

# 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 .



JUNE 2016

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

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

## *Dinner Recaps*

We had a couple of really excellent dinners this past couple of months. First was the 12th Annual "Curt M," or as I call it the SSWA Fisherman's Catch Dinner. We were at capacity. Everyone told me what a good time they had. Lots of raffles and prizes were on hand. Our members really come through with the items for the Chinese auction. It seemed everyone went home with something. I had the great honor of presenting some awards to our members for their outstanding work helping out the SSWA. I was proud to present outgoing President Ron Sineo with a stamped print and custom duck/goose call set beautifully done by Matthew Wenzel of Matthews Custom Calls. I would like to print some of my speech about Ron.

With sincere appreciation, the South Shore Waterfowlers wish to acknowledge Ron Sineo's tireless efforts and dedication to this organization and the resource we hold so dear. In his role as President, Board member, Flyway Council Representative, and a sportsman, we have been fortunate indeed to have had him as our spokesman. Through his efforts, the "Voice of the Long Island Waterfowler" was heard. He's a man unafraid to don as many hats as circumstance requires and he epitomizes the axiom, "IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE, ASK A BUSY MAN."

The second dinner was our Sportsmans Dinner we just had June 12<sup>th</sup> at Bocce Beach Restaurant at Ocean Beach on Fire Island. It started with a beautiful ferry ride over. We indulged in some really great game food. We had bear appetizers, venison teriyaki tenderloin tips, stuffed duck breast with jalepeno cream cheese wrapped in bacon, buffalo meatloaf sliders on Mangia Italian Restaurants famous garlic knots, duck gumbo in a bread bowl, and finished off with a bacon wrapped venison filet with fingerling hash demi glaze. OMG. Soooo much food. That's coming from me talking. You know my size and I was stuffed. Add to that a dinner long OPEN BAR, and terrific raffle prizes. It was the making of a terrific dinner. Can't wait to do it again next year. Thanks to Peter Fazio (FAZ) for putting on a wonderful event. Peter will do that for you in your home if you are interested. Check out his card for details. We all had a blast. (See pics on website)

## *Board of Directors Meeting Reminder*

Board of Directors meeting is set for Saturday, June 25 at 5:30 pm at Ben and Kate Sohm's home, 29 Hayes Road, Amity Harbor. We need your input on the upcoming SSWA agenda for the year. Think up some ideas for events/products/fundraisers. We need a head count for the food, so call Ron at 631-862-8518 to confirm yes or no. See you there.

## *SSWA Website Login*

Name: **Member**

Password: **shotgun**

Login      Cancel      [This is a member login]

## **Peconic River Sporting Clays Shoots**

Once again this summer we are able to be guests of the Peconic River Sportsmen Club. The dates are SATURDAY June 18, SUNDAY July 10, SUNDAY August 28. There may be an additional date in September, to be announced. These are only for SSWA members who are PAID UP. The fee to shoot is 40 dollars per person. You must bring 100 rounds of LEAD, TARGET LOADS ONLY (shot sizes 7 and a half, 8 or 9). No high velocity or steel shells permitted (or you will be asked to leave). Eye and hearing protection is a must. Arrive by 9:30 at the gate. Shoots start promptly at 10. Lunch will be after the shoot. It will be either a BBQ (SSWA), Peconic cooked food, or lunch at the Triangle Pub (you will be notified when you call as to which lunch will be available and the cost, usually around 10 dollars). You must call Curt at 631-661-0379 to be placed on the list. NO WALK UPS will be allowed. We do this because we need Peconic members to accompany us around the course, so **DO NOT WAIT** till the day before to call because we will not have enough time to round up another PRSC member. The dates again are SATURDAY June 18, SUNDAY July 10, SUNDAY August 28. Call today to be placed on the list.

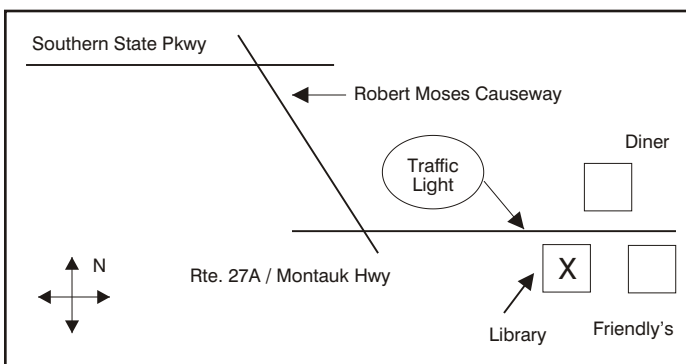
## South Shore Waterfowlers

### 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 . . . . . Ron Pliszak  
631-902-2220
- 2nd Vice President . . . . . Erik Tallbe, Jr.  
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- Secretary . . . . . Kate Sohm  
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613-661-0379
- Sergeant at Arms . . . . . Erik Tallbe  
516-799-6613
- Membership . . . . . Bob Dasch  
631-472-0683

## President's Corner

by John Adams

Hello members, John Adams here. I'm back in the saddle again. I would like to thank all the members who stepped up as officers for this upcoming year:

- Ron Pliszak – 1st Vice President
- Erik Tallbe, Jr. – 2nd Vice President
- Kate Sohm – Secretary
- Curt Matzinger – Treasurer

When we had the season setting meeting, here is what the committee recommended:

The 2016 NYSDEC Waterfowl Hunters' Task Force Meeting for the Long Island Zone met on Saturday, April 2, 2016. The Task Force met to develop recommendations for dates of the 2016–2017 duck and goose hunting seasons for the Long Island Zone. The recommendations from the Task Force for this coming season's Long Island waterfowl hunting calendar are as follows:

### Regular Duck Season Long Island Zone

60 days beginning Nov 24–Nov 27 then Dec 5–Jan 29

Youth Days: Nov 12–13

Goose Season Western Zone: 105 days\*  
Oct 8–23 then Nov 24–27 then Dec 5–Feb 27

Central Zone: 70 days Nov 24–27 then Dec 5–Feb 8

Eastern Zone: 70 days Nov 24–Feb 1

Snow Goose Long Island Zone: 107 days  
Nov 24–Mar 9

\*Please note that the former North Shore Central Zone's special late season option no longer exists. That (North of Route 25A) special late zone has become a part of the Western Zone and is subject to all of the conditions as the regular Western Zone regs. Official postings for dates and daily bag limits were posted by NYSDEC at the end of May and are currently on the DEC website.

Hope to see you at the upcoming shoots, fishing trips, and annual BBQ. Have a great summer.

## *An Overview of Scouting*

*by Ron Sineo*

Most waterfowl hunters will agree that scouting is a key ingredient to successful hunting. However, if you ask 10 different hunters, you may get as many different descriptions about what scouting is all about. Recent questions, comments, and remarks concerning general waterfowl hunting have led me to conclude that there is a lot of uncertainty out there that may be able to be cleared up by a better understanding of the **role of scouting** in the duck hunting world.

What follows is just my opinion about scouting and how it fits into the scheme of things. I am sure that there are those who would disagree with some of what I say. Well then, we can agree to disagree.

To begin with, let's imagine that I am a beginning duck hunter, and that I have just relocated to a new state. It is the end of summer now, but I have learned that here, the season will open in 2 months. I don't have much time to get prepared. I will need to find out some basic information if I am going to duck hunt this season.

Here are a few things that would be at the top of my list:

What species of ducks and geese are commonly hunted here during the season?

Of those species, which one or ones will I focus my efforts on?

What stuff am I going to need to be able to hunt those species?

In what place or places will I be hunting these target species?

Generally, there are 2 categories of ducks and geese to consider: The "local birds" and the "migrant birds." At one time, the expression "local bird" meant that it was a resident for about 2/3 of the year. It arrived here in spring, it nested, it reared its young, and then, driven by a combination of biological and environmental factors, left as the winter approached. Where did it go? It flew south to its wintering grounds where it would stay until it was ready to return to "home" to breed the following spring. In recent years, the term local birds has been extended to include those birds that seem to be year-round residents ... some "local" Canada Geese for example. (Not all Canada Geese are local. There are great numbers that still migrate every season.) In some areas, the mallard has truly become a year-round "local" bird. Like the Canada Goose, however, most are still migrants.

The migrant bird is a visitor to your area, arriving sometime in the late fall or early winter. Generally, the earlier the migrant arrives, the less likely this will be its winter home. Some birds migrate such great distances that they make one or two prolonged stops along the way in order to feed and fuel up for the continued journey. They arrive suddenly in large numbers, they stay a while, and then they leave just as suddenly. The later into the season the migrants arrive, the more likely they will stay through the winter and into the early spring.

That said, let's go back to me as a new hunter in a new state. Well before the season opens I will be scouting to determine what "local" birds are around and where they are. As a hunter I will need to figure out how to put myself where they want to be. I will need to learn their daily habits. What time of the day can they be found where I can get to them? Knowing these answers can increase my chances for success. As the season progresses, some birds may leave (migrate), others may arrive. The newcomers will surely have different habits. I will need to learn those, too, if I want to be successful. The area we live in has a limited supply of duck and goose feed. It is all about the feeding. Birds that fly out to mainland fields to feed, can only feed in a particular field as long as that field still has food. Eventually, the field will become depleted of feed, and the birds will move to a different place to feed. Until then, they will likely feed up in the same field every day.

While some birds will feed in the salt water marsh by choice, most birds will prefer the grains and grasses of the mainland fields. While some will feed on salt water aquatic vegetation, many will prefer fresh water ponds and streams and the vegetation it provides...that is, until the fresh water locations freeze and force the birds to the salt water marsh as well.

For these reasons, scouting needs to happen throughout the season. Things change from day to day and from week to week. It is not good enough just to scout. Scout the time of day you plan to hunt. If you are hunting daybreak, scout daybreak. If you are hunting after work, scout after work. Be where the birds want to be at the time they want to be there. Learn when the birds get up and what direction they travel toward. If you think you know where they are going, drive there and confirm it if you can. Anyone can get lucky once and be in the right place at the right time. After all, even a blind dog finds a bone once in a while. Without scouting, however, those "lucky" times can be few and far between. Ever hear the carpenter's expression "measure twice, cut once." Well, if it were applied to duck hunting, it might sound something like "scout twice, hunt once."

Many hunters keep some sort of log book in which they record not only the hunt summary, but also the conditions surrounding the hunt. Hunters who hunt in multiple locations and keep a log, often see some kind of general pattern develop. For example, one location may be best in a west wind, or on an overcast day, or when low tide is between certain hours. You will be surprised what you can learn about the hunting locations you frequent by keeping a detailed log from one year to the next. I have provided a sample log which can easily be reproduced. Fill out one page for each hunting day. Keep the pages in a notebook or loose leaf. When the season is over and you review the log, you may be surprised at what you discover.

### Duck Hunter's Log

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sunrise \_\_\_\_\_ Sunset \_\_\_\_\_

Moon Rise \_\_\_\_\_ Moon Set \_\_\_\_\_ Moon Phase \_\_\_\_\_

High Tide \_\_\_\_\_ Low Tide \_\_\_\_\_ Wind Speed \_\_\_\_\_ Direction \_\_\_\_\_

Sky Conditions (Cloud Cover) \_\_\_\_\_ Precipitation \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Time Started \_\_\_\_\_ Time Ended \_\_\_\_\_

Hunters in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Ducks & Geese Seen \_\_\_\_\_

Game Taken \_\_\_\_\_

**NARRATIVE:**

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### *A Practical Joke*

We were deer hunting near the Dead River and we had a guy in camp who was a real jerk and a drunk to boot. Never hunted, just boozed, never worked. And the booze screwed up his stomach so he was in the outhouse all the time. Then one of the boys shot a black bear, and we got a bright idea. We kept the bear out of camp and laid it out so that his legs stiffened straight. Then when our pal was sleeping one off, we jammed the bear onto the seat in the outhouse with his stiff rear legs blocking the door from swinging inward, which was the way it opened.

Then we waited. Sure enough, after a while the drunk wakes up, heads to the outhouse, and pushes the door. "Oh, scuze me," he says. He paces for a while, then he raps on the door, hard. "Damn, get a move on," he says. But nothing happens. Finally he says "All right" and gets a running start and crashes his shoulder against the door and gets his head inside. For a minute we didn't hear anything. Then real slowly he says "Oh...my...God." He comes back in the cabin, white as a sheet and never says anything or takes another drop for the rest of the hunt.

We had to sneak the bear out of there and come back for it when he'd gone home, but it was worth it.

(Reprinted from *Field & Stream Magazine* (June 4, 2004 issue))



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## *Reflections On The Past*

by Ron Sineo

Do you remember the very first time you went duck hunting? I sure do! I was 7 years old and my hunting buddies were my dad and my uncle. Boy I remember that hunt like it was yesterday. But my memories of that hunt are the ones seen through a 7-year-old's eyes. I'm sure you've heard the expression "*it doesn't get any better than that*" (IDGABTT). Well, I can tell you that for a long time I felt that way, and I just couldn't wait for our next hunt! It made such an impression on me that more than 6 decades later I am still an avid duck hunter!

Since that first duck hunt, I have gone on hundreds of waterfowl hunts but, truth be told, I have forgotten more about them than I can remember. I know that the day will come when I will no longer be physically able to duck hunt. It is then that I will have to be content to sit back by the fireplace and re-live those hunts in my mind. Thank God, I do have fond memories of several hunts, and while the exact dates and specifics are a little blurry, I can tell you about many milestones.

Shooting a duck over the first set of decoys that I bought and paid for myself (IDGABTT). Shooting a duck that I actually called into the decoys (IDGABTT). Shooting a duck over my decoys out of my first duckboat (IDGABTT). Shooting a duck over my decoys out of my first duckboat and having my Lab retrieve the duck (IDGABTT). Taking my sons on their first duck hunts and watching them shoot their first ducks (IDGABTT), and taking my grandson hunting and watching him shoot his first snow goose (IDGABTT).

Over the years, I have been very fortunate. It happens that I have treated myself to an out-of-state duck hunting trip as a birthday present to myself every 2 or 3 years for as long as I can remember. Now, it is not my intention to thump my chest, or to be bragging about my escapades. And if the following remarks sound like I am, then I apologize. Now that I have said that, believe it or not, I have shot Eider out on the rock ledges in Maine, Blue Wing Teal in the Florida Everglades, and Pintails on Kentucky Lake in Tennessee. I have taken Wood Ducks on the Delaware, Specklebellies in Texas, and Mallards in Currituck Sound. I've shot Old Squaw in the Chesapeake, Green Wing Teal on the Susquehanna, and Gadwalls over impoundments in Maryland. I shot Goldeneye on Wolfe Island, Ringnecks on Merritt Island, and Surf Scoter from Kent Island. All of these have been memorable trips. Each one has its own story which might bear repeating sometime. At the time, I felt that each and every one of them was one of those (IDGABTT) hunts.

I have been asked which was the most memorable of all, and while it is impossible for me to single out one trip as best, there was a trip I made to Canada during the early 1980s that does stand out. Years back, there was a stretch of consecutive years when they closed the season on Canvasbacks in the USA. During that period, I was lucky enough to travel to Port Rowan, Ontario, to successfully hunt the North Shore of Lake Erie (just east of Long Point, Ontario). It was definitely one of my top ten hunts. I did layout shooting for Redhead and Canvasback, and came home with both. And let's not forget *When Broadbill Was King in the Great South Bay*, a saying that has recently been brought back to life for us by Craig Kessler and Steve Sanford. Well, I remember many of those January Special Scaup Seasons in the Long Island Zone, and one of those hunts is also in my top ten.

I'm going to close with this recent memorable hunt which was for Snow Geese near Prime Hook National Wildlife refuge back in February of 2012. It was there that I shot my first banded Snow Goose. Now I have shot more than a few birds with bands in my life, but this one is perhaps the most unique. This Goose had a band on it from Copenhagen, Denmark. It was banded in 2008 on Denmark-owned Greenland in the northwest corner of Booth Sound, which is above the Arctic Circle. I shot it on February 13, 2012 in a cornfield near Georgetown, Delaware. It had travelled an incredible 2,610 miles for a taste of Delaware's corn!

While I still look forward to having many new adventures as a duck hunter, I realize that the day will soon approach when I can no longer add to my list of adventures. Perhaps it will be because I will not be able to travel or to venture out into the marsh or the bay. Perhaps it will be because some new snowfall will chill me to the bones instead of urging me to hook up the South Bay to my truck. Whatever the reason, I will surely be envious of all those who continue to brave the elements and conquer nature anew. But when that day finally comes, I know that I will not be bored or idle, because as I put another log on the fire, I will have many pleasant memories of those great hunts to enjoy as I re-play them on the movie screen in my mind.

## *When the Broadbill Was King on the Great South Bay*

*March 9–August 27, 2016*

Suffolk County Historical Museum

300 West Main Street, Riverhead, New York 11901

631-727-2881 – [www.suffolkcountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.suffolkcountyhistoricalsociety.org)

### 4th Annual SSWA BBQ by Curt

As of yet, we haven't confirmed a date or place where we will hold the BBQ. When we know this info we will let you all know. What I do know is that each year we had a lot of fun at the event. Good food, great people, lots of fun. This is a FREE event to members of the SSWA in good standing. We want you and your immediate family to join the rest of your "SSWA family." Get to know each other, make new friends, catch up with old ones, and have fun.

Here is how it works. When we set the date, you call me at 631-661-0379, let me know the number of people attending. Mail me a check for \$25.00 (for the whole family) payable to SSWA and send to 32 Magro Drive, North Babylon, NY 11703. You are thinking "He said it was free!" It is free. I will give your check BACK TO YOU at the BBQ. If you don't show up, I will cash it. This ensures that people will show up and we don't waste a lot of food on no-shows. Got it! Good! Hope you can make it.

### SSWA Motor for Sale

We have a 1994 Johnson 20 hp 2-stroke motor for sale. It was donated to the club, checked out and tuned up by Frank at Great Bay Marine in Babylon. It needs a new home and we are using the funds raised for the feed fund. We are looking for a donation of \$525.00. Call Curt at 631-661-0379 and we can arrange for you to see it at Great Bay Marine (see pics).



### Fishing Trips by Curt

We plan on having several fishing trips this summer. What we will do is to pick a date, location, species, and boat. We will send an email (see another good reason we need your email address) as to the info for the trip. We will try to do it well in advance. If you decide to come, call Curt at 631-661-0379 and let me know. Then show up the day of the trip. Bring what you need for the day. We might enhance the goodies/food portion of the trip. It will be a casual day, with a lot of fun, good people, and hopefully a bag of filets to go home with. We will be in touch.

### EMAIL Addresses

By now you know that we have gone to an electronic format for our newsletters. We need your **current email address** so we can send newsletters to you. We also need it to send out any pertinent updates for club activities, events, or crucial town hall meetings you should be aware of. Especially this year, due to the incredible push by legislatures to attack your second amendment rights, we need to get the word out FAST, so you can voice your opinions on these matters. The SSWA will never give out your email to ANYONE. It is only for inter-club use. If you received this newsletter, we have your current address. But paper copy people, send Ron Sineo at [duckboater@gmail.com](mailto:duckboater@gmail.com) your email address. At some point we will stop doing paper newsletters. Please send it today.



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### Quack's Tips

The duck hunter knows to pay attention to details. When birds won't close, the smart hunter knows that something just isn't right. Check your immediate area. It could be something as simple as a shiny new prop sticking out at the bottom of that camo-covered outboard motor.

We have heard many times that birds have unbelievable eyesight! Usually, they can spot you before you spot them. That can go for your decoys as well. Today's tip has to do with decoy eye color. Even from the factory, some decoys don't have the correct eye color. Did you know that for some species, the drakes and the hens have different eye color? When buying new decoys, I always check the eye color for accuracy. When new or used decoys need better eye color, go to your local hobby shop and get the appropriate paints.

Almost all ducks and geese in the flyway can be covered by getting 5 small hobby paint bottles. Quack likes Testor paints. They are available in 1 oz. bottles for about \$1.50 each. The following colors will do just about all decoys: Yellow, Red, Brown, Dark Brown, and Black.

Quack recommends buying the black in gloss finish, and the other colors in matte. The black will serve as the pupil on all duck eyes, and a matte finish on the colored part of the eye will emphasize the glossiness of the pupil, making it look authentic at a distance.

Be sure to have a good reference book or check on line for the eye color of both the drake and the hen before you paint the eyes of your decoys. Small thin hobby paint brushes can be made better by trimming them up a bit or trimming at an angle with a pair of scissors.

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— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

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

- June 18** — Peconic River Sporting Clay Shoot. See page 1 for info
- June 22** — DU South Bay's Gun & Gear Event. Rock Hill Country Club.  
Call Carl Lucas at 631-878-1146 for info
- June 25** — SSWA Board of Directors Meeting. See page 1 for info
- July 10** — Peconic River Sporting Clay Shoot. See page 1 for info
- August 28** — Peconic River Sporting Clay Shoot. See page 1 for info
- Sept. 18** — Delta Waterfowl Dinner — Bocce Beach, Fire Island  
For info call John Ferguson at 631-807-9251
- TBA** — SSWA Fishing Trip. See page 6 for info
- TBA** — 4th Annual SSWA BBQ. See page 6 for info

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## S.S.W.A. MEMBERS ONLY

### The Bayhouse Hunting Raffle

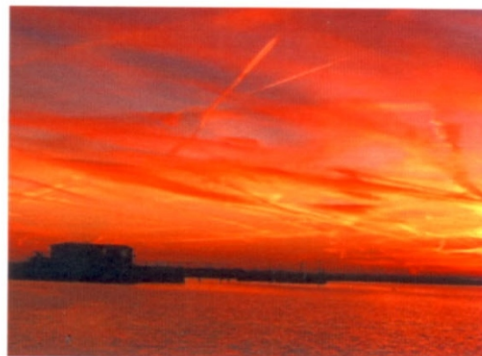
Prize includes overnight accommodations plus meals for winner & one guest at the Sohm Bayhouse on Little Stone Creek, followed by a day of duck hunting on the Great South Bay.



Winner & guest must have current valid hunting license & duck stamp.  
Date & time will be set up between winner and Ben & Kate Sohm  
for the 2016-2017 duck season.

Winner must be a SSWA member in good standing.

# \$20.00 each



Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold.  
All donations go to the South Shore Waterfowlers Association Feed Fund.  
Ticket drawn when All tickets sold.  
Call Curt @631-661-0379 to obtain tickets.

## *Pictures from the 12th Annual SSWA Dinner*



Curt awarding Ron his duck stamp plaque.



Ron getting his custom-made duck & goose calls.



A table of happy party goers.



Guests of honor, President and First Lady.



Tables full of Chinese Auction items.



Table of Silent Auction items.