

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 .



MARCH 2012

Web site: sswa.org

P.O. BOX 217 • BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

Proposed Slate of Officers

The April 2, 2012 meeting will also be for the annual election of officers. The proposed slate is as follows:

John Adams, Jr. – President

Ron Sineo – 1st Vice President

Richie Franks, Jr. – 2nd Vice President

Ron Pliszak – Secretary

Erik Tallbe – Treasurer

Curt Matzinger – Sargeant at Arms

There are 3 seats open for the Board of Directors, and 4 seats open for Advisors.

Proposed candidates for Director are:

George Duguid, George Grivas, and Ben Sohm

Proposed candidates for Advisor are:

Guy Soden, Steven Jendricks, Kate Sohm, and Tom Gresser

Additionally, at the April meeting, nominations will be accepted from the floor. Any club member in good standing can be nominated to run for any executive office, director's seat or advisors seat. All members present at the meeting (whose dues are current) will be allowed to vote. No proxy votes are permitted.

Summer Shoots

For all members who enjoy shooting Sporting Clays, the Peconic River Sportsman's Club will once again host the SSWA on the following Sunday mornings:

April 15, May 20, June 10, July 22, and August 12. Shooting begins at 9:30 a.m.

The price is \$35 for the shooting and \$10 for the BBQ that follows. (If the turnout is low, we usually do a Diner run afterward instead of the BBQ.)

Call Curt at (631) 661-0379 for more details and to sign up.

This Year's L.I. Decoy Show

by Ron Sineo

This year's Long Island Decoy Show was held at the IBEW Hall in Hauppauge on March 3, 2012. This was a special show in that its theme focused on all the US National Decoy Shows of the past. Some folks are not aware that our club ran the Nationals for the 30 years it was held. Beginning with the 1964 show, our club (then known as the Great South Bay Waterfowlers) hosted the show every year through the 1994 season, which was the last show ever to be held. The display of artifacts collected from those shows was mighty impressive, not to mention the dozens of decoys on display that were still sporting their award ribbons from the day they won their place in the show. There was also a special tribute to Al McCormick with many of his decoys displayed, as well as "the book." This was a register that Al had you sign after you had had some "lessons" from him in his shop. Paging through that book showed a pretty exclusive list of members past and present from our club and other well-known sportsmen from our area.

As I walked around the show this year, I encountered no less than eight past presidents of SSWA, including John Sheaff (who had traveled some 300 miles to attend, and Martin Fleisher, who was even wearing his "Great South Bay" name tag. Both were presidents quite a while ago. Martin told me he was president in 1964, which I believe is the first year that the club sponsored the National Decoy Show. The displays wowed young and old alike, and even attracted those who are new to the sport.

As I drove home from that show, I thought to myself that it was great to see life member Steve Sanford again, and dozens of other long time members from our club. It brought back lots of good memories. I couldn't help but think that the most valuable collection of all was not on display in just one place. It was spread throughout the show. You see perhaps the most valuable collection of all was the collection of all those great local sportsmen of the past and of the present who gathered together in one place for a few hours to swap stories and relive a unique piece of L.I. waterfowling history that they themselves have helped to create.

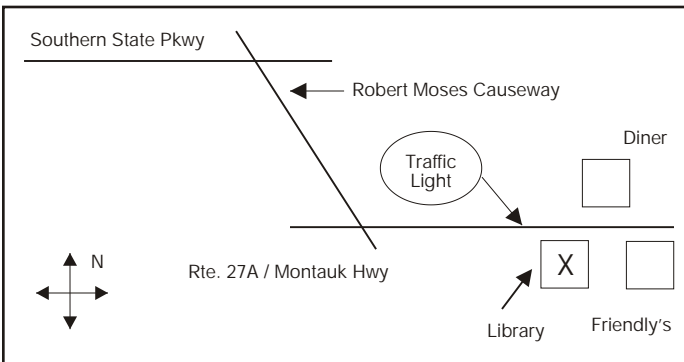
South Shore Waterfowlers

Voice of the Long Island Waterfowler

The South Shore Waterfowlers meet at 7:30 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) 862-8518.



South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

- President John Adams
631-618-5728
- 1st Vice President and
Membership Ron Sineo
631-862-8518
- 2nd Vice President. Richard Franks, Jr.
631-603-6295
- Secretary George Duguid
631-667-5886
- Treasurer Erik Tallbe
516-799-6613
- Sergeant at Arms, Newsletter Editor,
Duckboat Show Chairman, and
Club Dinner Chairman Curt Matzinger
631-661-0379

Price Increase for Federal Duck Stamp? Fact or Fiction?

by Ron Sineo

In a recent edition of the *OUTDOOR NEWS*, it was stated that the price of a duck stamp might go up this year. I thought it unlikely, since I recall no mention of this at the recent AFC technical meetings. I decided to try and research this to see if there was any truth to it. This is what I was able to find out.

For years, waterfowl supporters have pushed to increase the price of the federal duck stamp. The stamp, which hunters must buy to hunt waterfowl, has cost \$15 for the past 20 years—the longest stretch without an increase since the stamp was created in 1934. President Obama's latest budget proposal would increase the price to \$25 in 2013, a price supported by Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, and others. But former President George W. Bush proposed the same \$10 price increase in 2008, and Congress declined. So it's uncertain whether Obama's proposal will get any traction.

Supporters point out that inflation has eroded the buying power of the stamp since the last increase in 1991. The \$15 stamp only buys about \$8.79 in goods or services today. If the stamp had kept pace with inflation, it would cost \$25.60 today. "Raising it to \$25 would only get us to where we were in 1991," said Dale Hall, DU's chief executive officer. Obama's budget proposal said the additional funds would be used to buy about 7,000 acres of waterfowl habitat and get conservation easements on another 10,000 acres. All of this is a good thing, but as we all have learned, politics is unpredictable. One thing is for sure! The 2011-2012 duck stamp that we bought and for which we paid \$15, expires after June 30, 2012. If Congress doesn't act in time, the July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013 duck stamp will be sold at \$15 for another year.

2012 Atlantic Flyway Winter Meeting Report

by Ron Sineo

The winter technical meetings were held in Sturbridge, Massachusetts the week of February 26th, this year. It was well attended, and the snow storm which hit New England on Wednesday and Thursday of that week punctuated the budget storms from Washington and Canada which have mandated that in 2012 the various State, Provincial, and Federal Conservation and Wildlife Agencies accomplish their tasks with fewer resources than ever before. The hunting in Canada was generally good this year. The weather was warm and the birds stayed on their breeding grounds longer than usual. The hunting in the US part of the Atlantic Flyway was generally slow, since the birds were very late to arrive at their wintering grounds and in some cases they short-stopped and never got as far south as expected. In our area, most hunters I spoke to agreed that their harvest was down quite a bit from previous years, by as much as 50% or more.

There were some problems with the mid-winter surveys, most of which revolved around budget constraints. Those issues coupled with the fact that the birds were not very concentrated during the survey period, could very well account for some of the low mid-winter counts this year. One count of particular interest to Long Island Waterfowl hunters is the mid-winter Brant survey. Each year the mid-winter Brant survey has a strong influence on both the length of the Brant season and the daily bag limit. Although Ted Nichols told me that the good weather allowed him to fly the NJ and NY regions as thoroughly as ever, the Brant were not concentrated by frozen water and limited food supply. In any event, the survey fell below the required 150,000 Brant for the second year in a row. This means we will have a second year of a "moderate" Brant season of 50 days length and 2 birds in the daily bag for 2012. Whenever the count exceeds 150,000 birds, we could have a "liberal" season with 60 days and 3 bird daily bag.

There was much talk about several of the different species, but nothing was finalized, because for many species no decision is officially arrived at until the spring breeding population counts are known. However, barring something unexpected, the regulations and bag limits for ducks and geese are most likely going to be the same as this past hunting season. For the last 2 years, more and more provinces in Canada have gone to a 3X daily bag limit as a possession limit. Here in the US, we are still bound by a 2X daily bag for our possession limit. Most hunters would like to see the US change to a 3X possession limit. Federal Law Enforcement has weighed in on this concept, and they are asking for more restrictive language to be crafted on both the possession and the wanton waste sections of the Federal Regulations before they agree to a 3x daily possession limit. There will probably be much more to report about this after the Summer AFC meetings.

The Annual Long Island Zone NYS Waterfowl Task Force Meeting will be held at the DEC offices in Stony Brook on Saturday, April 14, 2012. This group will be making recommendations for setting the Long Island Waterfowl hunting calendar for the 2012-2013 season. The NYS DEC website has a listing of the task force members and their contact information. If you would like your opinion known with respect to season setting dates, contact those members who represent you and let them know what you think.



Jon Swezey

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DANA LARSON
Catering Manager

The Goose from Greenland and a Scotch Double

by Ron Sineo

On February 13 & 14 this year, John D'Avino, my son Roy, and I trekked down to Frankford, Delaware for a Snow goose hunt with A&A Outdoors. The two partners, Andy Dively and Andy Esham provide quality goose hunts and deer hunts in Delaware. Andy Dively is a SSWA member, and is also a sponsor. When we arrived we were greeted with the news that local harvest was down this year, probably due to the warm winter. We noticed no shortage of Snow geese, however, and in fact Prime Hook Refuge (just about 10 miles from the fields we were hunting in, was wintering about 300,000 Snows). We stayed in A&A's bunkhouse, and we were roused at 4 a.m. for the Monday hunt. We drove a fair distance to a cornfield they leased where Andy D. had seen several thousand geese feeding that Sunday afternoon. We worked quickly to put out about 1,200 sillosock decoys and about 150 full bodies. As we readied ourselves by hiding in an irrigation ditch, both guides were putting out sillosock "flappers" and a couple of rotating machines ("whirlers") which they scattered throughout the rig. We had Delaware Snow Goose Conservation Permits, so the guns were unplugged, the electronic callers were set up, and we were good to go, as first light gave way to sunrise. It didn't take long to realize that we were in the right place! The sky was filled with "bumble bees" in the distance to the East. These birds were coming from their coastal roost by the thousands. Their distinctive call became louder and louder until the noise was truly deafening. The guide was alongside me, and kept saying not yet . . . let them



get closer . . . we want some to land first . . . the rest will follow. It was torture waiting for his signal. At this point time seemed to stop for me. I remember everything clearly, but it was like I was watching a movie, only I was in the movie too. The birds started to split off into ones, twos, and threes . . . they circled ever lower, and some few began to land in the rig. Again Andy cautioned us to wait. The thousand or so birds in the air above us had yet to commit. Imagine that! Almost 1,500 decoys, electronic callers, some juvenile birds already landing, and still the rest would not finish! They didn't flair, but they didn't commit either. They were in a holding pattern, tightly circling our decoys, never closer than about 80 yards high. This went on like "groundhog day" for what seemed like an hour but in real time was probably no more than a minute or two. Just then a single goose tried to land right out in front of me, flying right to left, 6 feet high and 20 yards out. I tightened my grip on my gun, and readied myself to shoot, but Andy whispered harshly . . . No . . . don't . . . wait . . . let some more land . . . then abruptly he shouted "shoot him . . . he has a band on his leg!" I didn't need to be told twice. I shot the single bird. Of course, the sound of the shot convinced the rest of the birds to land somewhere else, but I was feeling good that I shot a banded bird. Imagine my surprise when the band read " *Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*. Well, I couldn't believe it. In over 50 years of waterfowl hunting, I had never before shot a bird with a band from a European country. My mind ran away with itself. Where was this bird actually from? What was it doing here? How long ago was it banded? Could the other birds it was flying with also be from the same place?



(Cont'd. on page 7)

Decoy Carving 101 – by Guy Soden

Nothing is more satisfying than having ducks or geese coming into decoys you made, except for holding a new grandchild! While the decoy carving process is satisfying, it can be quite frustrating if entered into without the proper tools or organization. The following is a primer.

PART I – ESSENTIALS AND SOURCES

Safety Essentials:

Safety Dust Mask: Protect your lungs if carving in an enclosed place, for example a garage.

Eye Glasses or Goggles: Protect your eyes from flying objects.

Dust Collecting System: Prevents wood dust from accumulating and causing fires or lung damage.

First Aid Kit: Unfortunately, you will cut yourself!

Kevlar Gloves

No ties or loose long sleeve shirts.

New Tools: Read and re-read the instructions. If unsure or yourself, ask an older member who carves.

Install a bolt high up to prevent small children access to your shop.

Sources for Supplies:

Highland Woodworking: 800-241-6748; The Hummul Flyer: 800-762-0235; Sugar Pine: 800-452-2738 (higher prices due to shipping from the West Coast); MDI: 800-866-5728; Wood Carvers Supply Inc.: 800-284-6229; Woodcraft: 800-225-1153 (ask for a catalog and copy of Fall 2010 issues of *Woodcarving Illustrated*. See the article on page 58 "Power Carve Canvasback Ducks" and article with pictures of roughing out bodies and heads. Also get a copy of the following issue, and see the article on "Painting the Canvasback"); Knotts Knives: 800-388-6759; Ronan Paint: Dead flat varnish, wood, and cork; Chesapeake Decoy Works: online; Delta Power Tools: saws and air cleaners; Lowes: band saws, etc. If you are going to buy a band saw, get the riser bloc kit and 105" blades so you can cut out oversize bodies or contact Delta directly. McFeely's: 800-443-7937 for stainless screws, tools, and heavy duty clothes. Check the web for additional suppliers.

PART II – Reference Material

The Art in Making Decoys, by Keith Mueller, published by K. J. Holmes Pub. Inc., 9 Stephens Path, Port Jefferson, NY 11777. (This was a limited edition with extremely detailed instructions and I highly recommend it.)

Decoys, 60 Living & Outstanding N.A. Carvers

Wildfowler Decoys, A History

Carving Duck Decoys, by Harry Shoruds and Anthony Hillman

Painting Duck Decoys, by Anthony Hillman

Decorative Decoy Carving, by Bruce Burk

Complete Waterfowl Studies, Books I, II, III

Decoys, by Richard LeMaster

Pioneer Decoy Carvers (Ward Brothers)

How to Make Working Decoys, by George Ross Starr, Jr., MD

Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine: 336-593-9477

Decoy Magazine (www.decoymag.com)

Sugar Pine: 800-452-2783

Many of the companies listed under supplies have extensive listings of carving books as well.

Blue Ribbon Patterns, by William Vesey (patterns and painting)

Wildfowl Magazine carries listings of DVD's on hunting and dog training.

Making Decoys by Grayson C. Chesser and Curtis J. Badger (carving and painting ducks and geese)

If you have a small pattern and want to carve an oversize decoy, go to the Copy Center at a Staples store and have your pattern enlarged to the size you want. Get at least 2 patterns so that you can cut one out and glue it to a piece of plywood to make a permanent pattern. Be sure you label it as to type, size, and references.

(Continued on next page)

SASI Dinner is Friday, April 27 at the Hyatt Regency in Hauppauge

Tickets at the Door \$55. Advance Tickets \$50. Table of 10 Advance Purchase, \$475.

Support SASI. Ron Sineo is looking to fill a table . . . for more info, contact Ron.

— Also —

SASI Annual Fund Raiser . . . Raffle . . . \$20 per book of tickets.

1st prize – Mossberg pump 12 ga. Shotgun

2nd prize – Salt water Combo Rod & Reel

3rd prize – Realtree Outdoor Binoculars

Tickets can be purchased at dinner or contact Ron Sineo. All proceeds go to support SASI.

(Decoy Carving 101- *Continued*)

Part III – Organizing the Shop

Insure you have at least 200 amp service, as most large machines require 200 amp service. Adequate lighting at each work station is a must.

1. Table saw for cutting cork blocks out.
2. Band saw to refine the body, double cut overall top and side profiles.
3. Portable dust collector that can be moved to individual machines as they are used.
4. Overhead air cleaner in the central area of your shop.
5. First aid kit.
6. Fire extinguisher.
7. Keep the youngsters out!
8. Shelving to hold everything.
9. Never have a television, stereo, phone, or other electronic device on while using any saw, grinder, or while actually carving. Keep your attention on what you are doing at all times. It's hard to reattach a finger or other body part!
10. Ensure adequate ventilation.
11. Wear a dust mask and hearing protection.

This is a basic introduction to carving.

If you stick with it, it can become a lifelong hobby for you and your children. Enjoy!

— 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 \$25.00

e-mail: _____ 2 years \$45.00

Telephone No.: (_____) _____ 3 years \$60.00

Quack's Tips

Author Chris Dorsey of *Sports Afield* writes that shooting at ducks on the water is unsportsmanlike and unethical, but shooting at a crippled duck on the water is necessary, provided that the dog and other hunters are safely out of the way. Killing a duck on the water can be tricky because such a small vital area . . . the head . . . is exposed. Today's tip is: to increase your chances, aim a bit low . . . this way the pellets in the bottom half of your shot pattern may ricochet off the water and hit the bird, if the pellets in the top half of the pattern haven't already done the job.

(Cont'd. from page 4)

To tell you the truth, I began dwelling on the band. So much so, that the rest of the hunt is kind of a blur. Yes, we shot birds and yes we came home with a fair share of goose breasts, but most of the rest of the details are kind of blended together in a fog.

One other notable highlight of the hunt was that it was John D'Avino's first time ever hunting geese. And don't you know, he accomplished the proverbial "Scotch double." . . . That's right, folks, two Snows were quartering past him and he folded both neatly with a single shot! Now that's what I call a memorable moment! Congratulations, John!

Epilog:

By Wednesday, we were back on Long Island, and I was trying to find out information about the banded goose. I went on line to the museum in Copenhagen, Denmark, but that was a dead end. I next contacted some folks that I know who work for the USFWS. They were quick to point out that other countries may not be as responsive as the U.S. and Canada are, when it comes to band reporting. Nevertheless, they put me in touch with a biologist there. I contacted him by e-mail, and then all I could do was wait. The frustration of waiting was compounded by a 6-hour time difference between NY and Denmark. If I hadn't heard by 12 noon each day, I wasn't going to, because 12 noon here is already 6 p.m. in Denmark, and that is also the end of their work day. (I learned that they don't call it bird banding either, but rather it is known as bird ringing in Denmark.) After a week's wait, I received an e-mail

Waterfowler's Classifieds

FOR SALE:

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Holds 4 Guns and Ammo Bag
Great for Sporting Clays – \$50
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DECOYS – DUCK AND GEESE
FIELD AND FLOATERS + ACCESSORIES

Call Butch at (631) 924-5249

DEER HOIST/LIFT

Originally \$90 – Now \$65
Call Curt at (631) 661-0379

telling me that the goose was banded on July 22, 2008 in Booth Sound, Greenland by a Danish biologist and "ringer" named John Baroch. The bird was a mature Snow goose (at least 2 years old) when banded, which would make it at least 5½ or 6 years old when I shot it in Delaware. Based upon the latitude and longitude of Booth Sound, Greenland, I calculated that the shortest straight line route this goose could have traveled in migrating South, was a trip of 2,610 miles one way. Now that's a long way to go for a little corn!

Task Force Meeting April 14

Representatives of all the major hunting organizations on Long Island will be present to give their input on the dates for the 2012-13 waterfowl seasons. If you wish to let them know how you feel, come to the April 2nd SSWA meeting and let your opinions be heard. If you can't make it, we happen to have three different representatives as officers of the SSWA. Call John Adams, Ron Sineo, and Erik Tallbe and let them know. Remember, this is only to set the dates. They have NO input on bag limits or boundary lines. Come down or give them a call to get your views on record.

— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- April 2** — Last SSWA Meeting for 2010, Brightwaters Library
(Officer Elections, see page 1)
- April 14** — Task Force Meeting (Last chance for input before meeting)
- April 27** — SASI Dinner at the Hyatt Regency in Hauppauge.
Call Ron Sineo for info

Sporting Clay Dates:

April 15, May 20, June 10, July 22, and August 12 — Sporting Clay Shoots, Peconic River Sportsman's Club (see page 1)

September ?? — First SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library (Date to be announced)



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