

# Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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JUNE 15, 2023



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## Letter from the President



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Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation (WWC) of which WWA is a voting member, dropped the hammer yesterday — filing suit against **Governor Inslee** and five (5) members of the **WDFW Commission**. See **Mark Pidgeon's** standing **Legislative News** on pages 3-5 (jump linked [here](#)).

### Now for Some Random Thoughts and Potpourri

I have been watching the mallard hatches this year and seeing some good results from nesting around my neighborhood. I see some giant gosling hatches that look good for resident geese. It's always a good feeling when the young **Canadas** start putting on their adult markings and are harder to discern which are the juveniles and which are the adults.

I'm hoping the pheasant hatches look good as well. I was just on the East side this last weekend in the **Tri Cities**, and it has me thinking about hunting trips I need to plan. I remembered that my dog needs some work this summer, and I need to step up the retrieving drills. Two of my contacts in the **WWA** (you know who you are) have new **GSP's [German Shorthaired Pointer's, for you Lab-only waterfowl hunters, lol]** puppies I need to visit.

Next month I have a salmon trip planned, and I understand **Board member** and **WWA-ML Chair, Bruce Feagan** is currently in **Alaska** doing the same, along with some halibut fishing.

I hope to get in some more work parties this summer at the **Northwest** and **Whatcom** chapters too. Other than that, I'll be sitting on the deck dreaming of fall hunts as I barbeque this month hoping the season gets here sooner.

For the Resource,

**Paul McGovern**

WWA President

### MISSION STATEMENT

**TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE WATERFOWL, WATERFOWL HABITAT, & WATERFOWL HUNTING IN WASHINGTON STATE**

# News for the Flock

## 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

Sat, June 17	DU Fun Shoot at Dryke's in Sequim, WA linked here. For more info see <a href="#">Page 10</a>
Sat, June 24	WWA's Insurance Broker, McDonald McGarry in Edmonds is hosting A <b>FREE</b> document shredding event. See Flyer on <a href="#">Page 10</a>
Tues, June 27	SW Chapter Meeting Tacoma Sportsmen's Club <b>New Location — Main Lodge</b>
Weds, June 28	Seattle Chapter Meeting Kenmore Gun Club
Thurs, June 29	Lower Columbia Chapter Meeting Vancouver Trap and Gun Club
Weds, July 5	WWA Board Meeting Online Only — 7:00 pm. All WWA Members welcome to attend. Contact Corp Secretary, Bob Taylor, for a <i>WebEx</i> online invitation. See <a href="#">Page 1</a>
Thurs, July 6	Grays Harbor Chapter Meeting Evergreen Sportsmen's Club
Tues, July 11	Whatcom County Chapter Meeting Ferndale Public Library
Weds, July 12	NW Chapter Meeting Twin Cities Sportsmens Club
Sat, July 15	Pheasants Forever Sporting Clays Habitat Fundraiser at Landt Farms Sporting Clays, Nine Mile Falls, WA See Flyer on <a href="#">Page 27</a>
Sat, Aug 5	WA State Sanctioned Duck Calling Contest, Orting Station, Orting, WA See Flyer on <a href="#">Pages 22 &amp; 23</a>
Sat, Aug 19	Colton Smith Memorial Youth Shoot Evergreen Sportsmen's Club See Flyer on <a href="#">Page 15</a>
Fri thru Sun Sept 22-24	Columbia Flyway & Wildlife Show Clatsop County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, Astoria, OR See Flyer on <a href="#">Page 19</a>
Sat, Sept 30	National Hunting and Fishing Day Newport, WA See Story on <a href="#">Page 14</a>

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## WWA Legislative News

### WA Legislative Report

By Mark Pidgeon  
President, Hunters Heritage Council

**Editor's Note:** This article is written entirely by the **Hunters Heritage Council (HHC)**, a Washington State based organization dedicated to political action on behalf of the hunting and related communities of Washington. The **Washington Waterfowl Association (WWA)** had no input into this article. This article is in this newsletter is because of **WWA's** membership in **Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation (WWC)**. **WWC** is a member organization of **HHC**. The opinions contained in this article are entirely those of the author, and the **Hunters Heritage Council (HHC)**.

### Commission is Criminal

*Man or woman, Young or old, Crime is a cancer,  
That must be destroyed.*

-- The Shadow

Point blank, the proposed **Commission Draft policy C-700X** — linked [here](#) — is criminal. It is illegal. It overrides **RCW 77.04.012**, the legislative mandate linked [here](#), and makes consumptive use illegal. The **Washington Administrative Code (WAC)** cannot override the **Revised Code of Washington (RCW)**, yet this **Commission** is trying to do so. This has to be stopped at all costs!

*For the first time in its history, the  
Commission meeting will be held in  
Seattle so that the animal-rights  
(A-R) people can stack the  
Commission meeting.*

To date there has been very little publicity for this proposed change to the **WAC**, and for the first time in history the **Commission** meeting will be held in **Seattle** so that the **animal-rights (A-R)** people can stack the **Commission** meeting. There has been no publicity for this **Commission** meeting. This draft change to the 25-year strategic plan was announced on the **Internet** on June 2, 2023, and it will be voted on June 19, 2023, just 17 days later! Having this voted on so soon is criminal.

This is from the proposed **Conservation Policy C-700X**:

**“Principles:**

- 1) Conservation first — The **WDFW's** top priority is the conservation of **Washington's** fish, shellfish, and wildlife for the benefit of all state residents, current and future. Successful conservation is the foundation to support the spectrum of values that **Washington** residents hold regarding providing sustainable recreational and commercial opportunities including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, and wildlife appreciation.
- 2) Conservation of all species, habitat, and ecosystems — To preserve functioning, resilient, healthy ecosystems, the **WDFW** shall strive to conserve all fish, shellfish, and wildlife, whether rare or common, and their habitat. Doing so is essential to maintain species diversity.
- 3) Conservation partnerships — An ecosystem—based conservation strategy requires strong coordination and cooperation with local, state, federal, and tribal governments, non- governmental organizations, private landowners, academia, businesses, and engaged citizens. Collaboration with neighboring states and Canada also is important because Fish and Wildlife distributions are not constrained by political boundaries.
- 4) Knowledge and science — **WDFW** actions and decisions shall be based on objective, science—based knowledge. Scientific efforts to inform the **WDFW** must be sufficiently broad and multi-disciplinary, combining all related scientific fields (e.g., biological, ecological, economic, and social). Adaptive management is a critical and required step to implement actions learned from monitoring the decisions and actions against the results. Adaptive management thus informs necessary changes to meet the desired outcomes.”

Let's translate this from **Commission** talk.

**Principle One** will put an end to hunting and consumptive use, with the title “conservation or preservation” first. This **Commission** will push their goals of wildlife appreciation ahead of hunting. They showed this with eliminating a spring bear hunt in both 2022 and again in 2023, despite **WDFW** biologists, staff, and **Director, Kelly Susewind**, himself, recommending a hunting season.

“Successful conservation is the foundation to support the spectrum of values that **Washington** residents hold” is a buzz word that that the **Commission** will use to argue that most Washingtonians don't hunt and fish, and therefore don't support it. (Continued on Page 4)

## Legislative News Continued

**Principle Two:** “To preserve functioning, resilient, healthy ecosystems, the **WDFW** shall strive to conserve all fish, shellfish, and wildlife, whether rare or common, and their habitat. Doing so is essential to maintain species diversity.”

**Translation:** **WDFW** will move to a department that preserves species, instead of one that serves hunters and fishers.

**Principle Three:** “Conservation partnerships — An ecosystem—based conservation strategy requires strong coordination and cooperation with local, state, federal, and tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, academia, businesses, and engaged citizens. Collaboration with neighboring states and **Canada** also is important because Fish and Wildlife distributions are not constrained by political boundaries.”

**Translation:** Collaboration with everybody but the hunting and fishing community!

**Principle Four:** “**WDFW** actions and decisions shall be based on objective, science—based knowledge. Scientific efforts to inform the **WDFW** must be sufficiently broad and multi-disciplinary, combining all related scientific fields.”

**Translation:** This is to make sure we include **animal-rights (A-R) “feel good” science**.

This is “**Principle Seven**

7) Aligning mandate, strategy, staff, and budget — To achieve the mandate expressed in **RCW 77.04.012**, the **WDFW** must develop the necessary strategies, enlist the necessary staff, and secure the necessary resources. To that end, the **WDFW** must strengthen its communications to the public, state Legislature, and Governor regarding the need for expanded partnerships, **additional authorities**, and funding.” **[Emphasis Added]**.

If there is any doubt that the **Commission** is trying to override the legislative mandate, **Principle Seven** should eliminate that doubt. Plain as daylight, **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES** to bring back the legislative mandate. This is just plain criminal.

This must be stopped at all costs! We can testify before the **Commission** until we’re blue in the face, and it won’t do a bit of good. The **Democrats** in the **Washington State Legislature** won’t lift a finger to help. The only way to stop this is by suing the **Commission**, and “**Mark**” my words [pun intended], this is going to happen.

**WE HAVE TO DESTROY THIS POLICY!**

## The Time is Now!

*“When Injustice becomes Law,  
Resistance becomes Duty.”*

**--Thomas Jefferson**

I go back about twenty years ago when two of my very best friends from the **Washington Cattlemen Association** and I met with one of the top natural resource attorneys in the country. We are complaining that we win in the **Legislature**, but we get nowhere with the **Commission or WDFW**. This was before the wolf plan was passed, but there was still major problems with predator-prey relationships. Hunters and ranchers shared plenty of common interests.

***The attorney’s advice was simple —the hunting community never sues... This attorney said that because of this, no one respects or fears the hunting community...***

The attorney’s advice was simple —the hunting community never sues. The **animal-rights (A-R)** groups always sue; the environmental groups always sue; the tribes sue; but the hunters have never sued. This attorney said that because of this, no one respects or fears the hunting community; if the hunting community even filed an intent to sue that would change everything.

For years I have thought, what can we file on? When I became **President of Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation (WWC)**, I thought that predators were so out of control in this state, maybe filing a lawsuit on bad science, but a science versus science lawsuit is extremely difficult to win.

Then we came up to this **Governor Jay Inslee**. When he was in Congress, he was the most **animal-right’s (A-R)** member of Congress the ten years that he was there, according to the **Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation**. As governor, he and his **Senior Policy Advisor for Natural Resources at that time, JT Austin**, stacked the **Commission** with **animal-rights (A-R)** activists. Neither **Governor Inslee**, nor **JT Austin**, communicated with the hunting community, and for the first time in the history of the **Commission** the commercial fishermen were left without representation. The **animal-rights (A-R)** people had five (5) solid votes on the **Commission** — a controlling block, but more importantly, a violation of **RCW 77.04.040** (linked [here](#)), the balance doctrine of the **Commission** and the outreach doctrine of the **RCW**. *(Continued on Page 5)*

# Legislative News Continued

## Now It's Your Turn To Stand Up

This lawsuit, **Thurston County Case No. 23-2-01831-34**, is a fight against injustice. Resistance becomes duty. As I said in my first article, we can scream our heads off to the **Commission**, and it will do no good. The time to stand up is now!

It will be a long expensive battle. If you can help financially, please do. **Washington Waterfowl Association (WWA)** is **THE** premiere waterfowl organization in this state. Every cent raised stays within **Washington State**. If your dues have expired, please renew them. If you can upgrade your membership, please do. If you can contribute to **WWA's** dedicated legal fund (See Donations **Page 28**), we really need your help.

**We can win this!** This is the respect that we've never had before, our attorney is outstanding!

**The time is now!**

## Translation of Legalese 101

### Petition for Quo Warranto

A **Petition for Quo Warranto** is a legal remedy used to challenge a person's right to hold a public or corporate office. The term "**quo warranto**" is Latin for "**by what warrant**" or **authority**. This [legal action] is used to challenge the legitimacy of the holder of substantive public office.

### Writ of Mandamus

A Writ of Mandamus is a court order to an inferior government official to properly fulfill their official duties or correct an abuse of discretion. **It is an order by a court** to a lesser government official to perform an act required by law, which he/she has refused or neglected to do.

### Declaratory Relief

Also commonly known as declaratory judgment refers to a court's declaratory judgment stating the rights of parties without ordering any specific action or listing awards for damages.

### Injunctive Relief

Injunctive Relief is a way to force a party to follow the terms of a contract. It is a remedy that is available in cases where the terms of a contract are not clear. It is usually granted in through an injunction — a court order to compel a party to follow the terms of the contract.

[www.law.cornell.edu](http://www.law.cornell.edu)

E-FILED  
THURSTON COUNTY, WA  
SUPERIOR COURT  
06/14/2023 - 10:37AM  
Linda Myhre Enlow  
Thurston County Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR THURSTON COUNTY

<p>WASHINGTONIANS FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Plaintiff,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v.</p> <p>JAY INSLEE, in his capacity as Governor of the State of Washington; WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; BARBARA BAKER, in her capacity as a Commissioner of the Fish and Wildlife Commission; JOHN LEHMKUHL, in his capacity as a Commissioner of the Fish and Wildlife Commission; LORNA SMITH, in her capacity as a Commissioner of the Fish and Wildlife Commission; MELANIE ROWLAND, in her capacity as a Commissioner of the Fish and Wildlife Commission; and TIM RAGEN, in his capacity as a Commissioner of the Fish and Wildlife Commission.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Defendants.</p>	<p>Case No. <b>23-2-01831-34</b></p> <p><b>INFORMATION AND PETITION FOR QUO WARRANTO JUDGMENT, WRIT OF MANDAMUS, AND DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF</b></p>
--	--

Plaintiff, Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation, submits the following information and petition for quo warranto judgment, writ of mandamus, and declaratory and injunctive relief:

**I. PARTIES**

I. Plaintiff Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation is a Washington non-profit corporation, dedicated to promoting scientific wildlife management and protecting the rights of conservationists and sportspeople in Washington. Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation, and

INFORMATION AND PETITION FOR QUO WARRANTO JUDGMENT, WRIT OF MANDAMUS, AND DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF - 1

135262.0001.9396605.4

LANE POWELL PC  
1420 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 4200  
P.O. BOX 91302  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98111-0402  
206.223.7000 FAX: 206.223.7107

This controlling block has violated the legislative mandate in **RCW 77.04.012** (full statute linked [here](#)) to **“maximize the public recreational game fishing and hunting opportunities of all citizens.”** They’ve done this over and over in their actions and speech. We have most recently seen this with spring bear with the permanent elimination of spring bear hunting, when science says that there is a robust bear population allowing for a spring bear hunting season supported by the **Department’s** science. This criminal **Conservation Policy C-700x** cannot be tolerated.

### Lawsuit Filed

As of Wednesday morning, June 14th, **Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation (WWC)** has filed a lawsuit in **Thurston County Superior Court**. **Governor Jay Inslee, Commissioners Barbara Baker, Lorna Smith, Melanie Rowland, Tim Ragen, and John Lehmkuhl, and WDFW** as a department, are the named defendants. The full text of the complaint is linked [here](#).

# News for the Flock

## Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

Driving through the region it's good to see all the waterfowl that are in our area nesting or on the return migration. I wasn't living in this state 50 years ago, but I can just imagine the difference in the abundance of waterfowl then as compared to now. One of the primary reasons for the reduced bird count is the reduction of food sources available. These food sources support both nesting production and migrating waterfowl.

See related article by NW Chapter member, **Art Kendall**, on the adjacent **Page 7**. The well written piece accurately conveys the message that a significant reduction in foraging crops has taken place over last several years due to restoration initiatives in direct conflict with waterfowl conservation. Currently **NO** alternatives exist for acquiring new property, including forage-only property, and there is **NO** established waterfowl conservation policy in place.

The only thing that has changed since the graphic accompanying **Art's** piece was initially produced is a minor change in the remaining farmed acreage.

According to **WDFW**, the current crop planting for the **Skagit Wildlife Area (SWA)** is approximately:

- **Farmed Island** (west Island) = 10 acres corn, 30 acres Millet
- **Samish Unit/Samish River** = 205 acres (5+ acres Fava Beans)
- **Debay Reserve** = 23 acres, **Debay** = 20+ acres
- **Bayview** sites = 15+ acres

The **Washington Migratory Bird Stamp and Art Program** is a major source of funding for annual grain farming on several **WDFW Managed Wildlife Areas** in our state to provide winter forage efforts for migratory birds. Purchasing **Washington State Migratory Bird Stamps (aka "Duck Stamps")** or **Migratory Bird Stamp** artwork is an investment in **Washington's** wetlands, waterfowl, and other migratory bird resources.

You can find out more about the **Washington Migratory Bird Stamp and Art Program** and the projects that it funds linked [here](#).

### Blind Maintenance and Restoration

Ever use a public hunting Blind that looks as if it was trampled by a herd of migrating Wildebeests? By the end of each season, some of the blinds in the area are in need of rehab and repair. For the next two (2) months chapter members will be working to restore, maintain, and brush-up local area public hunting blinds at the **SWA**.

Let's get these (work) parties started!

**Editor's Note: For those WWA members who didn't manage to bag a turkey this Spring Hunt Season, Someone should put a GPS tracker on Rich's Truck!**



In the 2023 words of Rich!

Despite temperatures in the high 80's; mosquito's the size of housecats; ticks, God I HATE ticks; and a mild hangover; WWA Life Member Rich Phillips finally found a Gobbler willing to stand still in front of his 20 gauge long enough for a load of TSS to earn the bird a notched tag!



## News for the Flock

# Salmon Restoration Has Taken Your SWA Farmland

By Art Kendall  
NW Chapter's Representative on the WAG

Fellow **WWA** members:

I want you to realize what has happened to farming for ducks at the **WDFW Skagit Wildlife Area (SWA)**. This has happened over several years, and at least some of you are already quite aware of the situation. Bottom line is that almost 1200 acres used to be farmed. Currently less than 100 acres is put under the plow.

Waterfowlers have given up 1100 prime acres of winter waterfowl feeding areas in the name of **salmon restoration!**

Of course some of those acres were dikes, hedgerows and ditches, but all were part of a landscape that was ideal for ducks and for duck hunting. There is no replacement for this lost source of nourishment for ducks in winter.

Remember when we could hunt pheasants at **Skagit Headquarters** and **Leque Island**? No more. Absolutely **NO** walk-in hunting is left! The 94 acres of farmed land that is left is part of the **Snow Goose Reserve**, and **closed** to hunting.

It has been my understanding that the primary objectives of duck management in Washington on the East side is to increase mallard nesting — on the West side to provide winter forage. The severe reduction in farming on **WDFW lands** around **Skagit Bay** significantly diminishes the amount of food available for ducks in the region in winter, to say nothing of what it does regarding hunting for ducks in the area.

Purchase of replacement lands has not been successful, nor will it be at today's prices for rural acreage. Maybe long term leases are the only available option to

correct this problem, but don't hold your breath. Either remedy will take more money than is available through "duck stamps."

As I see things, the only possible remedy is organized waterfowlers finally standing firm and demanding meaningful

Areas in the Skagit Wildlife Area farmed for ducks			
Unit	Previously farmed	Restored	Farmed 2023
Acres			
Fir Island Farms	225	131	94
Headquarters	170	170	0
Farmed Island*	326	326	0
Leque Island	474	474	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1195</b>	<b>1101</b>	<b>94</b>

\*Funding for restoration has been awarded

mitigation for these lost lands. Funding for restoration of the **Farmed Island** has already been awarded. Waterfowlers need to make sure that money is spent wisely.

**Bottom line:** **WWA** should ask the **WDFW Commission** and the **Waterfowl Division** to seek other remedies for this dire situation. If that fails, the **WWA** should go directly to the **Washington Legislature**.



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# WA Brant Festival



It takes more than just a pretty face — or decoy in this case — all decoys entered into the Puget Sound Decoy Carving Contest must “self right” in the Floating Tub, and then continue to float without a noticeable tilt.

Here out-of-state judges and nationally known carvers themselves, (L-R) Marty Hanson, of Hayward, WI; Rich Smoker, of Marion Station, MD; and his brother, Ross Smoker, of Sellingsgrove, PA; discuss the carved decoys entered in the Brant-only division.

For more photos and competition results, see the adjacent page.



(L-R) Longtime DU volunteer Chris Straiter looks in the crowd for bids while WA Brant Foundation Pres, Maynard Axelson holds up for display a Wood Duck Nest Box constructed and donated by the WWA-NW Chapter. Auctioneer Clint White works his magic drumming up the winning \$150 bid. All proceeds go to providing scholarships to students pursuing careers in wildlife management focused on Waterfowl.

# Brant Festival Continued

## Results in the Puget Sound Decoy Carving Competition

### Brant Class

- 1. Chris Nikolai, North Dakota;
- 2. Rick Banko, McKinleyville, CA
- 3. Ron Kilby, Bow, WA

### Open Working Decoys

- 1. Gary Hanson, Sterling Heights, MI
- 2. Gary Hanson
- 3. Rick Banko

### Mini Class

- 1. Rob Enders, Pennsylvania
- 2. Ron Kilby
- 3. Tom Newell, La Connor, WA



Another type of carver — custom duck call maker — Ben Tyler III, of Port Townsend, displays his work.



More conversations, kibitzing, & more importantly, judging another class of decoys in the Float Tank. (L-R) Judges Marty Hanson, Rich Smoker, Ross Smoker, and Kurt Benson of Stanwood, who is a maintstay for the WA Brant Foundation and a master carver in his own right.

## News for the Flock

### Seattle Chapter News

#### Ducks Unlimited Fun Shoot at Dryke's in Sequim.

A Great pre- Father's Day way to celebrate. This is a family event.....wives welcome, raffle and prizes, burger feed after the morning shoot. Dryke's is a great range and worth the day trip to the Peninsula. You'll need to catch Edmonds 7:55 am Ferry to get there in time. For more information use the link [here](#).



James Ono in his full hunting regalia that allowed him to tag his first turkey in early May with the help of buddy Harold Abell.

For more, see the WWA May 2023 Newsletter linked [here](#).

#### New Day and Location for Meetings

The Seattle Chapter has decided to meet the **LAST WEDNESDAY of each month** moving forward.

Unfortunately, this means we will no longer have the range to ourselves; we will be shooting with the public those nights beginning at 5 pm.

Following shooting we will move to the **CHALET** instead of the shotgun clubhouse for our monthly business meetings beginning at 7 pm.

WWA's Insurance Agent, McDonald McGarry in Edmonds is holding a **FREE** document shredding event on Saturday, June 24th. See the **Flyer below** for details in case you're scheduled to clean out the home office.

Finally, just a reminder — If you get a chance please support those businesses that supported our Banquet last October. See **Flyer** on **Page 29**.

# Save the Date

Shredding Event & Food Drive  
Saturday, June 24th  
10am-1pm

Once again this year, we're partnering with Grange Insurance for a Shredding Event and Food Drive! Bring up to 4 boxes or bags of your documents to be securely shredded by LeMay Mobile Shredding. We're happily taking donations of food for people and pets for the Edmonds Food Bank.

We'll see you there!

630 Main Street  
Edmonds, WA 98020  
425-774-3200  
[info@mcdonaldmcgarry.com](mailto:info@mcdonaldmcgarry.com)



## News for the Flock

### Moses Lake Chapter News

By Bruce Feagan and Dick Price

Moses Lake Chapter members, Debbie and David Allen called in two and were successful in tagging both on opening weekend, north of Spokane.

#### Royal Lakes Update

According to **Sean Dougherty of WDFW** the cultural resources inventory has been completed for the **Waterfowl Stamp and Print** project at the **Royal Lakes** site. Just waiting now for all the input to be reviewed so *Russian Olive* tree removal can start. This will be followed by removal of invasive species ground cover.

Hopefully, we can start with our volunteer planting of desired habitat shrubs and native grasses this Fall and next Spring.

#### 70 Participants Enjoy Family Shoot in Quincy

We had a very successful event, even though we had a trap break, and it took about 45 minutes to get it repaired. Attendance was good with almost 40 youths and 30 adults. Weather was good so everybody had an enjoyable time. Youths and adults left with more than an arm load of free goodies.

We will again have a free trap shoot for youth-only on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It will also take place at the **Quincy Gun Club** and be between the hours of 10 am. until 3 pm. This time we will have limited items for the youths as we are seeing the same faces most of the time. We will still have **FREE** lunch and water for everyone.



### Midnight Valley Labradors

AKC Registered Labrador Puppies  
Excellent Breeding, Great Temperament,  
Wonderful for the Family or in the Field.

British Gun Dog Lines,  
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[midnightvalleylabradors@gmail.com](mailto:midnightvalleylabradors@gmail.com)

Check out our website at:

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### Quincy American Legion Gun Club

14050 Road Q NW  
Quincy, WA 98848

Open to the Public

**Disabled Friendly Facility**

(509) 237-1166

[https://www.facebook.com/  
QuincyWaAmericanLegionGunClub](https://www.facebook.com/QuincyWaAmericanLegionGunClub)

## News for the Flock

### Lower Columbia Chapter News

By Doug Hargin

#### Ridgefield NWR Work Party

Saturday, June 24th, we will have a work party at the refuge to finish cleaning up blinds — a task that was deferred due to nesting cranes in the vicinity of blinds 8-14. We will also do some concealment work on blind 9 and look at placement location of blind 5 for the **Black Box** polymer pit blind that will replace it.

We will meet at the hunting check station at 8:00 am. Please bring gloves, waders, a square end shovel and a 5-gallon bucket.

#### Private Lands Access Turkey Hunt

LC Chapter and Corporate Board Member **Bob Taylor** utilized **Washington State's Private Lands Access Hunting Program** for some turkey hunting this spring. As we all know our hunting plans do not always work out the way we planned, especially when venturing out into new territory.

I must admit some of the hunts I remember most vividly years later had something unexpected happen and not necessarily in a positive way at the time.

- Having a cart load of decoys pushed over me down an embankment when I said "no" and a buddy thought I said "go!"
- Doing a side roll out of marsh rat in deep water going after a wounded duck.

I could go on and on and bet you could too with your own stories! In his article, **Bob** gives us his first-hand account of his spring turkey hunt that I am sure he'll remember for a long while.

#### Always Looking For Your Input!

We need your input for the newsletter. Hunting stories, unusual experiences, recipes and/or photos. Where do you hunt? Did you have a good hunt or memorable event? New tech help and gear, advice and ideas you can share, experiences hunting other venues. Whatever would interest you to read about in this newsletter.

Please submit them to [dlhargin@msn.com](mailto:dlhargin@msn.com).  
Thank you!

### Wild Goose (err, Turkey) Chase

By Bob Taylor

At *O'Dark hundred hours* on the most infamous day of the year, April 15th, I blithely set out to bag a belligerent tom turkey. My chosen ground was a private, forested acreage listed on the **WDFW's Private Lands Access** website. The website is linked [here](#).

The property was just over the **Clark County** line in **Skamania County** and listed "upland birds" as one of the huntable species. In hindsight, I should have listened to a **WDFW** Employee, friend of mine who warned that no turkey siting had ever been verified in **Clark County!** But I kept telling myself that this was **Skamania County**

- though just barely — and looked very promising on **Google Maps**.

The property allowed no preseason scouting, but the land adjoined a **Weyerhaeuser** forest on which I had purchased a hiking permit so the pups, and I had spent some time trekking and glassing the place from **Weyerhaeuser's** acreage prior to the turkey season opener.

Everything looked favorable. The private property included a mixture of mature forest interspersed with newly logged clearcuts and some grasslands. Two creeks ran through it on their way to the **Columbia**, and there was a large lake belonging to a camp just across the property line. In addition, powerlines ran through the southern end creating a cleared opening in which I knew turkeys liked to travel. Things looked promising!

Loaded down with bow and broadheads, turkey vest stuffed with a plethora of calls of which I was proficient with none; hen and jake turkey decoys; and **KUIU** gear sufficient to combat any type of weather **Mother Nature** might inflict; I ventured forth full of hope. As I stumbled through the pre-dawn murk, what I could see by light of my headlamp looked very promising. Old elk sign was everywhere.

A cougar had prowled the overgrown logging road along which I groped. Deer sign was plentiful too, but I looked in vain for any turkey droppings. My attempt to reach the power lines was thwarted by a combination of unmapped marsh and blackberry thickets, so I found a clearing, set out my dekes, and began squeaking what I hoped was an irresistible lonely hen call. The sun came up, birds chirped, mosquitoes swarmed, but nary an answer came to my "**irresistible**" call.

(Continued on Page 13)

## News for the Flock

### (Wild Goose (err Turkey) Chase Continued)

After a couple of hours with no answer, I relocated to another promising looking clearing and resumed practicing my lonely hen imitations. The sun blazed higher and hotter. The mosquitoes became more energetic, and I shed layer after layer of **KUIU** gear but nary a lovesick tom responded.

After what seemed like a lifetime and while sweating like a pig in all my **KUIU** garb, I decided to call it a day and lugged all my gear back to the truck. To my surprise, while loading up, another pickup came up the little used dirt road and stopped next to me. The driver asked how I'd done, and I confessed I'd not seen nor heard anything that resembled a turkey.

He then informed me that he and his wife had an abode up this deserted road another half mile or so and that in the 25 years that they'd lived in those woods they had never seen a turkey! "Plenty of grouse", he said, "but no gobblers." Noted.

Guess I should have paid more attention to my **WDFW** friend!

**Editor's Note: Not familiar with KUIU gear? Here's a [link](#) to their website.**

### Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

Hi all.

#### Correct Date for Youth Shoot

Last month I made the mistake of advertising the wrong date for the "**Colton Smith Memorial Youth Shoot.**"

### The event is on the 19th of AUGUST!

On that note, I have received **NO RSVP's** yet... Remember, the event is totally **FREE** for kids under 16 years of age — this includes **FREE** shotgun shells **IF an RSVP is given!** Please let me know if you plan to attend the event. It takes a lot of effort and planning to do an event like this so knowing how many will attend would help out immensely.

Check out the Flyer for this event on **Page 15** which continues to have the correct date — **Saturday, Aug. 19th.**

#### WORK PARTIES!!

We have a few work parties coming up this summer to install three (3) hen houses. The material is all secured. The structures are built. So all we need to do is put them up! We will also be checking and servicing several wood duck nest boxes.

If you can help out with this please let me know. Our volunteer list hasn't grown much lately, so any help is appreciated. I would like to have the volunteers in place before I schedule the work parties!

Thanks to all members that could show up in the past. We are maintaining the nesting program, but without your help, expansion will be difficult! Again, thank you all very much,

Kurt Snyder

[kurtsnyder@outdrs.net](mailto:kurtsnyder@outdrs.net)

### Vancouver Trap Club



11100 NE 76th Street  
Vancouver, WA 98662  
(360) 892-5005

[Vancouver Trap and Gun Club](#)

### Evergreen Sportsmen's Club



12736 Marksman St SW  
Olympia, WA

Open to the Public

West Coast's Premier Shooting Facility

(360) 357-9080

<https://shootevergreen.com>

# News for the Flock

## Southwest Chapter News

### Planning Continues for State Calling Contest

The SW Chapter is back on schedule for a Tuesday, May 30th meeting at the Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club. Once again the main agenda will be continued planning for the scheduled August 5th Washington State Duck Calling Contest to be hosted in Orŕng, WA.

### Discount for Early Registrants

One update, Calling Contest Chairman Bob Taylor will be offering a 50% discount on entrŕe fees for those contestants who register early — before July 31st!

See Flyer on Page 22 Early Registration Form linked from Flyer.

We’re still looking for donations of prizes for the event, and have already secured a shotgun; electronic dog collar, and a matching set of custom made duck and goose calls

See Flyer for donations on Page 23

\*\*\*\*\*

## Wenatchee Chapter News

## Whatcom County Chapter News

## Yakima Valley Chapter News

No News This Month

\*\*\*\*\*

## Spokane Chapter News

WWA has been invited by WDFW to participate in the annual free National Hunting and Fishing Day event (NHFD) for youth and families. This year’s event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 30th at Camp Cowles in Newport, Washington.

WWA has joined in this event twice in the past — complete with the WWA Duck Mount Trailer Display. However both of those occasions were on the West side. Once in September of 2017 at Camp Pigott in Snohomish, and the other in September of 2019 at the Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club in Puyallup.

The WWA Board of Directors has authorized the use of the Duck Mount Trailer to be brought this far East, provided we have enough volunteers to staff the booth. Unfortunately WWA-Spokane Chapter Chair John Rasmussen has a family obligation that weekend and can’t attend. Please contact WWA President Paul McGovern (contact info on page 1 of this Newsletter) if you can volunteer that Saturday.

NHFD uses this event to promote outdoor recreation, safety, conservation, and good stewardship by providing hands-on hunting, fishing and conservation-related experiences and opportunities for youth and their families.

At the event, there will be many educational displays and hands-on activities sponsored by WDFW and other conservation groups and participants. Past activities have included trout fishing, fly tying demonstrations, rod and reel casting practice, flint knapping, and making plaster animal track casts, fish prints, seed balls and butterfly houses.

In addition, youth accompanied by a parent or guardian are invited to participate in shooting sports with department-owned archery equipment, BB-guns, air rifles, .22 rifles, and 20-gauge shotguns. They will receive training, guidance and encouragement from certified Range Safety Officers, Hunter Education Instructors and Master Hunters as well as staff and volunteers from the department’s Hunter Education Program.

All youth attendees will receive a reusable drawstring bag containing several shooting and outdoor safety-related items, informational pamphlets, and will also enjoy door prize drawings and many giveaways provided by local and national retailers.



Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club

16409 Canyon Rd. E.  
Puyallup, WA 98375  
(253) 537-6151  
www.tacomassportsmensclub.com

# News for the Flock



**AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

## **COLTON SMITH MEMORIAL**

**Free youth SHOTGUN EVENT**

**Free** for 15 years of age and under

Get the 2022 waterfowl season off to a great start with this **FREE** youth shot gunning event! Lunch and kids' prizes provided by the *Grays Harbor Chapter of the Washington Waterfowl Association.*

**\*12 Gauge loads provided FREE to the kids that RSVP**

**50 Target Course!**

**Limited instruction for inexperienced shooters.  
Youth should bring their own shotguns.**



**\*Military adults shoot for \$15.00**

**Free** to all  
**kids age 15 and  
under! Parents  
can shoot with  
the kids for a  
\$20.00 target  
fee. \***

**Prizes for all kids!**

**\*RSVP**

**Required to  
get FREE  
shotshells**

**Hosted by the  
Evergreen  
Sportsmen's Club!**

[12736 Marksman St SW,  
Olympia, WA 98512](https://www.evergreen-sportsmen.com)

**RSVP TO;  
KURTSNYDER@OUTDRS.  
NET**

360-485-9353

**August 19, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

## News for the Flock

### Ross Barkhurst, Put his Knowledge, Experience on the Commission

Since at least 2015 **WWA Board** and **Life Member**, **Ross Barkhurst**, has been sounding the alarm about the deteriorating ecosystem in his back yard of **Willapa Bay**. He has previously written extensive articles on this issue in the **WWA Newsletter** — “*Life in the Dead Zone—The 2015 Eelgrass Die Off*” in September of 2015 linked [here](#), and “*Continuing*



*Eelgrass Issues in Willapa Bay Affect Waterfowl*” more recently in January of 2022 and linked [here](#).

The **WDFW Commission** is well acquainted with the science talents of **Ross**. In 2019 used his major degree in **Oceanography** to study and understand circulation and effects of water in **Willapa Bay**. At request of the **WDFW Commission Chair**, **Ross** formed the citizen’s advisory group **Willapa Basin Ecosystem Review Team (WBERT)** which in turn the submitted the “**WBERT Report**” with seven (7) recommendations for habitat improvement in **Willapa Bay** based on the best science available. Unfortunately there was no response by **WDFW** to the **WBERT** reports, and subsequently the waterfowl numbers in **Willapa Bay** have crashed.

**Ross** has frequented **Willapa Bay** since the late 1970’s when he purchased land there. He has lived on the bay full time since his retirement in 2002. Despite his efforts over the years as **Vice Chair** of the **Columbia County Oregon Planning Commission** and serving on the **Pacific County Marine Resource Committee**, he unfortunately has continued to witness the slow, ecological degradation of the bay. “On the **Commission** I would be better able to apply my experience, education, and knowledge not only to **Willapa Bay**, but to the entire **Outer Washington Coast in Toto**,” **Ross** says.

**Education & Employment Background:** Born in March of 1945, **Ross** grew up in southern Oregon; graduated the **US Naval Academy** in 1967 followed by six years in **US Navy Nuclear Submarine Service**. **Ross** spent his civilian working career in the nuclear industry from system engineer at **Trojan Nuclear Plant**; to **Plant Manager** and **Vice President** at the **Waterford Three Nuclear Plant** in Louisiana; to **President** and **CEO** of the **Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp**.

#### **Fishing and Hunting Background:**

**Ross** describes himself as “a conservation and habitat person first — a fishing and waterfowl observation and hunting person, second.” While working in the South, **Ross** was **President of Louisiana Tarpon Club** where he successfully advocated for “*tag and release*” **Tarpon** contests, not just kill and weigh-in.

**Ross** has fished the **Lower Columbia River**, **Multnomah Channel**, and **Willamette River** “since age 15.” While stationed in **Idaho** in the **Navy**, **Ross** learned a lot about **Sage Grouse** and other upland birds “which need to be kept in the **Commission’s** mind in **Eastern WA**,” he says.

Please take a few moments to express your support of **Ross** to the **Fish and Wildlife Commission** using the **WA State Government Portal** linked [here](#). Click on **Fish and Wildlife Commission**, then follow the prompts. When it asks for the Applicant’s email address, **Ross** has given his consent to use his email at: [rp.barkhurst@hotmail.com](mailto:rp.barkhurst@hotmail.com)

## News for the Flock

### Update on Habitat Issues in the Willapa Bay Estuary

By Ross Barkhurst

**Editor's Note: The following is input from Ross to the WDFW Fish Committee on May 23rd.**

Since the **Willapa Basin Ecosystem Review Team (WBERT)** reported to the **Commission** several years ago, there has been no response, and no action, where called for. It is now clear that the **Einstein** definition of insanity (you keep repeating the same thing expecting a different result) is not appropriate here. What we have experienced is different.

The **Department** and past **Fish Committee** leadership has repeatedly degraded and repeated the same approach in the past, and were satisfied with the same results. The involvement of non-commercial minded advisors in policy creation and implementation was a problem with this approach. So the Advisors were eliminated. When the **Commission** asked **Ron Warren** why, he responded with words to the effect "that the advisors were getting older, and he had developed a way of getting a lot more input from the public via **North of Falcon (NOF)**."

We are getting older, as is **Mr Warren** — who is now getting TWO paychecks (retirement and consultant) — to advise on implementation of **Hatchery Policy**, so we understand. And of course he and previous **Fish Committee** leadership were instrumental in **Removing Best Available Science** from the **Hatchery Policy!** Replaced with "**defensible science.**" In other words, the public may think this is a conservation train wreck, and they [the **Fish Committee**] would be happy to fight with the public over the wreckage.

The **pHOS** and **pNOB** acid disasters for **Chinook** in **Willapa Bay** are well documented, and nothing is being changed to resolve it. The same **pHOS** and **pNOB** acid disasters for **Chinook** are well documented in the **Nasalle River** drainage — where highest wild Chinook goals exist — and nothing is being done to resolve it. Most of that river is closed to the only method of selective harvest — sport fishing. Hatchery management knows the new weir will not fix this. The **Johnson Creek** experience shows **pNOB** acid is even more key than **pHOS** acid, and this is hopeless under any **Willapa** scenarios contemplated.

I have attended all hearings re **Willapa** eelgrass spraying, and **WDFW** has expressed no concerns about

continuing to spray vegetation. Every year the flats are browner, and so-called "protected" **Z marina eelgrass** is more diseased where not gone altogether.

The **Habitat Committee** needs to get aggressive over **estuarine Willapa Habitat**. It is an unmitigated disaster! I have attended some **NOF** meetings since **Ron Warren** claimed more public input, and the opposite is true. The first **Willapa NOF** had one conservation and sport fisher speak other than myself. He was told he had sent a detailed complaint to the **Commission** and would not be allowed to discuss that in **NOF!** These meetings are routinely ended before the allotted time is up, even with hands still raised.

**WDFW** has no problem with spraying vegetation in herring spawning beds. As you know herring spawning mass has gone from over 400 tons to **zero** in our [Willapa] estuary! I can document loss of major **Z marina** beds, and have pictures. When **US District Court** found **Army Corps [of Engineers]** shell fish permits illegal, they were ordered to check with **WDFW** regularly to ask about any illegal loss of ecological function under any new permit. Have they checked? What were they told?

When I asked what areas were sprayed the last three years and who sprayed them, I was told by **Ecology** to **Freedom of Information (FOIA)** it! I only asked because they removed that info from their website where it was always reported.

This May the **Nemah Flats** and others North are the brownest I have ever seen in May in 40 years. Sediment transport has become a major problem, and we can no longer grow oysters on bottom in our commercial bed at **Nemah**.

In the **Ocean Shores** meeting, the former **Fish Committee** leader stated that I had talked with the **Conservation Director** and resolved my issues. This was totally false! None have been resolved and now sediment transport is off the scale. [The herbicide] **Imazamox** has a two-year half life in sediment, documented, and goes everywhere on the high-energy **eastside of bay**, which previously teamed with birds including waterfowl.

The green crab explosion, where their young prey has no place to hide, should be no puzzle. The **US District Court** has finally taken action to shut down the **SW Alaska** commercial take of **Chinook** going forward. Now, more of our larger wild **Chinook** can make it **south to WA and OR**. Without a **Department** sea change in salmon management, including harvest and habitat, results will be negligible.

(Continued on Page 18)

## News for the Flock

### Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show Returns to Astoria

By Brett Stark  
WWA Life Member

I have been working with **Rick Pass**, Host of the **Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show** to attempt to bring in some additional decoy collectors/carvers/hobbyists for the **Wildlife Carving Competition and Art Festival**, to be held September 22 - 24th, in Astoria, OR. Link to the Show's website [here](#).

For those of you that attended their move and first show in **Astoria** last summer, I'm sure you'd agree that they did a really nice job. For 2023, they'd like to do things bigger and better, and this is where you all come in.

Like a phoenix — the immortal bird — the **NW Decoy Collectors** group will be returning to the **Wildlife Show**. Begun in 1972 as an annual backyard get-together with a bunch of hobbyist collectors, the group grew into an annual showing of 50-plus collectors from all across **North America**. Officially running for 40 shows, which ended in 2014, many members of our decoy community have continued to collect and carve.

While many members continue to support and show their wares at other waterfowl associations, we would like to reemerge and announce a larger 41st gathering. We are anticipating space for 30 hobbyists, so please contact me if you are interested.

In order to support the **Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show**, we will have a fee for a 6-foot table for the show. Realizing that people may be traveling long-distances, and likely couldn't stay the whole time we have broken up fees as follows:

1. All Three Days - \$50\*
2. Friday - **FREE**\*
3. Saturday ONLY - \$30
4. Sunday ONLY - \$20

\*There will be carving seminars on Friday, and you are welcome to set-up, but the public is not likely to attend until Sat/Sun.

\*Additional Show Programming and Timing will be updated regularly on the shows website again linked [here](#).

There will also be a show hotel with a special rate (still being coordinated), at the **Holiday Inn Express & Suites Astoria, an IHG Hotel**  
**204 W Marine Dr, Astoria, OR 97103**  
**(503) 325-6222**

This hotel is downtown and approximately a 10-minute drive to the Fairgrounds.

If you are interested in having a table, please let me know. I am coordinating room layout and collection of fees for the decoy collection portion of this event.

See Flyer on adjacent **Page 19** for more information.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in September.

**Brett Stark**  
**(206) 963-8800**  
[NWDecoy@gmail.com](mailto:NWDecoy@gmail.com)

### (Willapa Bay Update Continued)

#### Non-Selective Fishery a Major Problem

I have to mention the major problem — well reported and highly ignored — with gillnet gear rule enforcement. It seems clear officers have been signalled by management not to act on excess cork line length and or set netting. Each year this can be observed from downtown **South Bend** from your vehicle on main street! I now have pictures of boats set netting on my wife's and my private ground in the **Willapa River**, above and below the **South Bend** boat ramp. This is well documented in **Grays Harbor** by others also.

Can the **Commission** please order the **Director** to stop it? Really?

Thanks for your kind attention.

**Ross P. Barkhurst,**  
**South Bend, WA**

**COLUMBIA FLYWAY  
WILDLIFE SHOW  
ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS THE  
34TH ANNUAL  
WILDLIFE CARVING COMPETITION  
&**

**ART FESTIVAL**

AKA COLUMBIA FLYWAY WILDLIFE SHOW

**SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2023**

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ASTORIA, OREGON



**HOME OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SINGLE WORKING  
DECOY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*The Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show Association is a  
501-3(c) Federal Non-Profit Corporation (EIN 88-2533281)  
and an Oregon Non-profit*

## WDFW News

# WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife LGBT Pride Tweet Saved My Life

By Jason Rantz

Shared from The Jason Rantz FB Show Page on AM 770 KTTH Radio, Seattle

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's LGBT Pride tweet saved my life. And its leaders deserve the credit they're so desperately asking for.

Many of you don't know this about me. But I never felt comfortable being outdoors. Sure, the idea of sweating and panting through a hike while hoping I don't get an asthma attack sounds awful. And I think I'd vomit if I had to put live bait on a hook before casting a line (or a rod, or whatever that fishing thing is called) into the waters. But I've always wanted to be one with nature. I just never felt like I belonged because I'm gay. Thankfully, that's all changed.

The **WDFW** posted a tweet that changed everything, single-handedly telling me what I never knew: everyone belongs outdoors!

**LGBT Pride** tweet tells me I can go outdoors. I did not know that I, as a gay man, belonged outdoors.

I always thought the outdoors was an exclusive space for straight (and white!) people. After all, we live in a heteronormative culture. It's steeped in heterosexual supremacy thanks to the patriarchy or some other progressive buzzword that proves I'm woke on social justice causes. Surely, I couldn't go hiking as a gay man! The second I'd take a foot on a trail, I'd be hounded by **Westboro Baptist Church** protestors or be chased by a homophobic squirrel.

But thanks to the **WDFW**, I now know that I belong because of a virtue signaling, pandering tweet posted solely to be a part of a movement proving the department is run by inclusive staff members who care about me solely because of my sexual orientation.



Instead of being insulted with anti-gay slurs while hiking, I'll only have to suffer through anti-conservative insults and anti-Semitic attacks (I mean, I do live in **Seattle**).

Nature is therapeutic and contributes to a happy and healthy life. I think I can honestly say that I owe my life and well-being to **WDFW** (for at least the month of June when they pander to me).

### Let the Pandering Begin

June marks the start of **LGBT Pride** around the country when corporations change logos to look like the rainbow flag, straight politicians don "**Love is Love**" t-shirts, and government workers take over its social media channels to declare their support for the **LGBT** community.

It's easy to dismiss these logo updates and proclamations as a way to give like-minded corporations our business and earn social currency. But you'd be foolish to think this is merely a way to get attention. After all, they care for a full month. Frankly, it's offensive to assume these companies, politicians, and government agencies don't care about the **LGBT** community for the 11 months out of the year when they don't suddenly turn into Pride-themed brands.

I'm also grateful for the politicians who tell me that they care during **LGBT Pride**. Their messages are brave. Sure, they could just care about the community without demanding attention for caring about the community, effectively begging for credit and implying I wouldn't have rights if not for their activism, but that wouldn't be meaningful, would it?

## WDFW News Continued

### Complete Hunter Ed Before Fall

OLYMPIA The **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)** reminds hunters to complete mandatory hunter education courses before the fall hunting seasons.

"Hunter education courses in the fall fill quickly with people trying to certify before their chosen hunting seasons," said **Dave Whipple, WDFW Hunter Education Section Manager**. "We encourage hunters to register for a course sooner, ideally over the summer, instead of rushing to complete the requirement shortly before the seasons open."

**WDFW discontinued its fully remote hunter education courses effective June 1.**

The **Department** offers fully in-person hunter education courses as well as hybrid courses that combine online and in-person learning. The traditional classroom course, which is typically taught over multiple evenings and includes a field portion, is highly recommended for students seeking a valuable classroom experience.

The hybrid course combines successful completion of an online course followed by a field skills evaluation where students receive hands-on training and evaluation by certified instructors.

Per Washington state law, all hunters born after Jan. 1, 1972 must complete a hunter education course in order to buy a hunting license. A hunter education deferral is available for hunters 10 years of age and older who want to try hunting with an eligible licensed hunter before completing a hunter education course themselves.

To learn about hunter education requirements and find an upcoming course near you, please visit the **WDFW** hunter education website.

### Applications Open for Positions on Waterfowl Advisory Group (WAG)

OLYMPIA **WDFW** is accepting nominations to a citizen advisory group that advises the **Department** on waterfowl management issues.

This group provides important input on waterfowl hunting regulations, public lands access, and wetland enhancement projects funded by the state duck stamp." said **Kyle Spragens, WDFW Waterfowl Section Manager**. "

**WDFW Director Kelly Susewind** will appoint members to the **WDFW Waterfowl Advisory Group (WWAG)** for three-year terms beginning Aug.1, 2023.

The **WAG** holds at least one single-day meeting each year. Members are eligible to be reimbursed by **WDFW** for travel expenses to attend meetings.

**The application deadline is June 30 at 5 p.m. To apply, fill out the application available on the WWAG website linked [here](#).**

Completed applications can be submitted to **Kyle Spragens** via electronic or postal mail:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
ATTN: Kyle Spragens  
P.O. Box 43141  
Olympia, WA 98504  
[kyle.spragens@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:kyle.spragens@dfw.wa.gov)

### WDFW Opens Public Input to Begin Three-Year Hunting Season Planning

OLYMPIA – Members of the public are invited to weigh in on longer-term hunting season planning as **WDFW** begins its latest three-year season setting effort. Comments received during an ongoing scoping period will be used to inform game managers about changes the public would like to see to hunting seasons in 2024–2026.

**The current scoping period begins June 15 and ends July 2.**

Comments may be submitted online through **WDFW's** public scoping survey, via email, or via voicemail by calling 855-925-2801 and entering code 2576. Written comments may also be mailed to:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Wildlife Program  
PO Box 43200  
Olympia, WA 98504

Three-year season setting is an in-depth rule making process that allows **WDFW** to propose and collect public feedback on changes to Washington hunting laws. In between three-year rule making cycles, annual season setting allows the **Department** to propose minor season changes or changes due to emerging needs.

The **Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission** sets hunting seasons based on public input and staff recommendations.

## News for the Flock

**Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

9:00 a.m. Registration  
Download Entry Form [here](#)  
10:00 a.m. Competition Begins  
at Orting Station



101 Washington Avenue NW  
Orting, WA 98360

### The 2023 Washington State Duck and Goose Calling Championships

*Email Registration Form to [bobtaylor15@icloud.com](mailto:bobtaylor15@icloud.com) Before August 1st for Half Off Registration Fee!*

Kids 12 and Under Duck – **FREE** (do NOT need to pre-register)  
Novice Duck – 13 and up (have not previously competed) -- \$25  
Washington State Sanction Duck -- \$50  
Open Goose -- \$40

**\*\*\* AMAZING 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE PRIZES \*\*\***

**Washington State Sanction Winner will receive \$1,000 for travel to World Championships**

**Fun Audience Participation Event: Old Coot (Decoy) Toss for MAD \$\$\$!! Youth & Adult Opportunity!**

**Any Questions, Please Contact:**

Rob Strong at [ruckusoutfitters@yahoo.com](mailto:ruckusoutfitters@yahoo.com) (206) 714-0178

**OR**

Bob Taylor at [bobtaylor13@icloud.com](mailto:bobtaylor13@icloud.com) (360)798-5342

Food and Drinks will be Available On Site

**Hosted By:**

Washington Waterfowl Association – Southwest Chapter  
Chairman, Bruce Burns: (253) 961-8802

## News for the Flock

### Washington State 2023 Sanctioned Duck and Goose Calling Championships



**Where:** Orting Station, 101 Washington Avenue NW, Orting, Washington 98360

**When:** Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Notes:** Four contests: Kids under 12, Novice Duck Calling (have not previously competed), Washington State Sanctioned Duck Calling (winner goes to Stuttgart, Arkansas, to compete in the World's Championship), and Open Goose Calling.

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in all classes are awarded prizes to be disclosed prior to the contest.

Our State's champ will receive \$1,000 to help defray costs in attending the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart, Arkansas.

Contest hosted by the **Washington Waterfowl Association**.

**Why we're asking for donations:** The **Washington Waterfowl Association** stands all costs for this contest and the event's success is dependent on the generous contributions of those wishing to help with our conservation efforts and to instill a love of nature in our folk. We are a 501(c)(3) Non-profit. Your donations are tax-deductible, and we will gladly issue a Tax Receipt upon request. In addition, all donations will be recognized during the contest and in our newsletter. Our motto is "Hunters for Conservation" to which we've been true for 77 years.

**How To Donate:** please contact: **Bruce Burns** ~ (253) 961-8802

[bwburns36@gmail.com](mailto:bwburns36@gmail.com) or **Bob Taylor** ~ (360) 798-534 [bobtaylor15@icloud.com](mailto:bobtaylor15@icloud.com)

## News for the Flock

### 2023 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print

Washington Waterfowl Association is pleased to present the 2023-24  
Washington State Migratory Bird Stamp  
and  
Limited Edition Print

Artist John N. Harris



Revenue received through this program will be used by the Washington Waterfowl Association (WWA) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to improve habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds in Washington.

To order your print[s] and accompanying stamps, please complete the application on the adjacent page and send with a check to:

WASHINGTON WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION  
DUCK STAMP PROGRAM  
P.O. BOX 7823  
BONNEY LAKE, WA 98391

# News for the Flock

## 2023 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print Order Form

Please send me:

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ 2023 Signed & numbered print with matching stamp \$70.00



Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Frame (ONLY SOLD WITH PURCHASE OF PRINT & STAMP) \$105.00

If available, the edition number(s) I would like are: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Ship Prints to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2023 Signed & numbered print with matching stamp	\$	70.00
Frame (ONLY SOLD WITH PURCHASE OF PRINT & STAMP)	\$	105.00
Shipping & Handling	\$	10.00
<b>Total Amount:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>185.00</b>

Easier Yet  
 Go To The Active Link Below  
<https://www.washingtonduckstamp.com/shop>  
 To Place Your Order

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renew Online at [www.waduck.org](http://www.waduck.org)

If you have not received your membership card or decal. Please contact **Mark**. As well, if you have questions or changes to your address please contact **Mark Pidgeon** at [marpwwa@gmail.com](mailto:marpwwa@gmail.com) or call 425-221-3986.

P-Platinum Level — \$5,000; G-Gold Level — \$2,000; S-Silver Level — \$1,000; B-Bronze Level — \$500

H-Honorary Member; D-Deceased

### WWA Life Members

#1 Gary Talbert P	#2 Paul Bunn S	#3 Austin Addicoat S	#4 Rone Brewer S	#5 Fritz Kiemle S
#6 Jim Cortines S	#7 Neco Villella S	#8 Roger Bennett S	#9 Bruce Feagan S	#10 Larry Gordon S D
#11 Rich Greenshields S	#12 Mike Lovelace S	#13 Larry Voeks D	#14 Jack Westerfield S	#15 Bud Hufnagel S
#16 John Arrabito S	#17 Jenny Lutz P	#18 Mike Lutz P	#19 Reserved on Time Payments	#20 Brett Stark S
#21 Earl Mikkelson S	#22 US Rep Jaime Herrera Beutler H	#23 Ken Packard P	#24 Jan Sabin S	#25 Lance Kintrea
#26 Jim Kline	#27 Leon Kollman	#28 Derek Melton S	#29 Dan Stearns S	#30 John Hanson
#31 Mark Hackett	#32 Logan Sanday	#33 Mickey Clary	#34 John Otto P	#35 Jason Otto P
#36 Doug Graef S D	#37 Robb Stack P	#38 Rod Boyer	#39 Paul Sullivan	#40 Jessica Dunn Kant
#41 Dave Farley	#42 Will Goldsmith	#43 Shaunie Cochran	#44 Claudean Talbert	#45 William Dunlap S
#46 Analise Arrabito	#47 Robert Zeka	#48 Ron Watkins D	#49 Ken Boyer S	#50 Henry Field
#51 Ric Wray	#52 Rich Phillips	#53 Ross Barkhurst S	#54 Michael Bess	#55 In Memory of Anne Grichuhin
#56 Frank Gallo S	#57 David Irons S	#58 David Ragsdale	#59 Tim Koehler G	#60 Brad Davis
#61 James Ono	#62 Ann Bullard	#63 Vance Boyer	#64 Albert O'Connor	#65 Dick Smith
#66 Marc Bruno	#67 Todd Teeters	#68 Bob Taylor S	#69 Jon McAninch P	#70 Colonel Thomas O'Dell

## History of WWA Life Membership

In February of 2010 **WWA** first established a Life Membership program with two (2) levels of Life Membership – *Regular* at \$500 (with the emolument of a **WWA** logo'd belt buckle); and *Sustaining* at \$750 (with the emolument of a **WWA** embroidered Life Member jacket).

Effective June 1, 2021, **WWA** converted its Life Membership Program to three (3) different levels of Life Membership acknowledging that **ALL WWA** Life members are "*Sustaining*" to the organization. Those three (3) new levels along with their respective emoluments are:

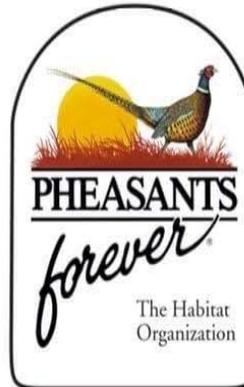
**Bronze Level Life Membership — \$500.00 (USD)**  
Includes one **WWA** Logo'd Belt Buckle **OR** one **Pacific Calls WWA** Logo'd Duck Call.

**Silver Level Life Membership — \$1,000.00 (USD)**  
Includes one **Pacific Calls WWA** Logo'd Duck Call **AND** one **WWA** Logo'd embroidered "Life Member" Jacket.

**Gold Level Life Membership — \$2,000.00 (USD)**  
Includes one **Pacific Calls WWA** Logo'd Duck Call, **AND** one **WWA** Logo'd embroidered "Life Member" Jacket, **AND** one guided Duck or Goose hunt for one.

At its monthly meeting of May 4, 2022 — at the request of **Gold Life Member Benefactor**, the **WWA Board of Directors** voted unanimously to create a **new Platinum Life Membership** at the \$5,000 level. **The Benefactor** then immediately donated of \$7,000 to **WWA** to establish a **Life Membership Endowment Fund** challenging existing **WWA** members to step up and become new Life Members at any level, and the Fund will pay the first \$200!

## News for the Flock



### Save the Date

## Pheasant Forever Inland Empire Chapter #800 Annual Sporting Clay Habitat Fundraiser

Shoot sporting clays for a good cause!

**Cost:** \$100 per shooter, 100 targets, lunch included

**When:** July 15, 2023 registration 8am to 9am

**Location:** Landt Farms Sporting Clays  
11829 North Landt Farms Lane, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026

**Prizes:** Win a Henry Golden Boy plus other great raffle prizes

**Games:** 50/50 cash split, 410 GA shooting challenge

Contact Ed Cushman at [edcushman60@gmail.com](mailto:edcushman60@gmail.com) or 509-939-8242  
for questions and to pre-register



## News for the Flock

The **WWA** is based on volunteer efforts and donations from folks that care about the waterfowl hunting heritage. Our success rides on the shoulders of these volunteers and generous benefactors. Below in **red** is a listing of recent contributions to the four (4) primary dedicated funds established by the **WWA** since publication of the **May 2023 Newsletter**.

**WWA General Fund — \$1,882**

**WWA Habitat Fund — \$1,640**

**WWA Legal Fund — \$21,753.52**

**WWA Youth Fund — \$2,810**

You can contribute in so many ways to the **WWA**, from locally in your Chapter, to statewide, helping the **WWA** carry on! Many donations are tax deductible.

## TWIN RIVERS BIRD TAXIDERMISTRY

Basic quotes for the mount are set. The customer is tasked with deciding a habitat and pose for their bird and a final quote can be decided once the habitat scene is narrowed down.

Bases are entirely custom, and the cost is also custom, by quote only!

Regular prices for the bird mount only (**without a base**) are:

- Duck mount is \$350.
- Seaducks & Mergansers are \$380.
- Goose mount is \$500.
- One pheasant mount is \$320.

### Other Terms and Conditions:

- Bird sent in before Thanksgiving **NEED TO BE FROZEN** and **SHIPPED OVERNIGHT**. Afterwards two (2) day mail is OK.
- Birds **MUST** be placed in double ziplocks, with a filled out federal tag in the outer bag, so as not to leak ink.
- A list of other requirements will be sent and is to be signed by the hunter **PRIOR TO** any shipping and engagement of my services.
- I will not be held responsible for a bird that is lost to rot, extensive damage, heavy amounts of pinfeathers, dog bite or slobber damage, freezer burn nor any other damage caused by improper storage by the hunter prior to my receipt of the bird.



Pair of Gadwals

# Support These Businesses That Support WWA

## Seattle Chapter Banquet Sponsors and Donors



**Wing Beat Outfitters, LLC**

[www.wingbeatoutfitters.com](http://www.wingbeatoutfitters.com)  
 509-793-6216  
[wingbeatoutfitters@gmail.com](mailto:wingbeatoutfitters@gmail.com)

BOOKING GOOSE HUNTS NOW FOR THE 2023/2024 SEASON!

Instagram, Facebook, TikTok icons

**GUN DOG SUPPLY**  
 "We train our dogs with the products we sell."  
 1-800-624-6378

**FE**

**FRY ENTERPRISES, LLC**

**Dive Bomb INDUSTRIES**

**BLUE SKIES DRONES**

# Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

## Wanted



WANTED shotgun for new duck hunter.  
 Contact Bryan, 253-590-3301

## FREE WWA Classifieds

WWA is dedicating a page in the newsletter for WWA Members to sell hunting related items to their fellow members. **No business ads please.** That extra shotgun, waders, decoys or boat could get you some cash or trade for something another member has on hand.

### Rules are simple:

- 25 words or less.
- Members only may advertise.
- Wanted and For Sale items only, not for business ads.
- Submit your classified ad each month (*we have no way of knowing if you sold/purchased your item or not*).
- Include your contact info. Phone and/or email.

Check out this active [link](#) to a reputable FB Site "Youth Waterfowl Gear, Reviews, Swap and Sell"

## For Sale

Kershaw Volt Stainless Steel Speed Safe Knife. Brand new and in great condition. Asking \$60;  
 Contact Bradley at 360-941-9903

(Below) Used Beavertail 1600 Series Boat Blind w/grass. The blind was installed and used 2 or 3 times. Stored under cover in garage. Meet up in the PDX / Vancouver area. Price Drop \$500 – \$450  
 Contact John at 503-502-2184



HP Nissan short shaft outboard. Only 10 hrs, \$650  
 Contact Dan, 425-286-7768



## Classified Ads – For Sale



Franchi Affinity, 20 ga, 26" barrel. Almost new, in box. All chokes. List price \$850 asking \$600

Contact Linda, 360-273-5886

### Estate Sale Firearms

Two Winchester Model 12 pumps in 12 ga. One manufactured in 1921 with a 32" barrel, Full Choke for \$295  
2nd gun was manufactured in 1962 with a 29" barrel, now IC bore, \$400

Citori Feather Lightning 12 ga. Magnum w/ 26" barrels, *Invictor* chokes and hard case, \$1700

Browning S x S 12 ga. Magnum w/ 26" barrels. IC/MOD \$1700

Benelli Montefeltro, 20 ga. auto, near new, excellent condition, \$900

Beretta Silver Pigeon I in 20 ga., 5 chokes, excellent condition, \$1700

Americase aluminum double gun case for 2 take-down shotguns.  
Sturdy, nice compartments, excellent condition. \$220

For all firearms listed above, FFL Legal Transfer Only, Contact Robb, 206-940-7777



- Five Herter's foam goose field decoys.
- One Herter's foam mallard field decoy.
- Bases included.
- \$50.00 OBO!

Contact Kurt, 360-485-9353

## News for the Flock

### In Memoriam



If you have someone you would like to honor in this column, please contact newsletter editor John Arrabito ([jarrabito@comcast.net](mailto:jarrabito@comcast.net)) before the 12th of the month you would like the memorial to appear.

We would prefer a note written by the contributor.

A picture is also requested.

There is no charge for this service, but donations at your discretion are always appreciated.



### Photograph of the Month



From Adam Steele, of Pasco, WA

Photo of BWT taken at McNary National Wildlife Refuge, Spring 2023.

# Thanks for Your Support

## TREASURER'S REPORT

At its February 27, 2018 Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting, the WWA Board voted to stop publishing our monthly financial report in the Newsletter which is available to the general public on our website [[www.waduck.org](http://www.waduck.org)].

However, in an effort to maintain and continue our history of financial transparency with respect to our membership, the monthly Treasurer's Report will be emailed to not only the BOD, but also to each and every Chapter Chairman to be made available for inspection and review by the Chapter membership or any individual Chapter member in good standing with dues paid current at any regularly scheduled Chapter Meeting.

Summary of Washington Hunting Seasons are Linked [Here](#).



**OLD SKAGIT GUN CLUB**  
 14933 Josh-Wilson Rd  
 Burlington WA 98233  
 (360) 757-4326



**Dane Widen**  
 (360) 424-9234  
 dw687eell@msn.com



## WWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone Contact: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type:

- Family (immediate family up to age 18) — \$ 35.00
  - Regular — \$ 30.00
  - Bronze Lifetime\* — \$ 500.00 (New, 6/1/2021)**
  - Silver Lifetime\* — \$ 1,000.00 (New, 6/1/2021)**
  - Gold Lifetime\* — \$ 2,000.00 (New, 6/1/2021)**
  - Platinum Lifetime\* — \$ 5,000.00 (New, 5/4/2022)**
  - \*\* Please check box if you do not wish to receive a gift.**
  - Senior (65 or over) - \$ 15.00
  - Junior (under age 18) -- \$ 15.00
  - 2-Year Regular \$ 50.00
  - 2-Year Family \$ 60.00
- (2-year memberships NOT available online)

### Chapter & Newsletter: (Please specify your preferences)

Newsletter by  email or  hard copy

- Grays Harbor/Chehalis Valley Chapter** meets the 1st Thursday of the month (Feb – Oct) at the **Evergreen Sportsmen’s Club**, 12736 Marksman Road, SW, Olympia.
- Kitsap Peninsula Chapter — VACANT**
- Lower Columbia Chapter** meets the last Thursday of the month (Jan – Oct) at the **Vancouver Trap Club**, 11100 NE 76th Street in Vancouver.
- Moses Lake Chapter** – Dates and Places Quarterly TBD.
- Northwest Chapter** meets year round the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the **Twin City Sportsmen’s Club**, 26933 64th Avenue NW in Stanwood.
- Peninsula Chapter — VACANT**
- Seattle Chapter** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month (Jan – Oct) at **Kenmore Shotgun Range**, 1031 – 228<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Bothell.
- Southwest Chapter** meets on the last Tuesday of the month (Feb – Sept) at the **Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club**, 16409 Canyon Road E., Puyallup.
- Spokane Chapter** — Dates and Places TBD.
- Tri Cities Chapter — VACANT**
- Wenatchee Chapter** – Dates and Places TBD.
- Whatcom County Chapter** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the of the month (Jan – Nov.) at **Ferndale Public Library**, 2125 Main Street in Ferndale.
- Yakima Valley Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.

Pay with a credit card from our website:

[www.waduck.org](http://www.waduck.org)

or

Mail with a check to:

**WWA,**  
P.O. Box 40182  
Bellevue, WA 98015

### A few facts about the WWA:

- Established in 1945
- Non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
- Nine (9) active chapters throughout Washington
- We spend all of our resources within Washington State

### Our projects include:

- Working on behalf of Hunter’s Rights issues to keep public access open and available
- Administration of the WA Migratory Bird Stamp and Print Program
- Hosting and sponsoring the Washington State Duck Calling Championships
- Wood Duck Nest Box & Mallard Nest Tube, Goose Nest Pot & platform construction, installation, & maintenance
- Working with the Boy Scouts of America on Eagle Scout projects
- Hosting Youth Mentor shotgun shooting one-on-one instruction events
- Conducting Hunter Mentor one-on-one waterfowl hunting activities for those new to the sport
- Conducting NRA sanctioned Hunter Education classes for Youth & donation of funds to offset WDFW printing costs for youth gun safety classes
- Donation of funds to support high school shooting teams in Washington
- Teaching adults and youth, decoy carving arts
- Working with thousands of children at Sportsmens’ Shows painting decoys, and with seriously ill youngsters on a decoy painting project
- Providing full scholarships for boys and girls to attend a week at Youth Conservation Camp on Orcas Island, WA
- Working with the WDFW in the creation of premium quality waterfowling hunt areas
- Building and rehabilitating blinds in public hunting areas
- Distribution and planting of thousands of pounds of donated corn seed for waterfowl consumption
- Working with the Yakama Tribe in banding upland birds and waterfowl, and building duck “blinds” on tribal lands
- Goose and duck nest counts and banding of both with the WDFW and USFWS
- Working with the WDFW on dove counts & planting WDFW food plots in Eastern WA with WWA owned tractor and farming implements
- Sponsoring of the Annual NW Decoy Collector’s Show
- Participating in multiple Sportsmens’ Shows annually
- Donation of funds and volunteer man hours for Swan Mortality Mitigation Studies
- Donation of funds and volunteer man hours to WDFW for goose banding and satellite tracking
- Litter pickup projects at public hunting areas, boat ramps, and along highways; and conducting multiple fund raising banquets annually to pay for all of these “hands on, boots on the ground” conservation projects.