

# Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

501(c)(3) tax exempt

ESTABLISHED 1945

Volume 32, Issue 10 Find us @ [www.washingtonwaterfowl.org](http://www.washingtonwaterfowl.org) & [www.waduck.org](http://www.waduck.org)

OCTOBER 15, 2023



P.O. Box 40182  
Bellevue, WA 98015

## Letter from the President



### CORPORATE OFFICERS

Paul McGovern, President (425) 361-5050  
Mark Pidgeon, VP (425) 221-3986  
Bob Taylor, Secretary (360) 798-5342  
John Arrabito, Treasurer (425) 894-4080

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ross Barkhurst (GH) (360) 875-5080  
Rick Billieu (NW) (360) 653-8571  
Ken Boyer (SEA) (425) 830-5067  
Bruce Burns (SW) (253) 961-8802  
Bruce Feagan (ML) (206) 714-8020  
Al O'Connor (LC) (360) 907-9244  
Dick Price (ML) (509) 762-9027  
Kurt Snyder (GH) (360) 485-9353  
William Walker (WH) (360) 421-5052

### CHAPTER CONTACTS

#### Grays Harbor Chapter

Chair Kurt Snyder (360) 485-9353

#### Kitsap Peninsula Chapter

Chair **VACANT**

#### Lower Columbia Chapter

**NEW** Chair Michael Andreotti (360) 241-8742

#### Moses Lake Chapter

Chair Bruce Feagan (206) 714-8020  
Proj. Coord. Dick Price (509) 762-9027

#### Northwest Chapter

Chair Rick Billieu (360) 653-8571

#### Seattle Chapter

Chair James Ono (425) 233-5936

#### Southwest Chapter

Chair Bruce Burns (253) 961-8802

#### Spokane Chapter

**NEW** Chair John Rasmussen (509) 833-0163

#### Wenatchee Chapter

Chair Cameron Way (425) 941-7853

#### Whatcom Chapter

Chair Lyle Galloway (360) 201-1775

#### Yakima Valley Chapter

Chair Marcus Leuck (509) 899-7284

### Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

I just returned back from a long drive to shoot some **Miller Ranch Preserve** pheasants with my sons, **Jacob and Dylan**. I had the winning bid at this year's westside **Pheasants Forever Banquet** and took the hunt for 2 and added one more so all the **McGovern** crew could go.

My two GSP pointers did great as my 5-month-old pup, **Widge**, chased after the 3-year old, **Mabel**, and we all had a fun time. **Mabel** had some solid points and some very impressive retrieves. There's nothing like watching good bird dogs working for your game.

We also scared up some grouse this month too, but those buggers always get me and flush behind a tree. I'm excited for the duck season opener as I write this and am looking forward to some more upcoming eastside hunting trips. I should get an apartment over there with these gas prices. lol

Check out the article on **Pages 16 & 17** where I report on my September trip to **Astoria** for the **Columbia Flyway Art Show**. I had fun there in **Oregon** and managed to only buy one carving (see photo of the **Egret** carving accompanying that article).

Also check out **Page 10** with the article on the **National Hunting and Fishing Day** event that my son **Jacob** attended September 30th at **Camp Cowles in Newport, WA** with the **WWA Duck Mount Display Trailer** — all in support of the **WWA-Spokane Chapter**.

### We're Still Looking for More Mentors

If anyone can help out and mentor some new hunters this season, please send an email to me at [hans1031@frontier.com](mailto:hans1031@frontier.com). We have great waterfowl in **Washington** and the future is in the hands of the new hunters. They need to be trained correctly on both hunting prowess and hunting ethics! See Flyer on **Page 11**.

(Continued on Page 2)

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

## News for the Flock

### 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

Sat, Oct 14-22	Statewide Duck Opening Days
Sat, Oct 21	Eastside Pheasant Opening Day
Weds, Oct 25	Seattle Chapter Meeting Kenmore Gun Club; Shooting with the public from 5 pm, business meeting with Pizza and soft drinks at 7 pm.
Oct 25—Jan 28, 2024	Resumption of Duck Season
Thurs, Oct 26	Moses Lake Chapter Quarterly Meeting; 6 pm at the O'Sullivan Sportsman Resort
Thurs, Oct 26	Lower Columbia Chapter Meeting at 6 pm, at the Vancouver Trap and Gun Club
Tues, Oct 31	<b>NO SW Chapter Meeting this month! Next meeting is not until Feb 27th.</b>
Weds, Nov 1	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, Nov 2	<b>NO Grays Harbor Chapter Meeting Next Meeting Thursday, Feb 1, 2024</b> Evergreen Sportsmen's Club
Sat and Sun Nov 4-5	Seattle Chapter Group Hunt at Potholes Reservoir. See Seattle Chapter News on <a href="#">Page 3</a>
Weds, Nov 8	NW Chapter Meeting Twin Cities Sportsmens Club; Shooting at 6 pm; business meeting at 7 pm.
Tues, Nov 14	Whatcom County Chapter Meeting, Ferndale Public Library at 6 pm.

### IN THIS EDITION

(Click on the Page Number[s] for Active [Links](#) to be immediately directed to the page of your choice)

Pages <b>4 &amp; 6</b>	NW Chapter's Youth Shoot Report
Page <b>7</b>	ML Chapter's Youth Shoot Report
Page <b>10</b>	National Hunt / Fish Day Report
Page <b>11</b>	WWA 2023 Hunter Mentor Flyer
Pages <b>12 &amp; 13</b>	Legislative Report
Page <b>14</b>	Former Congresswoman running For Public Lands Commissioner
Page <b>15</b>	WWA Life Member Page
Pages <b>16-17</b>	Columbia Flyway Art Show Results
Page <b>18</b>	Ross for Fish & Wildlife Commission
Page <b>19</b>	Respecting Game is Cleaning Game
Pages <b>20-21</b>	<b>NEW 2023-24 WWA Duck Stamp &amp; Print Order Form</b>
Page <b>22</b>	WDFW News — Last Banding
Page <b>23</b>	<b>Hunter's Table - Goose Birria Tacos</b>
Pages <b>25 &amp; 26</b>	WWA Classifieds
Page <b>27</b>	Photo of the Month
Page <b>29</b>	Summary of 2023-24 Game Bird Hunting Seasons linked <a href="#">here</a>
Page <b>30</b>	WWA Application

### *(President's Letter Continued from Page 1)*

Finally, a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone in the **WWA** who worked hard this last off-season. We had some great events this year and could not do it without all the volunteer hours. I hope to get out in the field with many of you this year. Happy Hunting, be safe and send pictures.

For the Resource,

**Paul McGovern**

WWA President

## News for the Flock

### Seattle Chapter News

By: James Ono

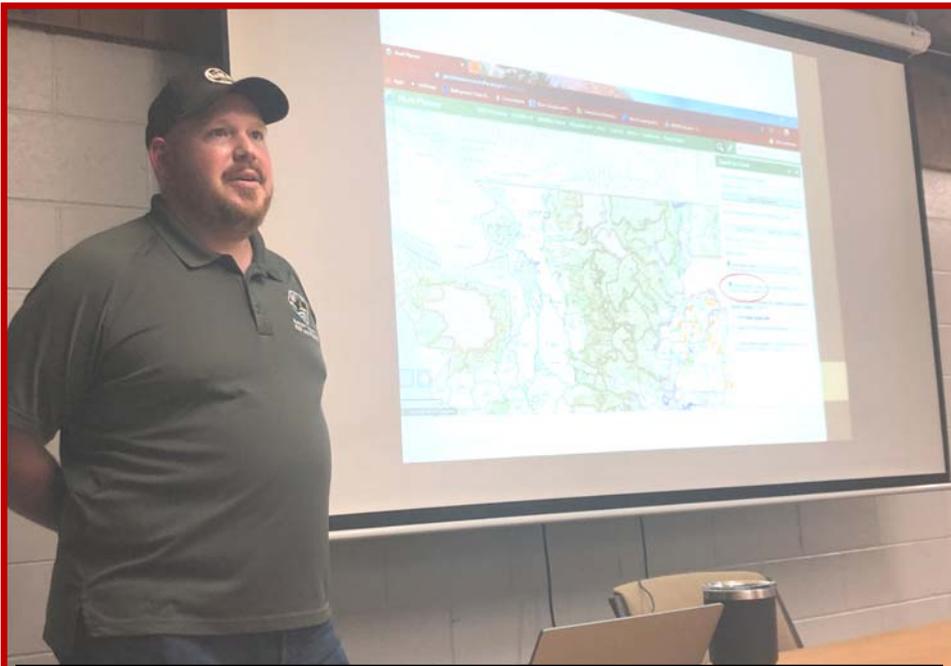
#### October Meeting

At our October meeting we will primarily be discussing some goals for next year and assigning some tasks to be completed during the season before our next meeting in January. We will also discuss some logistics for the upcoming group trip to the Potholes. See below.

#### September Meeting

Once again we wish to thank **WDFW Region 4 Private Lands Program Manager, biologist Rob Wingard** for his always entertaining presentation at our September 27th chapter meeting. Those in attendance got an overview of the program; a sneak preview at the properties that will be included in the program this year; and most importantly, a listing of the most productive properties this past season. **IYKYK!**

If you missed this talk, **Rob** graciously repeated his presentation for the **NW Chapter** at their October 11th chapter meeting. Thanks **Rob**, for all you do for both accessibility to private lands for waterfowl hunting and for your accessibility to **WWA** and its membership.



**WDFW'S Rob Wingard and part of his Power Point presentation.**

#### Group Trip to Potholes

We are officially a go on a group hunt trip to **Potholes Reservoir** in November. We will be camping at

#### 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.

**Potholes State Park**, arriving on **Saturday November 4th**, and begin hunting the following morning. Dinner will be provided that Saturday night.

Please provide your own camping equipment and food for all other meals. Otherwise, **Mike's Place** across the highway from the entrance to the park, and the **Beach House at MarDon**, down the road a short trip, both serve good food and *barlipop* beverages at reasonable prices.

We have a limited number of spots available on a first come first served basis. We still need volunteers with boats who would be willing go and help transport people and gear. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a spot, please contact me at: [ohnitsono2009@hotmail.com](mailto:ohnitsono2009@hotmail.com) or 425-233-5936.

#### Duck Tasting

Next year we are planning to repeat our duck tasting event where we blind taste different species of waterfowl. I am including this in the September and October newsletters to try and remind everyone that if you harvest a less common species of duck that you would like to donate to the tasting event, save it and label it. The last time we did this, it was really fun, and we had some surprising results!

Finally, just a reminder — If you get a chance please support those businesses that supported our Banquet last October. See **Flyer** on **Page 28**.

## NW Chapter News Continued

### Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

#### Youth Hunt 2023

On September 23rd the **Northwest Chapter** held its annual youth waterfowl hunt at the **Swinomish Hunt Club**. We had six (6) parties of hunters. Two (2) hunts were held on the fresh water pond and four (4) hunts on the bay. All the blinds were in great shape thanks to the hunt club.

With low tides in the morning the bay blinds required some patience for the tide to float dekes. The morning flights were good and several young hunters scored birds. A few Teal were flying, but Pintails ruled the day. Lots of Pintails!!

Two (2) of the youth were on their first hunt and shot their first birds!! All the kids had a great time and were able to harvest ducks. The biggest success was the kids just having fun and the memories of an early season hunt. See more Youth Shoot photos on the Page 6.

#### Thanks to the Many Who Make This Happen

This was another successful youth event organized by our **Youth Hunt Coordinator Rick Skiba**. Thank You, **Rick**, from all of our members!

Thanks also to **Tom Elliot** for bringing *Han* for bird retrieving. Special thanks to the **Nick & Cassie Waller** of the

**Swinomish Hunt Club** for the generous use of the facilities and for all of your overall support. Finally, thanks to the parents for bringing their kids.

The next youth hunt is scheduled for February 2024. This will be in conjunction with the annual veterans/active military-only hunt day.

#### October Chapter Meeting

Our October chapter meeting was one not to miss. Our guest speakers included **WDFW Region 4 Private Lands Program Manager, biologist Rob Wingard** and **WDFW Skagit Wildlife Area Manager Greg Meis**.

**Rob** provided the attendees with information on the **Private Lands Hunting Program** — a statewide program that provides the public with opportunities to hunt at private properties where land owners in partnership with **WDFW** allow public hunting on their properties.

This season **Region 4** will have **17 Hunt by Reservation** and **55 Hunt by Registration** sites — 26 sites in **Skagit** county; 40 in **Whatcom** county; and six (6) in **Snohomish** county. Nearly all of the sites were available for the season opener and several still have unharvested crops.

(Continued on Page 5)



— What It's All About —  
**Father and son, George and Andrew Murray, sharing Andrew's Youth Hunt Success!**

TAXIDERMIST

- BIRDS SPECIALIZING IN WATERFOWL
- MAMMALS
- TANNED SKINS/ RUGS
- SKULLS/ ANTLERS

SHOP 360.675.9008  
 CELL 360.672.5100

FACEBOOK 

**Whidbey Island TAXIDERMISTRY**  
 1685 CARLTON WAY  
 OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98277

WWW.WHIDBEYISLANDTAXIDERMISTRY.COM



26933 64th Ave NW  
 Stanwood, WA 98292  
 (360) 629-3474

www.tcsportsmanclub.org

## NW Chapter News Continued

With the shortage of rain, the probability of any sites having standing water is slim, however given a couple months we should see plenty of sheet water on these farmlands.

We had an excellent discussion on both the **Reservation** and **Registration** processes including what's working and improvements that could be made. **Rob** provided the members with the **Rules of Use** at private land locations. He also spoke about the new **Restricted Area Entry** signs that will be posted at the **Samish River Unit** due to hunter and bird viewing conflicts during the hunting season.

**Rob** also gave us the latest update on construction progress on the **Hamilton Boat Launch** in **Stanwood**. Overall the opportunities for success at private land locations across the state are looking good for this year.

**Greg Meis** provided an overview of some of the changes at **Skagit Headquarters** including raising the height of surrounding dikes. He also discussed the new boat launch ramp at **Headquarters**. The ramp is nearly complete and should be open in the next few weeks.

The **Samish Unit** was planted with 153 acres of Barley; 30 acres of corn; and 20 acres of millet. **Fava** beans and winter wheat have also been planted. The **Island Unit** west island was planted with around 30 acres of millet and corn. Lots of natural yellow nutsedge in all areas of the island.

The mowing of cattails on **Milltown Island** continues in preparation of the island's restoration. Design for the restoration is now complete. Channelization of the island, water retention areas, and raised (high ground) areas are part of the design approach. Most work will occur in 2024/2025.

**Rob** and **Greg** fielded many questions from the audience. Excellent presentation material. Their attendance at our meeting was very much appreciated by all. Thanks for attending the chapter's meeting and sharing this valuable information with us!

### September Chapter Meeting

Our September chapter meeting featured **NW Chapter** and **Washington Brant Foundation** member **Kurt Benson**. **Kurt** shared his knowledge and skills as a master decoy carver and painter. This meeting was a must see for those interested in decoy carving techniques as **Kurt** made quick work carving a complete decoy. **Kurt** penciled layout lines on a block of **Portuguese Cork** and with **Fordham**

flexible rotary carving machine and hand tools proceeded to carve the body of a Mallard decoy. He explained each of the techniques that he used, and the hand tools used for each area of the decoy.

Moving on to painting, **Kurt** provided us with information on paint types, brushes used and the technique for making the intricate details of the birds feathers.

We had a good member turnout so lots of folks were able to see a master carver at work as **Kurt** made everything look easy and fielded many questions from the members. Thanks **Kurt** for sharing your talent with us in an informative and fun demonstration!

(At Right)  
**Master Decoy Carver Kurt Benson** carving the basic head shape with a power rotary tool;

(Below)  
 Putting the paint finishing touches on the carved decoy!



### **Membership Renewal and Next Meeting**

If you have not renewed your membership you can do so online at [www.waduck.org](http://www.waduck.org) or you can also renew at the next chapter meeting.

The **Northwest Chapter** meets on the second Wednesday each month. Our next meeting will be held on November 8th, at the **Twin Cities Sportsmens Club**. Trap shooting starts at 6:00 pm, and the business portion starts at 7 pm. Raffle at the end of each meeting. See you there and bring a friend.

Support your passion –get involved

[Rick Billieu,](mailto:rickbillieu@frontier.com)  
[rickbillieu@frontier.com](mailto:rickbillieu@frontier.com)

# NW Chapter Youth-Only Hunt Photos



**Easton LaPlant, age 11, "with his first duck ever, Thanks to WWA," says his proud father, WWA member Adam LaPlant.**



**Andrew Van Roeyen**

**Another Successful Youth-Only Hunt. The 2023 Edition produced by the WWA-NW Chapter and the Swinomish Gun Club.**



**Fisher Bigley**



**Jack Harrigan**



**Andrew Murray**



**Carson Schireman**

## News for the Flock

### Moses Lake Chapter News

By Bruce Feagan and Dick Price

**The Moses Lake Chapter Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 26th, beginning at 6 pm at the O'Sullivan Sportsman Resort.**

Had a conversation with a parent that took his son and a neighbor's son out to the **Frenchman Quality Hunt Area**, and they had a fair day with 12 ducks of mixed bag. They said the water was pretty low, and the dog struggled to make the retrieves in the mud, but they were successful and had a good day hunting. They are beginning to turn off the irrigation water so the levels in the ponds should improve noticeably. Should be much better by now.

**Reminder — The Moses Lake Chapter now has some custom Russell 112 Trucker caps with the WWA Color Logo, and embroidered with Moses Lake Chapter. They're available now for \$25 each. Contact Bruce Feagan at 206-714-8020.**



**(Top) Moses Lake Chapter member Mark Olmsted hosted Wyatt Gates and his father Kevin Jorguson on a Potholes hunt during Youth-Only weekend.**

**(Below Left) Kevin and Wyatt with Midnight Valley Labrador, Otis.**



### *Midnight Valley Labradors*

**AKC Registered Labrador Puppies  
Excellent Breeding, Great Temperament,  
Wonderful for the Family or in the Field.  
British Gun Dog Lines.**

**Field Trial Championships.**

**Contact Debbie Page for pedigrees  
at 360-710-4749, or**

**[midnightvalleylabradors@gmail.com](mailto:midnightvalleylabradors@gmail.com)**

**Check out our website at:**

**<https://midnightvalleylabs.com>**



# News for the Flock

## Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

Hi all.

I would like to take time to thank all of our members. Without your support we are nothing. Our chapter has chugged along getting its conservation work done and even expanded it a bit. We have some younger members becoming active and making the future look good.

I understand that not all members can volunteer, but just being a member helps a LOT when dealing with the government agencies. Numbers matter! So please don't feel bad about not being able to get your hands dirty at our work parties.

### Work Parties Past and Future

We installed our first duck nesting tube at **Ed Lagergren's** ranch. If it gets any use, we will be expanding that part of our conservation. The area we installed it has canary grass, beggar ticks and smartweed growing and holds water throughout the migration so the puddle ducks frequent the spot!

We are planning the next series of work parties for the first two weekends of February 2024. I will notify everyone when I set the dates in order to check all the nest boxes that we couldn't get to this summer. It's easier to do in February as all the foliage thinned out.

Our annual free youth shotgun shooting event, the **Colton Smith Memorial Shoot** didn't generate any interest even though it was advertised as far as we could do. So sadly, we have back-burnered the event. Hopefully with enough new interest, it can be revived in future years.

At our last meeting of the year, we discussed having a shooting event on the **Sporting Clays Range** to interest new and renewing members. Hopefully we can generate enough volunteer support to put one on. We have several members — **Kevin Young** and **Linda Bickle** — who are both experienced in competition shooting and have helped us in this regard this past September and October. See link [here](#).



(L-R) GH Chapter volunteers Greg Fulwider, Ed Lagergren, and Eric Beitz, erecting a duck nest tube on Ed's ranch and the finished product in context at right.



One big thing we talked about was emphasizing "**Waterfowl Conservation**" as a selling point for the **WWA** and maybe bring in some non-hunters — not to be

confused with "anti-hunters."

I hope you all have a safe and fun hunting season! Out next chapter meeting is February 1, 2024. See you all then!

Kurt Snyder

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

**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

### Lower Columbia Chapter News

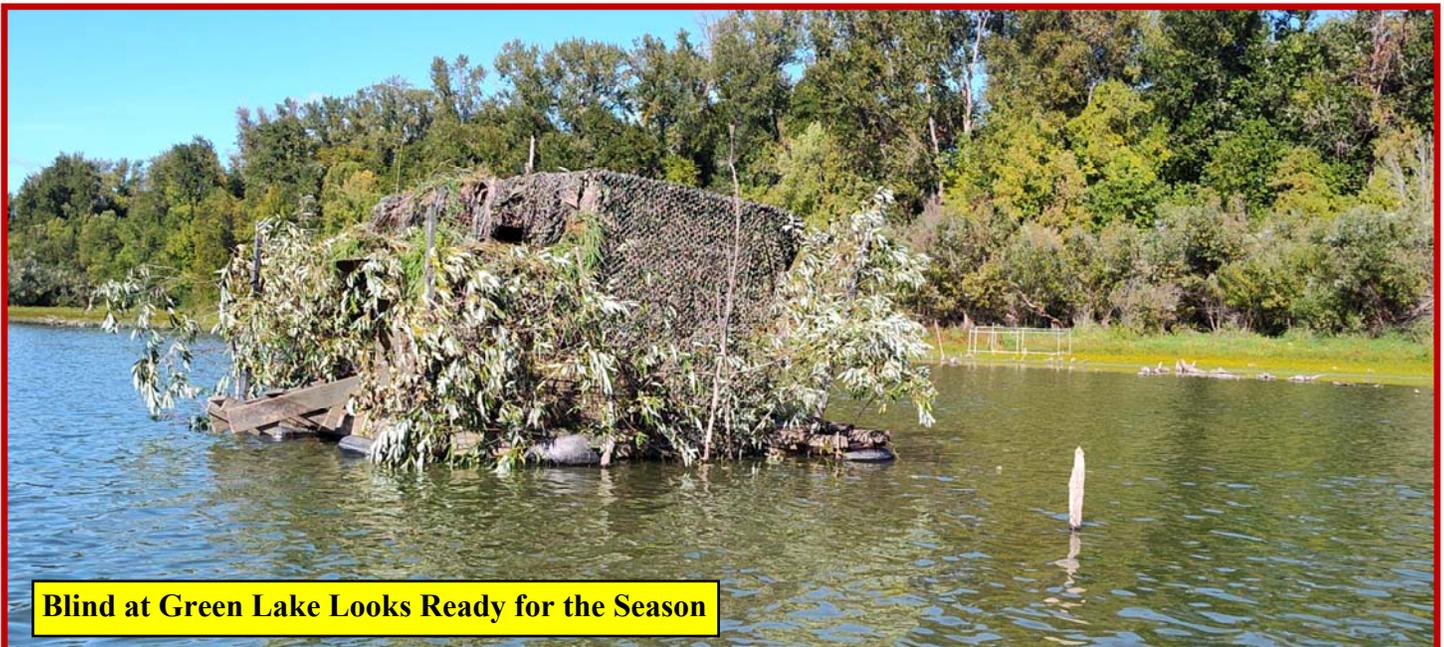
By Doug Hargin

#### Last Meeting of the Year!

Join us on **Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup>** for our last meeting of the year! Let's make an effort to show up and go out with a bang. Come and share in our season opening stories and waterfowler's comradery!

and apply even though it says the deadline has passed. You can also just walk on that Saturday morning as it looks like there could be plenty of room.

The **Lower Columbia Chapter** will furnish a BBQ lunch, and Logo'd duck calls will be given to **ALL** youth that participate. The hunt is for youth 15 and younger. At noon you can get your gun and hunt with your youth if you wish. If you have a young one around, please consider coming.



**Blind at Green Lake Looks Ready for the Season**

#### Ridgefield NWR Work Party

On Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup> we gathered at the **Hunter Check Station** for a work party to open and camouflage the blinds for the upcoming hunt season. **USFWS Guest Services Manager Josie Finley** officiated for the refuge and recruited volunteers to help with the clean up and blind openings in the hunt area for the **River S Unit**.

By press time Sunday, I wasn't able to get a complete and accurate list of all of our chapter volunteers at this work party. I'll have to catch up with you in the January 15, 2024 Newsletter. Have a safe, productive — and most of all, an enjoyable season!

#### Ridgefield NWR Youth Hunt October 28th

We will host the annual youth hunt at the refuge on **Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>**. Opening are still available and the deadline to apply on line has been extended to this Sunday October 15th.

**Youth Registration:** You can go to [ridgefield.reaccess.com](http://ridgefield.reaccess.com) and establish an account if needed

#### 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!

### Vancouver Trap Club



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

[Vancouver Trap and Gun Club](http://Vancouver Trap and Gun Club)

## News for the Flock

### Spokane Chapter News

Over the last weekend in September, **WWA-Seattle Chapter** member **Jacob McGovern** put almost 800 miles on his rig towing the **WWA Duck Mount Trailer** over to **Camp Cowles in Newport, WA** to help support the **WWA-Spokane Chapter** in making an appearance at the **National Hunting & Fishing Day**, sponsored in Washington by **WDFW** and the **Boy Scouts of America**.

Unfortunately **Spokane Chapter Chair John Rasmussen** had a family commitment that Saturday and couldn't be there, and **Spokane Chapter member Scotty Allenton** was sidelined with an illness at the last moment, and couldn't attend either.

**Jacob** met several **Ducks Unlimited (DU)** and **Delta Waterfowl** contacts from the greater **Spokane** area at the event. These contacts should be useful for future waterfowl conservation projects between all three organizations. **Delta** has been especially active in that area of the state being the first to put on fundraising banquets each of the past two (2) years following **Covid-19** shutdown of regular fundraising events by others, including several **WWA** banquets.



Prior to the event, **WWA-Corporate** authorized the purchase of 100 duck calls from **Pacific Calls** of **Spokane** to give away to youth attendees at the event. Unfortunately our order was too late to be engraved with the **WWA logo**

before the event, but we'll be ordering more that are sure to contain our brand, for future giveaways at various Youth-only events.

"We were slammed until noon and had so many people we ran out of duck calls and paper entry sheets for the game [of identifying the 31-ducks in the **WWA** display] but continued to educate the youth on different species of ducks," said **Jacob**. "We had a lot of engagement from both adults and youth. There must have been over 500 Boy Scouts at the event," he added.

**Washington sponsor WDFW** had game wardens at their display trailer with a mock horse camp on view; a fish tank with a cleaning fish demonstration area. They also had a well-supervised shotgun and .22 shooting range for youth to try out various firearms.



**Jacob McGovern, center, interacts with a group of Boy Scouts in front of the WWA Duck Mount Display. Plenty of "swag bags" were to be found on the backs of the Scouts as they traversed from one outdoor display to another at the National Hunt / Fish Day. (Above Right) A closer view of the WWA Duck Mount Display.**

## WWA Hunter Mentoring Program



### **Mentoring 2023-2024**

We are starting our recruiting for Mentors to help start new Washington waterfowl hunters for the upcoming season. We need knowledgeable hunters to sign up and volunteer to help new hunters experience the traditions of **Pacific Northwest** waterfowl hunting. Many new members need help with the basics such as decoy placement, calling, safety, etiquette, and basic scouting. We ask that a Mentor take out a new member for a minimum of 2-3 hunts during the very long season. We have startup information on the program to support the mentoring. The future of our waterfowling, and the **WWA** is out there just waiting to learn from our seasoned membership.

**Please Help Pass the Torch and  
Keep our Traditions Strong.**

My email to signup is [hans1031@frontier.com](mailto:hans1031@frontier.com). We already have one new mentee ready to pair up! Woo Hoo!!

## 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 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)**.

## We Must Fight On!

*“A man cannot become a hero until he can see the root of his own downfall.”*

-- Aristotle

I want to start by giving you an update on **Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation (WWC)**, **Thurston County Cause No. 23-2-01831-34**. (See lawsuit 10-pg complaint linked [here](#)). **Assistant Attorney General Joseph Panesko** filed a motion with the Court to dismiss **WWC's** lawsuit. That motion was heard by **Judge Indu Thomas** on Friday, September 15, 2023. **Judge Thomas** agreed with the defendants and dismissed our lawsuit in its entirety, citing two reasons:

1. *That WWC as a non-profit did not have standing to sue; and*
2. *The Governor had a wide range of discretion in making appointments.*

This defies all logic and reason. We based our case on the **Builders** successfully suing the **Governor** and the **Building Council**. Our attorney, **Callie Castillo** of the Lane Powell law firm, also represented the Building Industry in that suit. How did the **BIAW**, a non-profit for political action on behalf of the building industry, like the **Hunters Heritage Council (HHC)** is for the hunting community, have standing to sue the **Governor** and the **Building Council**, yet **WWC** lack the same standing ???

The judge also ruled that the **Governor's** discretion overrules the balance doctrine in the found in the **Revised**

**Code of Washington (RCW)**, specifically **RCW 77.04.040** linked [here](#) in full). **RCW 77.04.040** states that the **Governor** needs to reach out to all user groups and make sure the **Commission** is balanced. This ruling just said the **Governor's** discretion overrides the balance doctrine of the **RCW**.

Our legal team was outstanding in every way. They were professional, well-prepared, intelligent, and great to work with. I will sing their praises. **Callie Castillo** is a phenomenal attorney and so is her legal team.

Going to court isn't a guarantee of victory. We went to court, and we showed the **Commission, WDFW**, and the **animal-rights (A-R)** groups that we were willing to sue — something that the hunting community had never done before. **WWC** is **NOT** done with the legal route. We have kept **Callie Castillo** and **Lane Powell** on retainer for possible future legal action.

We see the possible root of our own downfall in several ways. This unbalanced **Commission** will be voting on this illegal draft **Commission Conservation Policy C-700X**, (linked here). If it passes unamended — and there is a push by many **Commissioners** to do so — it will change the definition of **conservation** to **preservation** effectively making consumptive use of fish and wildlife illegal.

**Commission** policy **CANNOT**, and I repeat, **CANNOT**, override the **RCW**. **RCW** overrides both the **Washington Administrative Code (WAC) AND Commission** policy. The **Commission** must follow the **RCW** in their rule-making. **Draft Commission Conservation Policy C-700X** overrides the legislative mandate in **RCW 77.04.012** (linked [here](#)), and it brazenly says so in the draft policy. It is the end of hunting, our downfall. If it passes, it will need to be taken to court by a coalition of effected user groups — the timber industry, agriculture, cattlemen, private property owners, hunters, and fishers. This **C-700X** is the worst thing that has ever been brought forth by the **Commission** in the history of the **Commission**. I have been doing this for nearly 50 years and nothing has come close to being this bad.

**Commission Chair Barbara Baker** has flat out said that the legislative mandate needs to be amended where the “maximizing hunting and fishing opportunities clause” is removed from the legislative mandate in the before mentioned **RCW 77.04.012**. The **HHC** will be there to meet the animal-rights **(A-R)** groups' challenge. They will come full bore next session to try and end hunting.

*(Continued on Page 13)*

## Legislative News Continued

I can tell you with full confidence that we will come out on top. The art of winning at politics is who has the votes and who hasn't. We have an outstanding lobbyist in **Tom Echols** who knows where the votes are. You only need to win one chamber. The animal-rights (**A-R**) people can win the state senate, and they probably will, but they don't have a prayer in the state house.

We control the **House Natural Resources Committee**, and once the change in the legislative mandate passes the state senate it goes to the **House Natural Resources Committee**. To kill that bill we need to hold every Republican, and we will, and we need to swing at least one Democrat. On that Committee we have **HHC "Legislator of the Year" Debra Lekanoff**, a Democrat — but more importantly, an avid hunter and fisher — who will vote with us, and so will the **Committee Chair Mike Chapman**.

There are two other Democrats who are possible swing votes on that Committee: **Larry Springer**, who in the past has voted with us, and **Committee Vice Chair Melanie Morgan**, who has the **Puyallup Nation** in her district. Last year this committee passed **Representative Kretz's** wolf reform bill, which was the animal-rights (**A-R**) groups biggest target bill to oppose. And it passed UNANIMOUSLY!

We don't have another newsletter coming out until January 15, 2024. I don't have another opportunity to drive this message home. Last month I spoke about unity, and I want to reiterate that again! **WE IN THE HUNTING COMMUNITY CAN NO LONGER BE DIVIDED!** We **CANNOT** be trophy hunter versus meat hunter. We **CANNOT** be archer versus rifle hunter versus muzzleloader. We **CANNOT** be public land hunter versus private land hunter.

We **MUST BE** hunters united **AGAINST** the animal-rights (**A-R**) community. Our rights can't be gobbled up by a common unified enemy. The **HHC** has been a unified force in the legislative front, and we have killed every anti-hunting bill for 25 years! **WWC** is the unity organization for the sporting community, which your **Washington Waterfowl Association (WWA)** is a member of. In these trying times we must know ourselves and the importance of unity.

You must know your **WWA**. It is **THE** premiere waterfowl organization in the State of Washington. **NOBODY** does more for the waterfowl hunter than **WWA**, whether it be to protect your right to hunt waterfowl, putting on the state sanctioned calling contest, "hands-on" conservation, and so much more. The **HHC** and **WWC** are only as good as the strength of its member organizations. We must have a strong **WWA**. The officers, directors, and

chapter chairs work tirelessly and put in countless hours on behalf of the **WWA** membership.

### A Call of WWA Membership

You can see what could become the root of our downfall. It is the draft **Commission Conservation Policy C-700X** and this radical effort to eliminate hunting. We need **YOU** to become a hero. Renew your commitment to **WWA**. **WWA** is in the center of this fight. If your dues are expired, please renew your commitment by renewing your dues. If you can afford to, please upgrade the level of your membership. In these, the most trying of times, if you can, there is the **Gary Talbert Memorial Life Member Endowment Fund**, which will pay the first \$200 of any level of **WWA Life Membership** if you're inclined to do so. We really need your help. Become more involved with your local chapter. Local chapters are dependent on volunteer help! **WWA** needs you!

The animal-rights (**A-R**) groups are well-financed, well-organized, and well-led. They have intelligent and motivated leadership. We have this with us — less than 1% of Americans agree with the animal-rights (**A-R**) ultra-radical agenda of no hunting; no fishing; no trapping; no research on animals to cure disease; no testing on animals to make drugs safer or cure sickness; no testing on animals to make products safer; no leather; no wool; or any animal-by product for clothing; no ranching or animal-husbandry; no meat; no consumption of anything from an animal; no killing of insects (they criticized **President Barack Obama** for killing a mosquito while he was speaking); no killing of poisonous snakes or any poisonous creatures to protect human life; no killing of predators; no killing of any animals; no wildlife control; no circus animals; no police animals; no search and rescue animals; and no pets! Their agenda is no animal usage whatsoever.

The public is not with the animal-rights (**A-R**) community and their extremism. They are with us and our common sense approach to wildlife. However, the animal-rights (**A-R**) 1% are fanatics. We have to be ready to fight hard too! This quote from **President Ronald Reagan** that sums up our fight:

*"You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or we will sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness. If we fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done."*

**Support your WWA!**

## News Flash

### Former Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler has a New Goal



By Mark Pidgeon  
WWA-Corp Vice President  
Washington Waterfowl  
Association



Honorary WWA Silver Lifetime Member Jaime Herrera Beutler announced on October 11th that she is running for **Washington Public Lands Commissioner** in 2024 as a **Republican!**

Herrera Beutler, represented Washington's 3rd Congressional District from 2012 to 2023,

The **Public Lands Commissioner** position is one of the most important positions to the hunting Community. Through the **Department of Natural Resources**, the **Commissioner of Public Lands** manages nearly 6 million acres of public lands and enforces laws related to:

- Logging practices;
- reforestation requirements'
- extraction of natural resources, and
- oversees the **DNR's** wildfire protection and suppression programs, according to the state's website.

Herrera Beutler has already been endorsed by the **Hunters Heritage Council (HHC)**.

Running against her are:

- Public Enemy Number One to the hunting community in Democrat **Kevin VanDeWege**, a **Humane Society of the US (HSUS)** "Legislator of the Year" multiple times;
- former **Democratic 47th District State Senator Mona Das**; and
- **Democratic King County Councilmember Dave Uptegrove**.

All three are terrible for the hunting community, but **VanDeWege**, **Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee** will come out on top for the Democrats.

This is a tremendous news as former **Congresswoman Herrera-Beutler** can win this race!



### Quincy American Legion Gun Club

14050 Road Q NW  
Quincy, WA 98848

Open to the Public

NRA Disabled Friendly

(509) 237-1166

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

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



### Tacoma Sportsmen's Club

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

[www.tacomassportsmensclub.com](http://www.tacomassportsmensclub.com)

## 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 D	#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 Honorable 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
#71 Kenneth Shields	#72 Diana Shields			

### Time to Upgrade Your Membership Level?

If you read the *Legislative News* in this month's **WWA Newsletter**, you are aware that the ongoing battle against the animal-rights (A-R) activists, (including those on the **Fish and Wildlife Commission**) is an ongoing battle for the very survival of future consumptive use of fish and wildlife in Washington state.

One of the ways to fight this battle is through your membership in **WWA**. And one of the suggestions in the *Legislative News* is to upgrade your membership level if you are in a financial position to do so.

One of the easiest ways to upgrade your **WWA** Membership to any level of Life Membership, is to take advantage of the **Gary Talbert Memorial Life Membership**

**Endowment Fund.** In May of 2022 **Gary** donated \$7,000 to establish this Fund, which will pay the first \$200 towards any new **WWA Life Membership** at any level!



To date, fully 33 of the 72 Life Members listed above, owe all or part of their **WWA Life Membership** to the generosity of **Gary Talbert**.

**Gary** passed to a better place on August 7, 2023 after a full 85 years on this planet — a lot of it hunting, fishing, & crabbing! A **WWA Memoriam** is linked [here](#).

## News for the Flock

### Columbia Flyway Wildlife Art Show Results

By Paul McGovern

The **Columbia Flyway Show** was held again for the second year in **Astoria**, Oregon on the weekend of September 22-24. This show has a reputation as the premier wildlife carving show and competition in the Northwest. There was approximately \$10,000 available in purchase awards and prize money. There is a FB page for the show with photos of many of the art pieces and decoys posted there:

<https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaFlywayShow/>

The show photographer made the decoys look their best to showcase all the local talent as well as the decoys mailed in from across the nation to compete. There were many world champion carvers that attended and mailed in carvings. This included our own **WWA-NW Chapter** member, **Tom Newell** from **La Conner WA**.

The show was attended by several other **WWA** members and members of the informal **WA Refuge Forum** carving group. From our carving group we had myself and **WWA** members **Steve Reed (SW)** **Tom Newell (NW)** **Kurt Benson (NW)**, and **Life Member, Brett Stark (GH)**. **WWA** member **Dennis Fisk (NW)** was also there, and Carver Group member, **Larry Harbaugh**, mailed in several decoys, some of which picked up ribbons! **Kurt** and **Tom** were part of the judging panel.

**Steve Reed** assisted me in bringing the **WWA Duck Mount Trailer** with the taxidermy display of 31 ducks for the duck ID test. There was good attendance Saturday and several visitors were successful at picking all 31 duck species at the **WWA** display. I bought a new art piece in the silent auction by world champion decoy carver, **Del Herbert**, of CA — an **Egret** flat carving, which made a perfect birthday gift for my wife.

On Friday the 22nd I attended a day-long painting class put on **Herbert**, and learned to paint a flat 2D cutout on a Green Wing Teal hen. The class also learned wet blending, color mixing theory, texture prep, base colors, minimal colors, eyes edging, and dry brushing painting.

There were other training sessions at the Show including one on taxidermy by the afore-mentioned **Kurt Benson**. He demonstrated the finer points of mounting the

ducks for reference in carving using a hen canvasback. We also had a presentation for decoy collecting by **Brett Stark**.

My decoy that is pictured is the Mallard hen which I spent countless hours painting to get all the 100's of feathers all placed and colored. I was watching as they floated my decoy group in the tank for judging. I learned an invaluable lesson by seeing what the judges are looking for in a decoy and how they pick the winners.

It was stressful after spending so much time on the painting. I knew some of the feathers were off in my painting and, of course, they picked up on this right away. I should've trusted my instincts.

#### Awards won by members of our carving group included:

- Best of Division: A. Decorative Lifesize Floating - IWCA: Open  
**Tom Newell 2nd place - Cackler Goose**
- Decorative Lifesize Floating - IWCA: DDPD Decorative Puddle Ducks, flat-bottomed: Open  
**Tom Newell 3rd place - Green winged teal**
- Style Decoys - IWCA (Floating): ISPD Puddle Decoy: Intermediate  
**Larry Harbaugh 1st place - Green wing teal**  
**Larry Harbaugh 2nd place - Black duck**
- Style Decoys - IWCA (Floating): ISSD Sea Ducks: Intermediate  
**Larry Harbaugh 1st place - Red-breasted Merganser**

Style Decoys - IWCA (Floating): Novice

**Paul McGovern 2nd place - Hen Mallard**

DSD. 2023 IWCA Style Decoy Championship: Puddle or Marsh Duck: Black Duck: Open

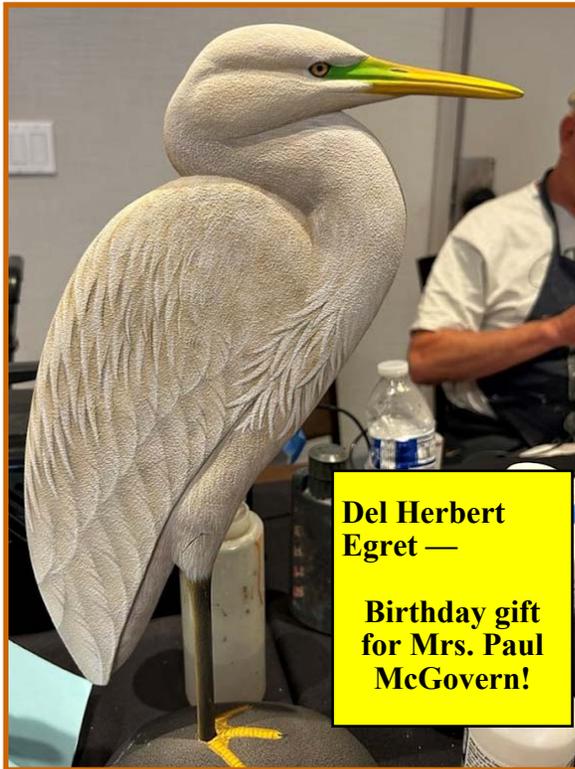
**Tom Newell 3rd place - Black Duck**

DSD. 2023 IWCA Style Decoy Championship: Diver Ducks: Canvasback: Open

**Tom Newell 1st place - Canvasback**

Some photos from the Show are on the adjacent Page **17**. Otherwise use the FB link posted [here](#) again for convenience.

# Columbia Flyway Show Photos



**Del Herbert  
Egret —  
Birthday gift  
for Mrs. Paul  
McGovern!**



**Steve Reed &  
the WWA  
Duck Display!**



**Paul McGovern's  
Hen Mallard**



**Tom Newell's  
Winning Canvasback!**



**Larry Harbaugh's Winning Red-breasted Merganser and Green Wing Teal.**

## 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



## 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

## WDFW News

### Well, That’s a Wrap!

By Paula Clements  
 WDFW Assistant District Biologist  
 District 5 – Grant/Adams

The **WDFW District 5** team completed their banding efforts for the season on September 20th, and what a great season it was!

**Huge Kudos** go out to the incredible technicians this year, **Aaron Kleinhenz** and **Sophia Hara**, for without their continual efforts, the banding numbers would not have been as successful as they were.

**Dan Brown**, one of the **WWA** members from the **Moses Lake Chapter** also came out to assist with banding. Thanks, **Dan!**

During the summer banding season, a total of 740 mallards were banded across five (5) sites utilizing three (3) different capture methods in **Grant** and **Adams Counties**. For comparison, in 2022 **District 5** staff put out a total of 650 mallard bands across six (6) sites utilizing two (2) different capture methods. In addition to mallards there were **redheads**, **American green-winged teal**, and **northern pintail** banded this season.



**Technician Sophia Hara holding a drake mallard.**



**(Above) Biologist Sean Dougherty with technician Sophia Hara banding mallards.**

**All photos by Paula Clements including Photo of the Month on Page 27.**

**P.S.** for **Grant and Adams Counties** residents:

As winter approaches, please keep an eye out for swans. If you happen to see any, please report the total number and location to **Paula Clements** at the email address set forth above.

We’re very pleased with our increased banding success this year and will be aiming for more next season. If you or someone you know has a shallow pond that attracts ducks between **August – September** and would be interested in allowing us to trap and band there, please reach out to **Paula Clements** at: [paula.clements@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:paula.clements@dfw.wa.gov) !



**A successful first run of the floating duck trap method!**

## News for the Flock

### The Hunter's Table

By James Ono

#### Wild Goose Birria Tacos

At the September Seattle Chapter Meeting, we served these tacos, and they were a huge hit. This can be made with duck legs/thighs, duck breast, goose breast, but I highly recommend goose legs. The goose legs/thighs have a lot of meat, but also a lot of connective tissue that breaks down to create a really tender final product. Since breast meat does not have a lot of connective tissue, it can turn out tougher and dryer. However, the batch I made for the meeting included duck legs/thighs, goose legs/thighs, duck breast, and goose breast. If you missed it, you need to start coming to the meetings! ;-)



#### Ingredients

- 5-6 lbs. Goose legs/thighs (see note above)
- ½ TBSP kosher salt
- ½ TBSP Black Pepper
- 1 ½ TBSP cooking oil
- 12 guajillo chiles
- 5 ancho chiles
- 5 arbol chiles
- 2 Roma tomatoes
- ½ medium sweet onion
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 3 bay leaves
- ½ tsp black peppercorns
- Water
- 2 cups beef broth
- ¼ cup white vinegar
- 5 cloves garlic
- 1 tsp cumin powder
- 1 tsp Mexican oregano
- ½ tsp cloves
- ½ cup duck or beef fat

#### Instructions

1. Remove stems and seeds from dried chiles
2. Place the chiles, tomatoes, onion, cinnamon, bay leaves, and peppercorns in a pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for about 10 minutes
3. Add 1 cup of the chile soaked cooking water, plus the chiles, broth, vinegar, garlic, cumin, oregano, and cloves to a blender and blend until smooth (I did 2 batches because my blender wasn't big enough)
4. Strain the liquid through a fine mesh strainer, squeezing all the liquid you can through with a spatula. Discard the solids.
5. Preheat a Dutch oven over high heat
6. Season your legs with salt and pepper.
7. In batches, add some oil and sear your legs on all sides until they are nice and brown (do not overcrowd). Then set aside.
8. Deglaze the pan with a little bit of stock or water.
9. Add the strained sauce, beef/duck fat, and meat back to the Dutch oven and bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce heat to a low simmer for 3-4 hours.
10. Once the meat is tender and shreds easily, remove the legs from the pot. Pick and shred the meat with forks or your hands.
11. Put the meat into a large bowl and add a couple ladles of the consommé/ cooking liquid and stir to combine.
12. To serve, use the fat from the consommé to fry corn tortillas.
13. As the tortilla is frying add Oaxacan cheese, the shredded goose, onion, and cilantro to half the tortilla.
14. Once the tortilla is starting to crisp up, fold the tortilla over then remove.
15. Dip the taco in a cup of the consommé and enjoy!

## 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 **September 2023 Newsletter**.

**WWA General Fund — \$1,927**

**Leslie Hollister — \$45**

**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 \$400.
- Seaducks & Mergansers are \$450.
- Goose mount is \$550; Larger geese are \$800
- One pheasant mount is \$380.
- One chukar mount is \$350.

### 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.



Ross Goose Under Construction

## Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

### Wanted

WANTED shotgun for new duck hunter.

Contact Bryan, 253-590-3301

### For Sale



#### 14' Carsten Pintail boat

Comes with oars and motor mount. **\$500**

Call James for questions or details 425-233-5936

**Bushell Elite 3200 Rifle Scope, 1.5-4.5 X 32 with Firefly Glowing Duplex Reticle and Weaver Rings. NIB \$250 or Best Offer**

Contact Dennis, at 425-418-5277

### 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"



**Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus, 12 gauge; Kick Off recoil, 3 1/2", 26" barrel, 5 Chokes. True Timber pattern. 2 1/2 cases through it. Comes with a half case of shells. ~~\$1400.~~ NEW PRICE \$1300**

Contact John, at 425-356-9205

**Early Remington 870 pump 12 ga. Mag w/Polychoke. Very Good condition with cut checkering, not stamped. \$525.**

**Classic Browning BSS, 12 ga. S x S in excellent condition, 26" bbls., with IC/Mod fixed chokes, \$1,750**

FFL Transfers Only.

Call Robb at 206-940-7777

I have retired from hunting and am selling the following firearms:

- Winchester model 94 30-30;
- Ruger model M77 300 win mag;
- Mauser 1944 model 98 8 mm;
- Remington 870 Express Magnum 20 ga;
- Beretta A303 12 ga;

- Winchester Super X Model 2 12 ga;
- High Standard Special Model A1041 22;
- Ruger Blackhawk 357, 38 spl, 9 mm;

Please contact **Mel** via email at [mlgruschow@gmail.com](mailto:mlgruschow@gmail.com) regarding the weapon you are interested in, and I'll respond with detailed information, pictures, and price information.

### Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted



**WANTED**  
 Fränk/Jack Bay Decoys  
 Astoria, Oregon  
**Contact:** Brett Stark  
 NWDecoy@gmail.com



### For Sale

**Duck Boat:** 10 ft long x 50 inch wide low profile fiberglass, plywood and epoxy duck boat approximately 80 pounds, welded aluminum oar locks and handles, excellent condition, \$350.00. **Contact Tom at 253-549-9142**



**MegaFlint 12volt electric power winch.** Moves water-bound craft up to 5,000lbs. Dual electric/manual operation. Remote control with all accessories and manual. \$100. **Contact Tom, at 425-349-5676**



**18 Carry Lite decoys** – mostly mallards; 4 Pintail (drakes); with anchors. Could use some touch-up paint, but ready to go! Mesh bags included. Located in Brier, WA. \$50.  
**Contact Guy, at 206-618-1345**



**DON'T LEAVE THESE BEHIND PLEASE**  
 duck junkies  
**FIND THEM?- PICK THEM UP- THANKS**



## 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.

## Photo of the Month



**Sunrise at a Banding Site after a Crazy Summer Thunderstorm.**

Taken by  
WDFW Assistant District Wildlife Biologist, Paula Clements.

Check out more on Page 22

# 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**

# 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 2023-24 Washington Migratory Bird 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 7 pm 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 6 pm, 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 7 pm, **Kenmore Shotgun Range**, 1031 – 228<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Bothell.
- Southwest Chapter** meets on the last Tuesday of the month (Feb – Sept) at 6 pm, 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 6 pm, at the **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.