

SOUTH SHORE WATERFOWLERS

ASSOCIATION, INC.

JUNE 2018

Web site: sswa.org

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718



REMINDERS & RECAPS

REMINDER - PRSC Sporting Clays Shoots

Here are the dates of the next 2 shoots at Peconic, as well as the reserve by dates.

Sunday July 8th – RSVP by June 29th

Saturday August 4th – RSVP by July 27th.

Fee is \$40.00 per person. Call Curt at 631-661-0379 to reserve a spot for the shoot. We do this because we need time to get Peconic members to commit to bringing out squads.

REMINDER - SSWA Annual BBQ

Saturday August 25th – Noon till 6pm at Sears Bellows County Park Picnic Pavilion. Open to all SSWA members in good standing and their immediate families. Food and non-alcoholic beverages provided. Feel free to BYOB, it is allowed. We ask each family to bring a BBQ related favorite to enhance the picnic. Call Curt Matzinger at 631-661-0379 to give him a head count. The BBQ is FREE, but we ask you to send a \$20.00 check made payable to SSWA and mail to 32 Magro Drive North Babylon NY 11703. When you arrive the day of the BBQ, Curt will give you back your check. If you are a no show, SSWA cashes the check to pay for the food it bought for you and your family. OK Call Today!

RECAP - 14th Annual SSWA Dinner at Fishermans Catch

Great time was had by all. Great seeing all my Water flowers. Good food as usual, neat raffle prizes. It was terrific nominating Nick Gibbons as a lifetime member. Thanks to Nick for all his hard work getting the platforms into our Suffolk county parks. Now we need to get the word out that they are available and people can start using them. Great night.

RECAP – Fisherman’s Catch Game dinner

We, Bruce Larson and I, held the first (of many) game dinners at Fisherman’s Catch. It was a terrific night with some phenomenal food, super raffles prizes, (guns, crossbows, kayak, and even an ATV) and tons of sportsman comradery. I hope this yearly event will create a platform for some project fundraising to help issues on Long Island. I can’t wait for the next one.

Recap: FAZ’s Sportsman Dinner at Bocce Beach

The partnering of SSWA with Peter has been helpful in getting our hunting and fishing platforms created. We have a raffle to help offset some of the costs in purchasing materials for the platforms. It is beautiful day at Fire Island, terrific food and beverages, and plenty of raffles. A great time is always on the menu at Bocce Beach.

Waterfowl Report by Ron Sineo

On March 28, 2018. The L.I. Zone Waterfowl Task Force met to once again make calendar recommendations for the next (2018-2019) hunting season. The charge of Task Force is to select the actual season opening and closing dates that waterfowl can be hunted in the Long Island Zone. The Task Force must follow the federal Frameworks for these dates. The Task Force has no control over the bag limits on species hunted, and it has no say in the total number of days that a species may be hunted. These are already prescribed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and are consistent throughout the Atlantic Flyway.

The recommendations from the Task Force are as follows:

Regular Duck Season: November 22 – 23, 2018
December 1, 2018 – January 27, 2019.

Additionally, calendar dates were recommended for CANADA GEESE. They are:

WESTERN L.I. ZONE October 13 – 28, November 22 – 23
December 1 – February 25, 2019

CENTRAL L.I. ZONE: November 22 – 23, December 5 – February 10, 2019

EASTERN L.I. ZONE: November 22 – 23, December 5 – January 31, 2019

Snow Geese: November 22 – March 8, 2019

It was also recommended that Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend be November 10 – 11, 2018.

Please note that these recommendations are now final. The NYSDEC. Has once again accepted the recommendations of the task force. You can download and print the trifold season regulations from the DEC website for the 2018-2019 waterfowl hunting season.

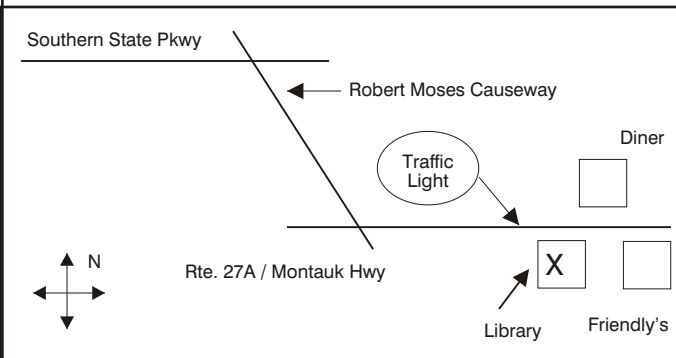
South Shore Waterfowlers

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.
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Fund, and Fundraising Curt Matzinger
631-661-0379
- Sergeant at Arms Erik Tallbe
516-799-6613

President's Corner

On Saturday June 9th, we held our annual summer board meeting at the home of Ben and Kate Sohm. I would first like to thank Ben and Kate for again hosting the meeting. The meeting was well attended with all on hand contributing. Just to recap, I would like to cover the topics that we discussed.

First on the agenda we discussed ideas for presentations at upcoming SSWA meetings. We came up with some interesting new ideas as well as some tried and true ones; hopefully you will find them entertaining and informative. We went over the calendar of upcoming scheduled club events; the remaining Peconic shoots on Sunday July 8th and Saturday August 4th, and the annual summer BBQ on Saturday August 25th at Sears Bellows County Park. We then discussed the planned yearly fundraising events for the upcoming year. The Duck-boat show (waterfowl festival) is our number one priority event, the date has not been finalized at this time, and we will get this information to you as soon as we get it. Again we will have a booth at the Decoy Show as well as two Gun Shows to help raise funds for the club.

After a review of our current treasury report I am pleased to announce that we will be able to again send Ron Sineo to the Flyway meeting this summer. This provides us with valuable insight to the current goings on in our sport.

Craig Kessler spoke about The Long Island Wildfowl Heritage Group Project that he first brought to our attention at last year's summer board meeting. He had also made a presentation at one of our general club meetings last year. At the time any financial involvement was tabled for further discussion due to a lack of funds. Being that we are in slightly better shape this year we discussed supporting his project in some way. Ron Sineo made a motion to contribute \$250 dollars for this upcoming year; this was seconded by Curt and approved by the board by a vote of 14-2. Though not the investment that other sponsors and clubs have made to this cause, this is what we can afford at the present time. We will review this at the end of the year regarding any additional future commitments.

Other topics discussed were the new handicap accessible blind that we are building along with Suffolk County Parks on Big Reed pond out in Montauk, expansion of our website, the Pheasant shoot in October, a club Photo contest, buying club merchandise to sell for fundraising and a Mallard Nesting box program.

Hopefully everyone is having a good summer and I look forward to seeing you all at one of the shoots or the BBQ.

Ron Pliszak

An Interesting Story

by Ron Sineo

I enjoy reading articles and stories that are written by hunters from other parts of the country. You get a sense that things are very different where they come from, yet more often than not, you also see how much alike most duck hunters really are. I came across this little article in a daily e-newspaper called the News-Leader, out of Springfield Missouri (from the Mississippi Flyway). I am happy to share this story with you.

Duck hunting can be a humbling experienc

By Ken White, For the News-Leader



A duck hunter and his dog watch the sky for ducks.

Real duck hunters are a special breed. They sit for hours in cold weather conditions waiting for a chance to have a flock of ducks sail into their spread of decoys. So here we are at first light on a crisp November morning, knee-deep in leaf-strewn water, snuggling up one arm comfortably to the trunk of an old oak tree where you chose to make a makeshift blind. You scan that early morning skyline of grey through the mist of vapors as you breathe. You are holding a shotgun in one hand and an old duck call in the other. The wood of both has the smooth finish that comes from countless hours of handling. Neither the gun nor handler would appear valuable to the casual onlooker, but value is a subjective thing to you. They are beyond all calculation of worth. You know, objectively, these two tools aren't much if your measure is dollars and cents. Pawn shops are full of guns like the one you are holding; as for the duck call, there are six more in your shell box that sound as good as this one. The old gun has been with you a long time, predating the steel shot rigs that have in the past decades redefined the perfect duck gun. That old pump has been with you on countless hunts everything from rail to quail. Even Donald Trump couldn't afford to buy it.

As for the duck call, it was one you have carried since high school days. It's a scarred, battered old thing, but

it's a genuine antique mallard call handmade back in the '50s by Tom Walker from a block of wood, and it isn't for sale either.

Legal shooting time has been approaching with the speed of stampeding snails. The sound of nearby gunfire brings you back to reality as you glance at your watch, which tells you that those shots were being pushed a little. There are still a few minutes to wait. Those last minutes masquerade as hours, but finally it is time.

The morning's first flight of workable mallards appears in the now pink sky 150 yards east, intermittently visible through the trees. They are low, looking and your hail call turns them around. They beeline for your position, but at 75 yards a barrage of gunfire from another group of hunters a quarter mile away south flares them.

The same thing pretty much happens with the second flock of ducks, but the third group breaks the magic 30-yard circle. You and your partner each take a green head.

It is a humbling thing to hold a freshly-slain duck in your hand. As you hold this one, you notice how the water beads on his feathers. You take a few seconds out of your hunt to think about where he has come from and what he has gone through on his way here.

If you're truly a duck hunter (as opposed to a killer of ducks) you feel a little sadness at this point. Nothing overwhelming, it just won't make you curse and tear your hair out or throw your gun down and quit duck hunting. You will just feel a twinge of regret, that's all. There can be no such thing as catch-and-release duck hunting. Like a trout or big bass, a wild duck is too valuable a creature to take just one time, but that's the way we have to do it. At this point you are grateful. All of this, especially the last part, is why you are a duck hunter.



A hunter gets ready!

You and Your Scattergun

by George Grivas

I recently went shooting and decided to calculate what it cost me.

Four boxes of ammo – 24.00
 Four rounds of trap – 28.00
 Gas – 70 miles round trip – 9.00
 Bridge toll – 7.00
 Food – 4.00
 Total – 82.00

If I want to shoot once a week the cost is 328 a month. I can't do this so I use the following drills at home. Please make sure your shotgun is UNLOADED!

Gunlifts – I practice mounting the gun. I will do this 30 reps to the right shoulder and 30 reps to the left shoulder to build muscle.

Practice swings – I have a cardboard duck silhouette that I tape to the wall. I practice swinging on it. I can change for the left or right swing. I keep my eyes focused on the silhouette while I swing.

Mag lite practice – Wrap duct tape near both ends of a mini mag light so that it will fit snug in the muzzle of your shotgun. Turn it on and point it to the wall and swing. You are looking for a smooth swing in the path of the light on the wall.

Closed eye mount – Look at an object and close your eyes. Mount your gun. Then open your eyes. If your gun barrel is crooked and/or the gun is not pointed at your object, you need to practice your mount.

Swing on a moving target – I stand at my picture window and wait for cars to drive by. When a car drives by I mount my gun and swing on the car. I focus on the tire and pull the trigger when things look right.

WARNING – Do not try this while standing in front of your house.

At the range free practice – At the trap range you can stand behind the shooters in a safe zone. Point at the targets with your finger. Swing on them moving your torso, not an arm swing.

I do not think it is bad idea to be the best shot that you can be. Your hunting experience will be a better one. Who knows, you may even hear your hunting companions declare "Nice Shot"! I think that the above drills should help.

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Talking About Dogs

by George Grivas

How well do you speak dog?

A friend asked me to take a look at his dog, a miniature Australian shepherd. He told me that she was very playful, she chased a three year old in the house, barking and snapping. I visited and took a look at the dog. I immediately recognized a skittish dog who could become a fear biter. This dog reacted to every move that I made and recoiled with its ears pinned back. My friend totally misread this dog's body language.

Dogs very definitely communicate without using words. It takes some experience in learning this dog language. Dogs use voice, ears, tail, and eyes as well as body posture to communicate. The following is a summary taken from How to speak dog by Stanley Coren.

EYES – direct stare is challenging. It means “Back Off” or “Stop”. Eyes turned away means “I don't want trouble.” Blinking is a pacifying gesture; it breaks the dominance stare and shows submission.

EARS – Up and forward means “What's that?” Far forward means “Choose your next action carefully.” Pulled back means “I'm frightened.”

Facial Signals – Smiling means “I'm happy and relaxes.” Lips curled and teeth exposed means “Go away” to “You better back off” depending upon how many teeth are exposed. Yawning means “I am stressed.”

Tail Signals – The general rule is the higher the tail, the more dominant the signal. The lower the tail the more submissive. The rate of movement indicates arousal and excitement.

Body language – Upright, stiff legged or slow movement forward means “Are you challenging me?” Crouching, front legs extended, rear up means “Let's play.” Sitting and raising the front paw indicates stress. Sitting and letting another dog sniff means “Peace.” Standing over another dog expresses dominance. Rolling over on its side is a submissive posture. Bristling hairs are a sign of fearful aggression. Turning a side to another dog is a calming signal which means “I am not a threat.”

Barks- General rules about barks. Low pitch – dominant or threatening. High pitch – insecurity or fear. Rapid barks- let's gather. One or two sharp barks – “Hi.”

Growls - General rules about growls. Low pitch means dominant or threatening. High pitch indicates submissive.

I hope that the above helps you understand your dog. I did not have dogs while growing up and have had to learn about them. Understanding dog language has helped me a lot.

ATTENTION MEMBERS

We are currently in the process of raising funds for our BIG REED POND PROJECT in Montauk.

We will be holding raffles in an effort to raise additional funds for this project.

We will be keeping you up to date on the progress of this project with e-mails.

Thank you for your support.



Frank Rapczyk

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What Is It All About?

by Ron Sineo

When I first started to duck hunt, it seemed like success was defined by how many ducks I bagged. As a young man starting out, I had 6 Sears papier-mache mallard decoys, a pair of hip boots, a 12-gauge Winchester pump and, of course, no brains.

I would go to the salt marsh, and, without scouting, just set up below the high-water mark, often just kneeling on the meadow, hoping that some ducks would come my way. Most of the time, anything I bagged was just dumb luck. After a couple of seasons of this, I paid a guy \$35 for this old 12' homemade leaky wooden dinghy. I propped it up on horses in my yard and I filled it up with water. It did swell up and most of the leaks finally stopped. I used that boat for the next 2 seasons, and it leaked just enough to get everything wet that you wanted to stay dry. Ahh the good old days!!

Eventually, I had a south bay duck boat, motor and trailer. I bought some plastic mallard & black duck decoys. I owned an Olt duck call that I was awful with, and I had a (sometimes) hunting buddy named Mike. We spent enough time with Al McCormick to learn the fundamentals of making cork black ducks. We pooled our reserve cash and sent away to Delaware for some decoy cork. We had just enough to make 8 decoys each. We bought Masonite for the tails, and 1x4 oak for the keel.

First we shaped, rasped and sanded the bodies, bought barge cement from the shoemaker, cut the slots in the tail and inserted the Masonite for reinforcement, and then tried to carve some heads. Mike actually carved 8 pretty good-looking heads. My attempts at carving all looked more like seagulls than duck heads. I ended up buying 8 Herter heads from their mail order catalog. Well, the next season, I was determined to use these decoys, so I bolted the heads on, corded them, and was ready to go. On the third morning of the season, I finally got 2 black ducks to set up and try to land in MY decoys! I got lucky and hit one on the second shot, (I fired way to early with the first shot). It fell stone dead just 20 feet out from my boat. By the time I poled out and retrieved it, my face hurt from grinning so much. I thought..Man it doesn't get any better than this. Having joined that rare fraternity of hunters who hunt over their own handmade decoys, I was pretty pleased with myself.

My next challenge was to learn how to blow that Olt duck call. I got an instructional record (yes the vinyl platter type) from the local library, and I spent a summer trying to sound like a duck. When opening day came that following season, I was determined to "call" a duck to my decoys. Well, accidents do happen, and a lone mallard hen locked up in the distance in spite of the fact that I was blowing on that call. Eventually I was holding her by the feet, and I thought..boy it just doesn't get any better than this.

A few years passed, and my oldest son turned 14. His time had come. We went into the marsh, and he shot his first duck, And I thought..Man it doesn't get any better that that.

That spring I got a female black lab pup. We named her Pepper. I spent a lot of time with the dog, trying to teach her the basics. She loved the water. She loved to retrieve dummies in the water. When the season opened, I took her with me, but she was still too young to retrieve. However, she was more than ready that following season, and when the chips were down, she actually retrieved a black duck that I shot. Although we had a bit of a tug of war over the ownership of that first duck, I somehow managed to break her of being so possessive with future retrieves. As I stood in the marsh, dog at my side, and black duck in hand, (call around my neck) I thought, Man...it doesn't get any better that that.

Until, of course, my son came hunting with me and the dog.. well, you can see where this is going. Then of course, my younger son got his hunting license, and there were many occasions where I played guide for the two of them. Those were the years of many new "firsts" and lots of great memories!

My Dad taught me to hunt and fish, and I will always be grateful to him for that. He retired to Florida a few months before my first child was born. Sadly, although we visited him annually, and got to do a good bit of fishing as a family, my boys never got to hunt with their grandfather.

The years passed, and my grandson (from Michigan) turned 12 and had his hunting license. We went down to Delaware, the three of us, Father, Son and Grandson, and enjoyed a guided snow goose hunt. My grandson shot his first goose! It is impossible to describe the feeling not only of pride, but also knowing that we were 3 generations of family, all hunting together.

Just this past April, my great-grandson turned 12, and he took his hunter safety class. I don't know what the future will bring, but I can tell you that this story isn't over yet. And this, my friends, is ***what it is all about!***

Quack's Tips

2 of the most versatile items to keep in your car, truck, blind bag, boat and anywhere else that you can think of are duct tape and WD-40.

A roll of duct tape can be used for dozens of things when you need to get it done now. It is a great leak sealer. You can stop leaks in a hose (water, car, gas line etc.) and even your waders. It will fasten just about anything in a pinch. It can be used to make a length of rope, to strap things down, and even to make a bowl of sorts to carry liquids. It can be used to make a sling, a splint, and even as a bandage to stop bleeding. There are dozens of other uses. Makes it worth stowing a roll in all of your vehicles.

WD-40 is a desiccant. That is why it was developed. It is great for drying electrical connections. Trailer lights don't work after sitting in the off season? Spray the male & female connectors with WD and wait a few minutes. Reconnect and it is likely they will work. Bad ground? Spray the ground connectors and tap them with a tool a few times.

WD- is a solvent for over 100 substances. You can clean grease or paint from your hands, dissolve glue, clean your tools, Clean scuff marks from floors, harsh rust stains on surfaces, it will even take the rust & lime stains out of your toilet. It will recondition leather, brighten up your dull decoys, and has dozens of other uses. It is an insect repellent and will kill roaches on contact.

WD is a lubricant. It can be used to quiet squeaky hinges, remove a tight ring from your finger, and almost any place you can think of where you need some oil or lubrication to make the job easier. There are dozens of other uses for WD-40.

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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 —

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Membership Enrollment / Renewal Card (please print legibly)

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— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- July 8** — **Sporting Clays Shoot at PRSC (See p. 1)**
August 4 — **Sporting Clays Shoot at PRSC (See p. 1)**
August 21 **Waterfowl Task Force Meeting**
August 25 — **SSWA BBQ (See p. 1)**

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



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