

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 .



SEPTEMBER 2013 Web site: sswa.org
P.O. BOX 217 BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

The Next Season in Overview

The summer Atlantic Flyway Council made a proposal to the SRC at the end of the July Conference. It included the following: a 60 day season, 6 bird daily bag limit, including no more than 4 mallards (2 hens) 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 redheads, 4 scoters, 2 hooded mergansers, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, and no harlequin ducks. Final numbers were not confirmed at the time of the AFC meeting, so based upon the preliminary data, it was discussed that *Scaup*, *Pintail*, and *Canvasback* would probably all be 60 days with 2 birds per day. HOWEVER, the SRC had the right to make the final determination. Last year Scaup numbers were very high, leading many to believe that the Feds. had made mistakes with the count. This year they were below the recent average, but still above the cut off for 2 bird daily bag. Pintail numbers were slightly down, but nowhere near low enough to cause a change in bag limit. Canvasback numbers last year were close to being upped to 2 bird/day, but they were a bit short. This year the "predicted" number puts them comfortably above the threshold to increase to 2 bird per day. *On August 1, 2013 the SRC did announce a 2 bird daily bag on Scaup, Pintails and Canvasback for this season.*

Brant will be restricted to a 30 day season, with a 2 bird daily bag limit.

So the Waterfowl season in the Long Island Zone will be as follows:

Youth days will be Nov. 9–10, *Regular ducks* will be Nov. 28 – Jan. 26, *Sea Ducks* will be Oct. 17 – Jan. 31, *Snow Geese* will be Nov. 24 – March 10, and *Brant* will be Dec. 28 – Jan. 26.

Canada Geese

WESTERN L.I. ZONE – No Sept. Season . . . Regular season Oct. 5-20, Nov. 28 – Feb. 26 . . . 8/day

CENTRAL L.I. ZONE – Sept. 3-30 . . . 15/day . . . Regular season Nov. 28 – Feb. 5 . . . 3/day North Shore late season Feb. 6–12 . . . 5/day

EASTERN L.I. ZONE – Sept. 3–30 . . . 15/day . . . Regular season Dec. 3 – Jan. 31 . . . 2/day

Happy Hunting!

WATERFOWL I.D. CLASS — OCTOBER 7, 2013

Back by popular demand, the SSWA is proud to offer another NYS DEC certificate issued waterfowl I.D. class. George Grivas has offered his time and materials to teach this 3-hour class. A test will be given and a certificate issued. The class is a great way to learn to I.D. ducks, but the certification is required to hunt DEC areas such as the Bashakill, Oak Orchard, and Tonawanda Wildlife Management Areas, and the Iroquois and Montzuma National Wildlife Refuges, as well as some other NYS and Federal lands within N.Y. State.

The class will start promptly at 5:30 p.m. and will go straight through until 8:30 p.m. The SSWA meeting will then start and run until its regular ending time. ***THE SEATING IS VERY LIMITED, AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, SO CALL GEORGE at 718-470-0571 NOW to GET ON THE LIST. THERE ARE NO WALK-INS THE NIGHT OF THE CLASS. YOU MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED!***

MEMBERS NOTE: The October meeting of the SSWA will start at 8:30 p.m. Since there is a test in progress until 8:30, ***non-class participants will NOT be allowed into the meeting room before 8:30 pm.*** Thank you – the SSWA Board

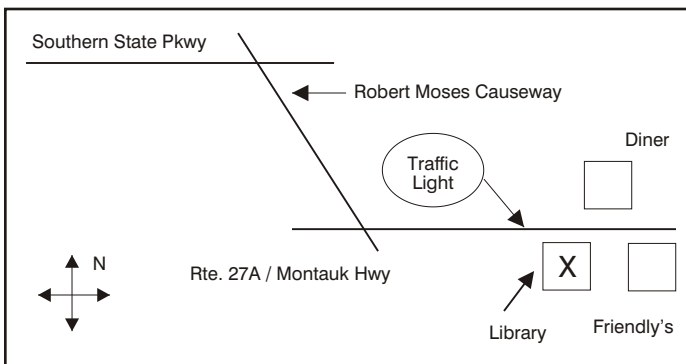
South Shore Waterfowlers

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 Ron Sineo
631-862-8518
- 1st Vice President John Adams
631-618-5728
- 2nd Vice President. Richard Franks, Jr.
631-603-6295
- Secretary Ron Pliszak
631-902-2220
- Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Membership,
Duckboat Show Chairman, Historian,
Club Dinner & BBQ Chairman. . . . Curt Matzinger
613-661-0379
- Sergeant at Arms Erik Tallbe
516-799-6613

— *REMINDER* —

All Dues for SSWA memberships are now **DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1**. Check your label on back page for expiration year. If your dues have expired, please mail your check for \$30 today to:

SOUTH SHORE WATERFOWLERS
P.O. Box 217, Brightwaters, NY 11718

*Your dues and raffles help to
keep our club alive*

The President's Corner

Well, to begin with I'd like to thank the membership for putting their confidence in me at the April election. SSWA has a long line of past presidents who have served the membership well and have done great things for our club. I have big shoes to fill, and I will do my best to measure up. I'd like to welcome all of you back for another exciting year of waterfowl hunting, good sportsmanship, and camaraderie. On June 29th the SSWA Board met, and, among other important items, we drafted a tentative guest speaker program for our monthly meetings. I say tentative, because while this is what we will strive for, sometimes you know, things just don't always work out the way you plan them.

. . . So for now, our September meeting will include a report on the Summer Flyway meeting, and in December we will have a combination meeting: Christmas Party and Swap Meet. In no particular order, the Board also suggested that we try to include scheduling the following: another waterfowl ID course (now set in October, for those who missed the last one). John Cushman (NRA Director for L.I.), some DEC folks to be at one or two of our meetings, and local guest speakers on Brant hunting and Goose hunting, Duck calling, Reloading, the History and Sportsman's Heritage associated with Pattersquash Island, Taxidermy, Game butchering, and perhaps another session with an outboard motor guy. All this is to be in addition to our usual conducting of business during meeting nights. I think you will agree that this is a good mix, and promises to be a full program. We are trying to bring it all to you for our monthly Monday Night SSWA meeting calendar.

Our new season jump starts with the September meeting on WEDNESDAY, September 4th (because of Labor Day), so mark your calendars. I look forward to seeing you on September 4th.

Ron

OCTOBER 27, 2013 Duckboat Show and Waterfowl Festival

The Annual Duckboat Show and Waterfowl Festival is scheduled for Sunday Oct. 27, 2013, raindate Nov. 3. Put it on your calendar to attend. All vendors can go on the website to download a vendor application or fill out the one included in this newsletter to get a table for this year. I pray to GOD for a nice day. Please make copies of the included Show flyer and place them in your local stores and delis to advertise our event. Any questions, contact show chairman, Curt Matzinger at 631-661-0379.

Duck Calling Clinic. You must pre-register for this class. It is filling up fast, so call Ron Sineo at 631-862-8518 to be placed on the list. CALL TODAY!

The SSWA "Buddy" Hunting Program: A Follow-Up

by Ron Sineo

In the June issue of our newsletter, I reported on the past success of our "Buddy" program, and the likelihood that we would be continuing it. Ben Sohm will have a sign-up sheet at the September meeting for all "boatless" hunters who wish to buddy-up and try a boat hunt with an experienced hunter-mentor. Ben will be looking for both those who are boatless, and those who are willing to take a hunter in their boat.

I also reported on the generous decoy contribution of George Ruland, and I promised an update in this newsletter. I am pleased to report that the SSWA Board met on June 29th and, as an outgrowth of that meeting, Board members Ed Wortmann, Fred Graham, Ben Sohm, Steve Jendricks, Guy Soden, and myself met at my house on July 8, 2013 to work out the "decoy details." We opened the 7 barrels of decoys and discovered that all are in "ready-to-use" condition. We sorted the decoys into 3 groups: puddle ducks, divers, and sea ducks. The puddle ducks are ear-marked for use at the handicapped-access blind #9 in Southaven County Park. But the other two groups of decoys will be made available to those SSWA members who wish to borrow them. The Board found that the **diver rig was made up of 35 broadbill decoys**. These are arranged on a 12 bird long line, an 11 bird long line, and 12 more birds on individual cords/anchors. **There is also a 35 bird seaduck rig**, made of 3 long lines (1 line of 12 long tail ducks, 1 line of 12 scoter, and 1 line of 11 scoter).

For the time being, these decoys will be stored at my place. As of the receipt of this newsletter article, SSWA members may sign up to make a loan request for either the seaduck or broadbill rigs. Wounded Warriors and returning Vets will have first priority. Youth hunters and beginning hunters/new members will have second priority, but all SSWA members in good standing will be eligible to borrow and use these rigs. Before you borrow either of these rigs, you will be asked to sign a simple agreement stating that you have received these in good shape, and that if any decoys are lost or damaged you are responsible to replace and/or repair them. If you are included in the priority categories, you may sign up by calling me at (631) 862-8518 (first come, first served). By the November meeting, if either decoy rig is still available, those members with no special priority may also take their turn by calling to sign out the rig. Those who are awarded the rigs on loan, must return them in a timely manner at the end of the regular duck season, and in the same numbers and condition.

Another Example of Politics Controlling Sportsman's Issues

by Ron Sineo

As it stands now, hunters across the state will not be able to use crossbows for hunting this fall. Crossbows, which for the past two falls were used by deer hunters, are once again an illegal hunting implement.

What happened? Was there a spate of accidents? Did too many deer get killed? No, nothing like that. Crossbows fell victim to politics. As a result of legislation passed in 2010, the use of crossbows was allowed on a trial basis for the 2011 and 2012 fall hunting seasons, restricted to only the regular firearms and following late muzzleloading seasons. That bill expired Dec. 31, 2012. Late last year there was a crossbow bill authored by Assemblyman Robert Sweeney, D-Lindenhurst, who chairs the Assembly's Environmental Conservation Committee and plays a strong role in deciding what legislation gets to the full Assembly for a vote. Sweeney's district is on L.I. at the southwest corner of Suffolk County. The Sweeney bill, supported by New York Bowhunters, a bow-hunting advocacy group, would have again for a 2-year period only allowed use of crossbows to hunt big game (deer and bear) during the regular firearms and late muzzleloading seasons—not during the regular bowhunting season. In addition, it would have also eliminated the Columbus Day weekend youth firearms hunt for deer, which occurred this past fall for the first time. A late session veto by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, apparently prompted by supporters of the DEC-supported youth hunt, killed Sweeney's bill.

At the beginning of this year, crossbow advocates such as Pulaski resident Rick McDermott, president of the 1,750-member N.Y. Crossbow Coalition, pinned their hopes on legislation like A283, sponsored by Assemblyman Sean Ryan, D-Grand Island. This bill and its companion bill in the Senate, S1699B, sponsored by Sen. Patrick Galavan, R-xxx, would have put crossbows and regulations concerning their use for hunting in the hands of the state Department of Environmental Conservation DEC. Both lawmakers are from western New York. The bill passed overwhelmingly in the Senate, but failed to get out of Sweeney's committee to the full Assembly before it adjourned June 21.

"Basically, we have not been able to get movement by Assemblyman Sweeney to get the crossbow bill on his committee's agenda to get discussed and voted on," McDermott said. "The committee chairman controls the agenda." McDermott said Sweeney has been asked by his group for a reason for the lack of action. "No reason has been given," he said. Sweeney was called on that Wednesday afternoon. Sweeney pointed out he was chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee when the original crossbow bill came through and passed, adding that crossbows would be legal now if not for Cuomo's veto. "I gave (crossbows) a chance. My concern is that the real agenda of certain people, including the DEC, is to put crossbows in the archery season," he said. "They are a superior weapon. They do not belong in the archery season. Crossbows and bow hunting are not compatible." Sweeney is entitled to his opinion, as is McDermott. That's what happens in politics.

However, it seems that the recommendations of the trained wildlife biologists and staff of the DEC, which is charged with overseeing wildlife and hunting in this state, should carry a lot of weight when it comes to drafting legislation on such matters.

Evidently, Assemblyman Sweeney doesn't think so. What do you think?

Atlantic Flyway Conference Report – Summer 2013

by Ron Sineo

The meeting opened on Monday morning, July 15, with a presentation from Paul Padding of the USFWS. Paul explained that this would be the second consecutive year that the FWS budget would be cut, and the anticipated 5.5% cut on top of last year's 6.5% was making it very difficult to maintain existing programs. Besides hiring freezes, and travel restrictions for conferences, key banding projects and key breeding and productivity surveys (flying in fixed wing aircraft to get counts on bird numbers) were expected to be delayed or stopped altogether.

The Dept. of the Interior has at long last released the "final" version of the SEIS or *Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* for 2013. Drafts of this document have been around since 2011, but the US attorneys have been tweaking the contents since then. This SEIS is a guidance document for the USFWS to set annual regulations and provide equitable hunting opportunity, oversee subsistence harvest, and manage the National Wildlife refuges. There are 7 components to the SEIS. They are:

- The schedule and timing of the regulatory process
- The frequency of review and adoption of duck regulatory packages
- Stock-specific harvest strategies
- Special regulations
- Management scale for the harvest of migratory birds
- Zones and split seasons
- Subsistence hunting regulations in Alaska and the impact of cumulative harvest of migratory bird hunting on National Wildlife Refuges

This "final" SEIS is going to create changes in the way that the USFWS does business. In the next 2 or 3 hunting seasons, much of the above will be changed. Annual meetings will occur earlier, before all the data can be assembled. "Last minute" type adjustments to the season length or bag limits on a particular species will fall by the wayside. The Service will no doubt "err" on the side of caution. I don't think that it is too far-fetched to think that the overall duck bag limit will eventually decrease from a current 6 birds to 5 or even 4 birds as a maximum. Likewise, the current 60 day hunting season may in the future be scaled back to 55 or 50 days to protect those species for which data is just not available, but when the decision about bag must be made!

- Along with the USFWS report, Gary Costanza of Virginia gave the SRC report. The highlights were mostly about banding. It seems that because 5 Kodiak fixed wing aircraft were grounded for repairs this Spring, survey planes did not get to fly for Eastern populations of Canada geese, Canada black ducks, or for eastern Mallards.
- The SRC increased possession limits for all species that were 2X daily bag to 3X daily bag!

Bruce Pollard of the Canada Wildlife Service reported that the Canadian Government is moving to a 3-year cycle with new proposed regulations. Once in place, season lengths and bag limits in Canada would stay the same for 3 consecutive years.

Also, Bruce indicated that with the decline in the number of hunters over the past several years and with the "parity issue" on black duck overall harvest has been in the USA favor approaching 60-40 in recent years, Canadian bag has been increased from 1 to 2. In the Maritimes, where the hunters are few and the bag was already at 4, the new proposal is to increase to 6 birds/day. Two provinces, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have declined the increase. (Here in the States, the bag limit remains 1 black duck per day.)

OK, so here is the overview of what was proposed to the SRC. 60 day season, 6 bird daily bag limit, including no more than 4 mallards (2 hens), 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 redheads, 4 scoters, 2 hooded mergansers, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, and no harlequin ducks. Because of those fixed wing Kodiak planes being grounded, and some other circumstances, final numbers were not confirmed on Scaup, Pintail, and Canvasback. Based upon the preliminary data, it was discussed that scaup, pintail, and canvasback will probably all be 60 days with 2 birds per day. HOWEVER, The SRC has the right to make the final determination. Last year Scaup numbers were very high, leading many to believe that the Feds made mistakes with the count. This year they were below the recent average, but still above the cut-off for 2 bird daily bag. Pintail numbers were slightly down, but nowhere near low enough to cause a change in bag limit. Canvasback numbers last year were close to being upped to 2 bird/day, but they were a bit short. This year the "predicted" number puts them comfortably above the threshold to increase to 2 bird per day. On August 1, 2013 the SRC announced a 2 bird daily bag on Scaup, Pintails, and Canvasback.

The harvest strategy for Brant is very simple. If the mid-winter counts are:

- Above 200,000 then 60 days, 3 birds per day
- 150,000 – 200,000 60 days, 2 birds/day
- 125,000 – 150,000 50 days, 2 birds/day
- 100,000 – 125,000 30 days, 2 birds/day
- Below 100,000 closed season

THIS YEAR'S MID-WINTER COUNT WAS ONLY 111,752 birds (the year before, it was at 129,000). Let's hope that the Super Storm scattered the Brant, accounting at least for a part of the reason that the number is so low. We are way too close to that 100,000 mark which will close the season!

No change in Bag since last year on Canada Goose and Snow Goose. Sea Duck bags remain unchanged!

**Enclosed are your Rattle Tickets –
Please sell or buy ALL of them to support the
SSWA in order to keep our club going strong**

Quack's Recipe Tip

Prosciutto Wrapped Duck with Mango and Jalapeno

by Ron Sineo

Most people can eat several of these tasty appetizers. Allow at least 4-5 per person. This recipe makes 24 pieces, or about 6 portions.

Preparation time: @ 30 min.

Marinating time: 2-4 hours

Cooking time: less than 10 min.

INGREDIENTS

24 Strips Skinless Duck Breasts about ½" thick by 2" long

6 Jalapeno Peppers

24 Thin-Sliced Strips Prosciutto

24 Slices Just-Ripe Mango also about ½" thick by 2" long

24 Toothpicks

MARINADE

1 tbsp. Fresh Squeezed Lemon Juice

¼ cup Red Wine Vinegar

3 tbsp. Honey

½ tsp. Salt

¼ tsp. Pepper

Dash of Tabasco

⅓ cup Olive Oil

DIRECTIONS

1. To prepare the marinade, whisk together all the ingredients except olive oil in a large non-reactive bowl until well blended. While whisking add the olive oil in a thin stream until emulsified. Add the sliced duck, cover, refrigerate 2-4 hrs., turning occasionally.
2. Place the jalapeno peppers on a cutting surface and slice 4 pieces lengthwise from the outside. This will eliminate splitting and scraping seeds away. When you are done with each pepper, you should have 4 seed-free jalapeno slices plus the stem section with the ribs and seeds attached. If you prefer your duck on the spicy side, add some of the seeds to the marinade.

Peconic River Sporting Clays Shoots

Here is an update on the shoots we had at Peconic. I am still confused at the low shooter turnout we have at these events. Where can you get the opportunity to shoot, and use the facilities at a private club, for the cost of a day at the "open to the public" ranges? You will not get a more challenging sporting clays course anywhere. Then we go out for a nice lunch afterwards. I don't get it.

Anyway, the members who keep turning out for the events are thrilled to get this opportunity, and wish to express their thanks to the members of Peconic River Sportsmen's Club who give us the opportunity to shoot at their fine club. We definitely don't "ACE" the course, with our pump action duck guns. What we do get out of it is the ability to help our shooting, and prepare us for this upcoming duck season. All our scores have improved dramatically. Our scores range from 18 to 75 out of 100. We shoot against OURSELVES. We do this to help ourselves out. The members will help you out "if you want them to." There is no judging of each other. We all try to help each other be a better shot. Give it a try at the next one slated for September.

3. Remove the duck strips from the marinade and drain. Lay prosciutto slices on a work surface. Place a strip of jalapeno, then mango, and finally duck across one end of the prosciutto. Roll the prosciutto up over the duck, jalapeno, and mango while keeping it snug with your fingers. Secure with toothpick.
4. Cook evenly on a hot grill, cast iron skillet, or broiler until lightly browned on all sides (7-9 min. total)

Bloody Mary Marinade

If your taste prefers something spicier, use this marinade. It works with the same recipe, makes enough for 3-4 cups duck fillets. Cover and refrigerate 6-24 hrs.

- 1 cup Tomato Juice
- 2 tbsp. Lime Juice
- 1 tbsp. Worcestershire
- 1 tbsp. Prepared Horseradish
- 1 tbsp. Red Pepper Flakes
- 1 tsp. Onion Powder
- 1 tsp. Garlic Powder
- ⅓ tsp. Celery Salt

SSWA BBQ – A BIG Success!!

On August 10, 2013 the Club had a BBQ at the Wind Swept Marina in East Moriches. 32 members and their families came down to enjoy a beautiful sunny day, refreshments, and some good eats. I manned the grill while George Rigby made some magic with the propane steamer. Out of the pot came steamed clams, kielbasa, and corn on the cob. Delicious! I cooked up some chicken, hamburgers, franks, and hot sausages. Some marinated striped bass also made it to the table. I guess it was good because it didn't last long. Combined with some "beverages," everyone was quite full and happy. It was a free event, with the purpose of saying thank you to its members and to enjoy some comraderie with the membership. Everyone said how much fun they had and can't wait to do it again next year. Hanging out with good people, enjoying food & beverages, sitting with the bay breezes cooling you off—what a way to spend a day.

Wind Swept was having its block party the same day, and had a great pig roast to boot. The SSWA had a table at the block party, but it was a low turnout by visitors. It needs to get the word out better for next year. We will let you know when it is scheduled for next year.

All in all, I think the BBQ was a big hit and it most definitely HAS to be done again next year. All in favor? 32 Yeahs, zero nays. It will be done. Thanks to Secretary Ronny Pliszak, and everyone who helped me out the day of the BBQ.
Curt



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— South Shore Waterfowlers Association —

P.O. Box 217 Brightwaters, NY 11718

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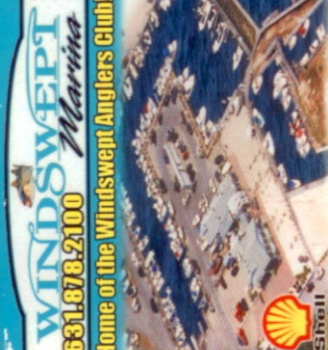
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— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- September 4 — 1st SSWA Meeting at Brightwaters Library (*NOT* Monday, Labor Day)
September 14 — Striped Bass Tournament — Call John Adams at 631-618-5728
September 22 — Delta Waterfowlers Dinner — Contact John Ferguson at 631-539-9539
September 28 — National Hunting & Fishing Day — Ridge, NY
Sept. 28-29 — Gun Show (IBEW Local 25), Hauppauge, NY
Sept. 28-29 — Tuckerton Waterfowl Festival, New Jersey
October 7 — SSWA Meeting at Brightwaters Library
October 12 — Striped Bass Tournament — Call John Adams at 631-618-5728
October 19-20 — Oyster Festival — Oyster Bay, NY
October 27 — DUCKBOAT SHOW AND WATERFOWL FESTIVAL (see pg. 3 for info)
November 3 — Raindate for Duckboat Show and Waterfowl Festival (Hope Not)
November 4 — SSWA Meeting at Brightwaters Library
November 8-9 — Easton Maryland Waterfowl Festival
Nov. 9-10 — Duck Youth Day — Call Kelly Hamilton, DEC (631-444-0255) to sign up
December 2 — SSWA Meeting — Holiday Party (Bring a goodie to the meeting)
January 7 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library (Tuesday, *NOT* Monday)

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