s leather boots and even Christmas decorations. Chuck Lock, Mack’s executive vice president, said that business explodes from early November, when hunters prep for the season, until late January, when hunting ends. “We call it 90 days of hell,” Lock said, half-joking. He said that duck hunters are anticipating a good season and his business is reflecting that. On Saturday, aisles were packed with hunters and their families. Hunters stocked up on boxes of ammunition. Women bought Mack’s souvenir t-shirts in bulk for Christmas gifts. Children wanted stuffed mallard duck toys. Some hunters sat in rocking chairs on the store’s porch and traded stories. Jordan Johnson, 33, started hunting at age 14. He remembers when Mack’s was smaller and located in downtown Stuttgart instead of in its current location on the town’s edge. He said that duck hunting is an experience accessible to anyone in Arkansas.

“Duck hunting in Arkansas is more about sharing the outdoor experience with friends, family and business associates than hunting ducks,” Johnson said. “There are just as many business and family decisions made in a duck blind as there are at any boardroom or golf course.”

(Editing by Corrie MacLaggan and Greg McCune)

**\*\* *Can you imagine that?***

***I think this place could qualify for a road trip. What do you think?***

# LONG ISLAND TURKEY HUNTING.. THE CONTINUING SAGA!

by Ron Sineo

## Part 1: History

Turkey hunting has been a tradition in our state since the days when Benjamin Franklin campaigned to name it the national bird (of course, we know that the bald eagle was eventually chosen instead.) There are 62 counties in NYS. Since the 1960's, 55 counties (those north of the Bronx/Westchester line) had a robust Spring Turkey season, and many locations in NYS also had some kind of Fall Season as well. For years now, the taking of two (2) Tom turkeys has been permitted during the month of May. (Hunters are only permitted to take one per day, with a 2-bird season limit). The 7 counties that had no hunting were the 5 from NYC, plus Nassau and Suffolk. By the year 2000, it became obvious to most resident hunters in Suffolk County that the Turkey was well established in Suffolk.



In 2006, I decided to do my part to champion the idea of opening a Turkey season in Suffolk. I spoke to then director of Region #1 DEC Peter Scully, the Region #1 biologists, and also the State DEC biologists. I even posed the question in person to the NYS DEC Commissioner, Pete Grannis in 2007. It took quite a while for the state (DEC) to set up a trial limited hunting season in Suffolk, but in the Fall of 2009, a 5-day season was allowed in November. It coincided with the opening of deer season in the Southern zone! All of this surely was calculated to create an underwhelming start to Turkey hunting on Long Island. Well, after a few years of this trial 5-day season, the Fall season was expanded a bit. This past Fall, the season was a 14-day season. Reports that I have read say that Suffolk hunters account for @ 100 Turkeys in the Fall. (The current population estimates are well over the original estimates of 3,000 Turkeys.)

Hunters know that REAL Turkey hunting happens in the Spring, when Toms (like bucks) have only one thing on their minds. The other 55 Turkey hunting counties in NYS have continuously enjoyed a month-long Spring hunting season for Turkey for decades, while Suffolk County ALONE still has no spring season at all.

The excuse is chronic, and has to do with the perception that there are other groups out there who would use the DEC managed lands in the spring. The thinking is that there would be conflicts with land use in the month of May.

Strange that these perceived conflicts only exist in Suffolk County, and not in the other 55 counties that do have 31 days of Turkey hunting in May!

Another open sore was that there was no Youth hunt for Turkey in Suffolk, like there was in the other 55 Counties. This was finally remedied in April of 2011, with a youth weekend, which has continued each year since 2011.

I have been pursuing the opening of a Spring Turkey season here in Suffolk, each year since. Ironically, while turkey populations



have diminished somewhat in many locations in NY state, here in Suffolk, the population remains robust! As a matter of record, it was recently reported by the DEC that while poult production decreased in many areas, it increased from 2018-2019 in Suffolk, and the ratio of number of poults/hen (2.7) in Suffolk was highest of any county in the State!



Recently, at a meeting with local biologists from the DEC, I was informed that the folks in Albany are still reluctant to open a spring season here in Suffolk until they can “confirm” that the population is robust!? To that end they are now looking into the possibility of banding birds and then studying the band return info before making a recommendation for a spring hunting season. This will no doubt add to the delay of establishing a spring season.

## **Part 2: Next Steps**

I guess we need to make a noise! They must think that hunters on Long Island are HAPPY with being the only County EXCLUDED from a Spring Turkey season.

Why not? We seem OK with other unique discriminations, like we are the ONLY County in NYS that has a gun season for deer, but the crossbow is ILLEGAL ...ONLY IN SUFFOLK COUNTY.

But I digress. If you hunt Turkey. If you would like your children to hunt Turkey, and your grandchildren, etc., then it is time to be heard!

This is as easy as sending an e-mail.

Send it to Carrie meek Gallagher, Director of Region #1 DEC. [cariegallagher@dec.ny.gov](mailto:cariegallagher@dec.ny.gov)

Send it to Tony Wilkinson, NYS Director Fish & Wildlife at [fw.information@dec.ny.gov](mailto:fw.information@dec.ny.gov)

Send it to the Commissioner, Basil Seggos. Search “DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos”. When the page comes up with his picture, scroll down to the bottom, where there is a prompt: *email the commissioner* and click on it to type your remarks.

Keep it simple: one liners are effective..

*When will Suffolk County have a Spring Turkey Season???* **Or** *Why can't we hunt Spring Turkey in Suffolk when the rest of the State does?* **Or** *Hunters on Long Island want a Spring Turkey Season.* **Or** *55 NYS Counties Have a Spring Turkey season..Why can't Suffolk County?* **Or Put it in your own words. Please act on this. Even a few dozen emails will bring attention to us as the forgotten County!!**



### Quack's Tips

Quack says that when you go to take a shot, **Take Your Time**. Rushing shots is one of the most common mistakes in all forms of hunting but much more devastating with birds that are easy to miss and are gone when you do. You will have a limited amount of time to bag your bird but don't get too trigger happy. Make sure you are on target and ready before you let shot fly. **Go for the Trailing Bird**. Most every hunter will be after the lead duck and all it takes is a double hit on a single bird to start a fight and ruin a day of hunting. As the flock comes in, aim for the last duck in the line. **Don't Shoot at the Crowd** It's a common mistake for a new hunter to fire blindly into a flock of ducks. It's probably more a panic reaction than a planned strategy. People that do that are called **Skybusters** and you definitely don't want to be one. Pick your target and aim at him alone, don't shoot into the flock. Your odds will be better and you won't ruin any friendships. You will have more time to set up your shot and most other people won't be shooting at it. **Aim for the Head**. You have to lead a duck to begin with so start as far forward as you can. It will give you a little more leeway. Many times, hunters have thought they had a duck center mass but took out his tail feathers instead. If you can see his eye, make that your point of focus as you bring your shotgun up to bear. Not only will this help keep you from shooting blindly into a pack but it will give you a better chance of a solid hit.

### Waterfowler's Classifieds

#### FOR SALE:

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

**DECOYS – DUCKS & GEESE  
FIELD AND FLOATERS + ACCESSORIES**  
Call Butch at 631-924-5249

#### DECOYS

Geese and Ducks floating and full-body  
Mallards and Black Ducks  
Call Bill Groom at 516-796-6491

#### DECOYS

8 L.L. Bean Coastal Decoys  
Glass eyes, Portuguese cork & carved heads  
\$25 each  
Call Ed Olsen at 516-375-1946

#### 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 . . . . . \$35,00

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (Mandatory to receive e-newsletters)

Telephone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Membership expires in Sept.

— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

**CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- January 6** — SSWA meeting, Brightwaters Library, 7:00 pm  
**January 17** — Faz's Dinner (call 631-926-3353 for more info)
- February 3** — SSWA meeting, Brightwaters Library, 7:00 pm  
**Feb 27-Mar 1** — Suffern Outdoor Show
- March 2** — SSWA meeting, Brightwaters Library, 7:00 pm  
**March 6** — Fishermans Catch 3rd Annual Sportsmens Game Dinner  
(Call Curt 631-661-0379)
- March 7** — LIDCA Decoy Show  
**March 28-29** — IBEW Local 25 Gun Show  
**Mar-April?** — TBA SSWA 16th Annual "Curt M" Dinner at Fisherman's Catch  
**April 6** — Final SSWA meeting, Brightwaters Library, 7:00 pm - Elections

??? – E-mails will be sent any time a date is confirmed.

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***

*South Shore Waterfowlers Association wishes to thank our special friends. Please support these Long Island Businesses.*



**“THE CAMP-SITE”**  
SPORT SHOP

Joan Sweezy

187 New York Ave., Huntington Station, NY 11746

(631) 271-4969 • Fax (631) 271-9621

e-mail: campsiteli@aol.com

Your Source to the Outdoors Since 1964

**Fisherman's Catch Restaurant**



Tel: (516) 870-9217  
111 BAYSIDE DRIVE  
POINT LOOKOUT, N.Y. 11569

DANA LARSON  
Catering Manager

Capt. Steven King 631-445-8001

Long Island Diver/Sea Duck Hunts  
Layout Hunts Available



**East Coast Waterfowlers**

www.eastcoastwaterfowlers.com

**To Place Your Business Card  
in the Newsletters,  
contact Curt for pricing  
and details (631-661-0379)**

**RENT A TENT**

TENTS TABLES CHAIRS

COUNT ON ME NOT THE WEATHER

JOHN FERGUSON



631 807 9251

631 539 9539

JBRONCO2010@AOL.COM

SERVING FOR 20 YRS

**To All SSWA, Delta, and DU Members  
10% DISCOUNT**

**FISH & WILDLIFE  
UNLIMITED  
Taxidermy, Inc.**

DAN AZZATO  
(631) 244-7516  
(631) 244-7517 FAX  
www.alltaxidermyinc.com

4100 Sunrise Hwy. - Oakdale, N.Y. 11769



"SECOND ONLY TO NATURE"

EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF  
• BIG AND SMALL GAME MOUNTING  
• AFRICAN & LIFESIZE MOUNTS  
• SALT & FRESHWATER FISH  
• SKIN MOUNTS & REPAIRS  
• BIRDS & WATERFOWL • TANNING  
• WORLDWIDE HUNTING  
CONSULTANTS

**To All SSWA Members  
10% OFF All Birds and Butchering – 25% OFF All Fish**

516.256.9559

www.MatthewsCustomCalls.com



Email:

sales@matthewscustomcalls.com

PO Box 20675

Floral Park, NY 11002-0675

*... the best thing I ever did ...*



**Nursery and Main Office**

202 Pine Street - P.O. Box 486 - East Norwich, New York 11940

Telephone (631) 878-1052

Fax (631) 878-8989

www.herberhard.com - Email: hberhard@herberhard.com