

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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January 21, 2012



Letter from the President

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Greetings **WWA** Members and Friends—

Everyone reading this clip probably also read the reports this past fall that the numbers of ducks expected to migrate south during the season were the greatest in 55 years. Unfortunately, I don't think Mother Nature or the ducks got the memo. Speaking for myself, I found the opener to be slower than the preceding few seasons. Then, my son **Eric** and I had a super shoot after Thanksgiving...limiting on Mallards. Was this the way the season was going to be??? Nooooooo.

Since then, I think I could count the number of ducks I have seen in the 'basin' on my finger and toes. What the heck!?!? The goose hunting has been a little better ... but inconsistent.

Each season, I make a light-hearted estimate of what my waterfowling addiction is costing meand the estate (you can't leave it all to the kids, ya' know). I do believe that my goose and duck treats must be running a close second to Italian Truffles. If I were lucky enough to have some great shoots in the last 10 days of the season, I think my duck and goose breasts will come in just under \$15.63 **per oz!**

MEMBERSHIP!

IF you have yet to re-new your membership, it's time to get off the dime. The facts are that those who go more than three months delinquent are frequently lost forever. The good deeds undertaken by the WWA on behalf of waterfowl and waterfowlers requires you; every member is valuable to our causes.

Starting March 1st, we will kick-off our 2012 Membership Drive with more great prizes than in 2011 and two new awards: the member who recruits or recovers the most new members will win an excellent prize as well as going into the general drawings, and there will be a drawing for new (1st time) members. As with the 2011 drive, new members are worth three tickets for their sponsor and recovered members are worth one ticket in the drawing.

Last year 90% of our new members came from the efforts of fewer than 10% of our existing members. We need a much broader spectrum of members to be involved in this year's efforts; every one of you knows a waterfowler who has yet to join our ranks!

OUR GOAL/YOUR GOAL IS 600 NEW MEMBERS

(Continued on page 2)

EVENTS CALENDAR

(See Page One for Contact Phone Numbers)

- Tuesday, January 24** Southwest Chapter Meeting. 7 p.m. @ Tacoma Sportsman's Club. Contact Terry Satre.
- Wednesday, January 25** Seattle Chapter Meeting. 7 p.m. @ Kenmore Gun Range. Contact John Arrabito.
- Wednesday, January 25** Puyallup Sports Show opens thru Sunday, January 29th.
- Thursday, January 26** Lower Columbia Chapter Meeting. 7 p.m. @ Vancouver Trap Club. Contact Rick Scott.
- Sunday, January 29th** Last day of waterfowl hunting season.
- Tuesday, February 7** Whatcom County Chapter Mtg. 5-7 p.m. @ Tenant Lake Interpretive Center, Ferndale. Contact Scott O'Day.
- Thursday, February 9** Yakima Valley Chapter Meeting; 6:30 p.m. Location to be announced via email from Abel. Contact Abel Cortina.
- Tuesday, February 14** No Northwest Chapter Meeting, in honor of Valentine's Day. Take your valentine to dinner...or at least get her some flowers.
- Saturday, February 11** WWA ALL CHAPTER MEETING at the Kenmore Gun Range. Need a Rep from each Chapter to attend.
- Saturday, February 18** Peninsula Chapter Meeting 12:00 @ Chimaicum Grange, Contact Don Brickey. **[Feb Meeting Only]**

(Continued from page 1)

KUDOS!!!!!!! No, make that MANY KUDOS to our Ilwaco and Gray's Harbor Chapter members, our friends at Delta Waterfowl, WA State Senator Hatfield and Representatives Blake & Takko, the Pacific County Commissioners, The Cranberry Growers Association, hunters and recreationalists, and especially U.S Representative Jaime Herrera-Beutler for their efforts to keep the USFWS from removing the dikes and thus destroying the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, at least for the time being.

In December, Representative Herrera-Beutler and her staff were the driving force behind overwhelming (2 to 1) bi-partisan votes in both the US Senate and US House directing the USFWS to refrain from their plans to remove the levee system and flood the refuge until April of 2012. The Representative is committed stopping this project in light of local communities' strong opposition.

A handful of determined, dedicated, persistent, unflappable folks can make the difference!

For the Resource, ***Jim Cortines***

JOHN T. ARRABITO, P.C.
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The Legal Column

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge

(Pacific County)

The U.S. Congress included language in the federal appropriations bill for entire **U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS)** making it clear that none of this year's monies appropriated shall be used for the dike removal fish restoration project. This may not be a permanent fix, but allows more time for our coalition of concerned interests to make further advances. In addition, the former **Willapa NWR manager, Charlie Stenvall**, was re-assigned. We'll keep working on it.

Thurston County Marine Shoreline

(Yes, the whole shoreline)

No Shoot Zone

Not a word was heard!

It still concerns us that the county has not contacted our only County-appointed representative on the 12-person work group that was established by the County to debate this issue. We will continue to monitor this and are prepared to file an immediate appeal should the ordinance be passed without further modifications.

Leque Island Fish Restoration & North Leque Island Wetland Mitigation

(Snohomish County)

Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF) monies were allocated for **Ducks Unlimited** to complete some form of a groundwater investigation to address concerns of saltwater intrusion into the adjacent drinking water aquifer. Interestingly, a detailed plan has not been shared with the **Juniper Beach Water District**, and no communication has been provided regarding whether the study has started or not. Our consolidated appeal of the **Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)** related to **North Leque Island** was denied by the **Pollution Control Hearings Board** (now the **Environmental Land Use Hearings Office**). But, the HPA permit expired, and they applied for a renewal of the HPA permit...so we appealed the new HPA permit process. The difference is we now have two new partners.

Our filing of the legal action in Superior Court is still moving forward and becoming more involved.



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Southwest Chapter News

By Terry Satre

January Chapter Meeting

Our January meeting will be at the Tacoma Sportsman Club on Canyon road at 7:00 PM on Tuesday the 24th in the Hunter Ed. building. Sportsmen's Show **raffle tickets** available for the January sportsman show .

We will be staffing the **WWA** booth at the Puyallup Sportsmen's show January 25 through 29, and could always use a little help. Free entry for a few hours of your support at our booth. Contact **Terry** if you can help.

Hope to see you at a meeting
Terry 253-845-2398

Peninsula Chapter News

By Don Brickey

Peninsula Chapter Meeting — **February only** our meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 18th at the Chimacum Grange**. Future meetings for the Peninsula Chapter will be held at 10 AM on first Saturday of the month at **Bear Arms in Port Hadlock**.

Anyone interested in helping conduct the Chapter should feel free to call **Don Brickey @ 360-385-3764**.

Northwest Chapter News

By Rone Brewer

Next NW Chapter Meeting

There will be **no NW Chapter meeting in February** as it falls on Valentine's Day and we want all your valentines to be happy so you can hunt and fish the rest of the year. Our **next meeting will be March 13, 7 PM** at the Conway Fire Hall. Our guest speaker will be Bill Geer from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Association. He is a biologist that has put together a DVD on how global warming may affect fish and wildlife and our hunting and fishing opportunities. Let's fill the room for him as he is coming all the way from Montana.

Youth Hunt Program

We have one, and maybe two members interested in coordinated some youth hunting for our **NW Chapter**. If you are interested in helping out next year for the youth hunt weekend and organizing some youth hunts throughout the season, let **Rone** know via email or phone. We will be working toward getting access to a few private blinds just for some youth hunts.

Farmed Island

Well, we knew it was coming. The **Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership** has put out a priority list of fish restoration sites, and the **WDFW Farmed Island** is on it. They have a 5% or 10% design and have it prioritized with a bunch of other projects across Puget Sound. If **WWA** wants to fight this and try to save the island or possibly get mitigation, we need some folks to get involved.

This is a really really hard pill to swallow after spending 5 years working on alternatives and completing a \$3,250,000 project that saved the fields back in 1996-2001. It's crazy that they want to forget about that money and just pull the dikes out now. There is a lot of precedent for getting some mitigation, but it will take someone to step up and be a lead on the effort.

Leque Island

Our efforts continue on this front. We have had no communication from **WDFW** regarding the groundwater study that was supposed to start months ago. We lost our original **Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)** permit appeal over the past couple months, but the **HPA** permit expired so **WA State Dept of Transportation (WSDOT)** renewed it, and we appealed this renewal, so this administrative hearing round starts all over again. Difference now is that we have two new players who have joined the appeal, so we expect to receive **SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act)** standing this time around, which will very clearly show **WSDOT** and **WDFW** purposefully worked around our coalition's concerns.

Regardless, all of this **HPA** permit appeal effort is secondary to the injunction we will be filing in Superior Court. If you have been following this, you know that we have been working toward this filing for some time. Our lawyer changed firms, and we have to exhaust all other possible remedies (such as the **HPA permit appeal**) to be sure we have standing for the legal action. Look for our filing at the end of January. It is nearly unfathomable that a superior court judge would eliminate our standing on

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 4)

SEPA and other issues given the fact that **WDFW** has known our coalitions concerns for 7 years and has yet to address them in any plans provided to us for **Leque Island**.

If you find public hunting access areas such as **Leque Island** or the **Willapa National Wildlife Refuge** to be of value, you can contribute to our Legal Fund to help pay for these and other efforts such fighting the proposed Thurston County No Shoot Zone. We can't do what seems necessary, without you. Become a member, recruit a new member, learn more, and get involved.

Pick Up Your Spent Shells

NW Chapter member **Art Kendall** is overseeing the building of some spent shell collection receptacles. These are being built by a local high school metal shop and will look like a shotgun shell, right down to the words **Remington-Peters** on the top where the shells can be dumped in. We didn't get these done in time for this year, but will get them out next fall in an effort to get hunters to pick up their hulls.

Why do this? Well, the first thing we hear from anti-hunters when we go to meeting is..."you hunters are such slob...leaving your empty shells and garbage all over." People have shown up at these meetings with bags of shotgun casings they find on the beach, telling us how we just don't care about the environment. So, these receptacles are an important reminder to hunters to **PICK UP YOUR SPENT SHELLS**. And watch for our annual litter pick up on the Snow Goose Quality Hunt fields in February or March.

Wood Duck Nest Box Time is Coming

As you prepare to check wood duck boxes, first get your official **WWA** wood duck nest box monitoring form, and once it is filled out, send it back to **Rone**! We'll try to get the form up on our website before the end of February. In the mean time, if you want a form, call **Rone**.

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Dane Widen
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dw687eell@msn.com

Heritage Lands Program

Well folks, as we lose more and more places to hunt on public land, I would very much like you to think about the **WWA Heritage Lands Program**. The primary intent is to save farmland from development, lease it to farmers, and use the lease monies to develop public waterfowl hunting and other outdoor recreation access. If this sounds interesting, think about a donation to our **Heritage Lands Program**.

Hope your closing week is grand!

One half share available in a cabin along the lower South Fork Skagit River (Tom Moore Slough). Just minutes from Skagit Bay by boat. Cabin access is primarily via boat. Contact Rone if you are interested
nwducks@frontier.com / 206.595.7481

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By Doug Hargin

October Chapter Meeting Report

Shari Hildreth, Deputy District Director for U.S. Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler spoke at our October meeting regarding the breaching of the freshwater dikes at the **Willapa National Wildlife Refuge** in the final **Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)**. She indicated that contacting our Senators to encourage them to approve language that would not provide funding for the breaching in the 2012 Appropriations Bill. We also committed to providing a letter to the **Secretary of the Interior** explaining our disappointment in the **CCP** process in regards to consumptive users and the dike breaching (which we did).

In December **Shari** informed us that Congress has directed the **USFWS** to not breach the dikes until at least April of this year. With this new development coupled with the reassignment of **Willapa NWR Manager Charlie Stenvall**, we will now focus our efforts on **USFWS Pacific Regional Director Robyn Thorson**. A letter signed by **WWA, Delta Waterfowl, Thurston County Farm Bureau, Washington Farm Bureau, Discovery Coast Audubon**, and the **Long beach Cranberry Growers Association** has been sent challenging the **CCP's** decision to breach the dikes.

Youth Hunt

We had another successful youth hunt and tasty BBQ at the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge** on Sunday

(Continued on page 6)

November 20th. **Doug Majury, Scott Hadley and I**, showed up early to hold a drawing to win a blind bag and hand out calls to the young hunters as they selected their hunt blinds.

It was a clear cold day with surface ice to on the ponds to negotiate to reach the chosen blind. Members **Ted Blaze and son Evan, Don Zimmerly and his son Dustin** took part with others in the hunt. By the time the hungry young hunters began to migrate back to the check station the weather had warmed somewhat. Chapter Chairman **Rick Scott, Vice Chair Arlan Hackett, Al O'Connor and Dale Venema** soon had pork steaks and hotdogs on the grill with some warm hearty chili on the side. **Chris Stalcup and Kirk Benson** also lent a hand. Our favorite check station person (and new **WWA** member) **Orlanda John** administrated the hunt for the **USFWS**. Thanks to all for another great event!

Chapter VP **Arlan Hackett** traveled over to Toppenish for a farewell/appreciation luncheon for **Yakama Nation Wildlife biologist Tracy Hames** on November 4th. The event honored his 20 years of work for the habitat and wildlife of the Yakama Nation.

WWA has worked closely with **Tracy** on the trapping and banding of waterfowl. **Tracy** has been a friend, member and promoter of **WWA** over the years. He was kind enough to mention that our organization had been the best volunteer group he has worked with. We are sorry to lose him but wish him the best as the new **Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association**. **Arlan** gave him a **WWA** hat and vest in appreciation of our partnership over the years.

New Trailer Arrives

The new and improved **WWA** cargo trailer arrived early this month. **Arlan Hackett** picked up the beauty in Olympia and brought it down to Vancouver. It is 16' long with a ramp door and side door. Interior lighting, awning and EZ track inside will make this a very handy tool for our projects, work parties and events we do each year. We will get some logo's on it and hopefully have it at the first meeting for inspection.

We are working with a graphics company that does vinyl wraps and signs. It is too expensive to wrap a trailer of this size, but we would like to put maybe a Marsh scene



**Ted
Blaze
and His
Son
Evan**



**The Youth
Hunt
Post
Function.**



**Arlan & a buddy
post up with the
new trailer.**

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with Ducks and Geese on It . Maybe A fair sized oval on each side. We need a high resolution photo, so that the full size oval has at least a 100 by 150 resolution. There are lots of Dead Duck pictures , but we don't want that. Some **WWA** members may hunt Waterfowl with a Camera more than with a Gun.

There are also some members on the 'Fuge hat submit fantastic pictures of waterfowl. If you could help us out here and post on the forum or if you know of a member or two that would have something of this nature, we would appreciate it.

Between the trailers and **Derrick Tackett's** lumber storage we no longer have to pay for a storage unit. We can't wait to put it to work!

Donated Hunt

A successful hunt donated for our Lower Columbia Chapter banquet. Thank you **Jon McAninch & Cedarville Farms!!!**



LC Chapter Chairman Rick Scott , Dion Hess, and LC Chapter Vice Chair, Arlan Hackett (from left).

Yakima Valley Chapter News

By Abel Cortina

The first **Yakima Valley Chapter** meeting of the new year likely will be the second Thursday in February. I'll be sending out an email with the final date and location so keep tuned.

We have been in contact with some folks in the **Tri-Cities**, and it looks like we may be starting a chapter there. **Tracy Miles** may be the new chairman and currently we have approximately 18 members for new Chapter.

Welcome to new member **Ernie Pacheco** from Outlook, Washington.

Hopefully everyone's season is going smoothly, please be careful out here.

Seattle Chapter News

By John Arrabito

By the time of our next meeting, Wednesday, January 25th, there will only be four (4) days remaining in the 2011-2012 waterfowl hunting season. Two of those days [Saturday and Sunday, January 28th and 29th] are open for **Brant Geese in Skagit County.**

FREE Shooting for WWA Members

So with some of our members out-of-town for a final season hunt, and others needing a final "tune up" before the ending on the westside, **ALL WWA members from ALL Chapters** in attendance will receive a free round of trap or 5-stand! So be sure and bring your "smoke pole," and come share your stories — good, bad and ugly — about this past season.

Remember, shotgun shooting is open all afternoon on Wednesdays at the Kenmore Gun Range, and as usual we will have a catered dinner at 7 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting, mainly concerning the upcoming 2012 **WWA Membership Drive.**

If you haven't yet renewed your **WWA** Membership dues yet, please do so at this meeting.

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Moses Lake Chapter News

By Dick Price

We're trying to put together some dates for Mallard nest tube replacement and Wood Duck nest box cleaning. As soon as we come up with a plan we'll be getting the info out to everyone.

I'm working with **WDFW** folks to put together an **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)** grant request to do some habitat work in the **Gloyd Seeps Unit** of the **North Columbia Basin Wildlife Area**. The request is for funding to create about 5 acres of nesting cover with some shrub rows for winter cover. This project will be next to the **North Crab Creek** water delivery project for the increased irrigation project in the Basin.

Effective in the spring of 2013 water will run in this area all year long and provide many shallow ponds and lakes. After the test run in 2009 the area had many small ponds and held a lot of Waterfowl through the spring of 2010 when the area went dry and the ducks went away. We have identified an area of approximately 5 acres that shows potential for this plan. Nesting cover would be planted in November 2012, and the shrubs would go in in the spring of 2013.

Hopefully the project will score well and we will receive funding. **ALEA** grants are a reimbursement program so we have to pay up front and then get paid by **WDFW** after the bills are received. Deadline for submission is 2-29-12.

If you'd like to help out on these or other Moses Lake area **WWA** projects, please send your e-mail address or phone number to me so I can contact you, as volunteer projects are sometimes on short notice; Dice Price — dickprice@nctv.com ; 509-762-9027.

Whatcom Chapter News

By Scott O' Day

The next **Whatcom County Chapter Meeting**. is **Tuesday February 7th, at 7 pm.**, at the **Tenant Lake Interpretive Center** near **Ferndale**. Join us if you can.

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By Kurt Snyder

Hello everyone. I hope your hunting season is going well. I've recently heard an update from **Kyle Guzlas**, **Wildlife Biologist**, about the **Osgood Acquisition**. For those

of you that don't know about this, **The Osgood Acquisition** is a 120 acre parcel that **WDFW** acquired south of the existing **Chehalis Wildlife Area near Elma**. It borders the existing Wildlife Area and goes to the Chehalis River.

Well, the grant came through and the acreage is now part of the Chehalis Wildlife Area. We partnered with **WDFW** in order to obtain the grant. This acquisition is huge for the waterfowl as the property will be changed from a farm to a freshwater waterfowl wintering area. Our part is to provide labor in the transition.

This will happen this spring and summer as we want the area opened to hunting by next season. What this means to us is that we need volunteers to do the work. We get to do what we do best, get our hands dirty and make this happen. **Kyle** say's that we should be able to install and maintain a disabled access blind if we wish. It will be an opportunity to place it where the hunting is good for the disabled.

Important stuff for the waterfowl, the hunters and us the **WWA**. **PLEASE** email me if you would like to help out. **Kyle** is planning a meeting soon to set the work party schedule, and I would like to set up a list of volunteers in the meantime. I will be calling key people in the near future asking for your help. This volunteer time can be used for your Master Hunter Conservation Requirement. Scout Conservation time or even community service. Please don't wait, email me as soon as you can.

Welcome to New WWA Members

Lower Columbia Chapter

Rick Ready

NW Chapter

Bradley Anderson and Joseph James

Olympic Peninsula Chapter

Ronald & Nanette Los, David McCrorie

Seattle Chapter

Tibi Botocan, Scott Jarvis,
Matthew Koepf and Aaron Kores

SW Chapter

Michael Bess, Matt Kincer, and
West Coast Telemetry

Whatcom County Chapter

Michael Foley

Yakima Valley Chapter

Ernesto Pacheco

News for the Flock

WWA-Corporate Election Results

We had a higher than normal turnout for voting, but we would still like more folks to become involved in corporate voting for the next round of director elections.

Newly Elected Corporate Directors:

Abel Cortina of Yakima Valley Chapter
Dave Farley of Seattle Chapter
Neco Villella of Seattle Chapter

Re-Elected Corporate Directors:

Bruce Feagan of Moses Lake Chapter
Doug Graef of Seattle Chapter
Howard Hicks of Southwest Chapter



Re-'Elected Corporate Officers:

Jim Cortines President
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John Arrabito Treasurer



Remember to support the WWA sponsors and businesses advertised in this newsletter.

They believe in the Waterfowling Heritage.



News for the Flock

38th NW Decoy Collectors Show Sponsored by WWA

The 38th NW Decoy Collectors Show will be held on Saturday May 5nd, 2012 (9am – 2pm) at the **Bellevue Coast Hotel** (625 116th Ave NE) in Bellevue, WA. For 2012, the show will be held closer to Seattle in order to provide a more central location for guests and attendees traveling from across the U.S. A special room rate for the Show has been negotiated and reservations can be made (866) 539-0036. We anticipate another sold out show with over 50 tables and approximately 1,500 decoys and hunting related items for sale and on-display. As with years past, it is anticipated that many fine examples of local Washington, Oregon, Canadian and other western carvers, past and present, duck calls, shell boxes, prints, etc., will fill the tables. For additional information on the show, please call WWA member, **Brett R. Stark** at 206.963.8800 or e-mail BrettStark2003@yahoo.com or NWDecoy@gmail.com



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WWA Board of Directors January 5, 2012 Meeting Summary

- Still need new chairman for **Spokane Chapter**. **Thor Ostrom** and **Jim Cortines** working on it.
- **WWA** Duck Stamp program update. Orders are coming in and **WA Migratory Waterfowl Stamps** are being sent out. Our selected artist for 2012-2013 stamp and print is **Washington's own, Fred Thomas**, who did the 1993 WA Duck Stamp of snow geese over the Skagit Flats. For the 2012 WA Stamp he plans to do a Brant.
- **WWA** support for Hunter ED graduates. Free one year junior membership and **WWA** logo'd cap for each individual successfully passing Hunter ED. Spread news to all other Hunter ED programs and instructors.
- Elections Results (See Page 10).
- Electronic decoy issue is about 50/50 for/against in a poll of **WWA** members. Accordingly **WWA** will make no recommendation to the **WDFW** Commission, who will reconsider the issue at their March 2012 meeting.
- WA State Sanctioned Duck Calling Contest Chairmanship to be passed on to **Abel Cortina** who is working on venue for 2012 event and also and a Regional Calling Contest for WA, OR and ID.
- Event Calendar is being prepared for web site

Tips and Tricks

(Send us your ideas for inclusion in our tips and tricks)

- If you are walking across ice over deep water, and you hear the ice starting to crack and have the chance...you could try laying down quickly (but gently). This spreads your weight across a wider area putting less pressure per square inch on the ice.

TREASURERS. REPORT (1-4-12)

★ Corp. Checking	\$ 9,750.84
★ Chapter Trust Monies (Transmitters)	\$ 8,250.00
★ Corp. C.D.	\$ 17,484.57
★ Corp. Total	\$ 35,670.41
★ CHAPTER FINANCES	
★ GH Checking	\$ 2,156.36
★ LC Checking	\$ 18,322.85
★ ML Checking	\$ 6,897.88
★ NW Checking	\$ 3,834.68
★ OP Checking	\$ 180.00
★ SE Checking	\$ 39,904.97
★ SE CD Amount	\$ 9,714.94
★ SE R Hickok Fund	\$ 1,315.73
★ SPO Checking	\$ 170.50
★ SW Checking	\$ 3,284.55
★ WH Checking	\$ 5,973.63
★ YV Checking	\$ 255.60

WWA Photo Contest

Send us Your Great Waterfowling Photograph

The **WWA** photo contest is to promote sharing of wing shooting experience of the Club's membership. Photos from the current or previous season must be submitted by September 30th of the following year. Members may submit digital photos (jpg file) to mikkelse@mindspring.com. Monthly winners photos will be posted on our website and newsletter and may be used in a **WWA** calendar. **WWA Photo Contest Guidelines:** Must be taken in the last license year; Is limited to the wing shooting experience; Must include a member (or family member), harvested game, and/or a bird dog. **WWA retains right to use all submitted photographs** (submittal of a photograph including a person under 18 years old gives **WWA** consent to use the file for **WWA** purposes).

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News for the Flock

December 21, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Casey Bowman – (202) 225-3536

Congress Approves Federal Protection for Willapa National Wildlife Refuge

U.S. Fish and Wildlife directed to not breach dikes

Washington, DC – Today **Jaime Herrera Beutler** commended the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate for recently approving temporary federal protection for the **Willapa National Wildlife Refuge** in Pacific County, Washington. **Jaime** fought for this specific protection that directs the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** to refrain from flooding the refuge until at least April of 2012.

This protection for Willapa was part of the 2012 federal appropriation bill that was passed by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in Congress last week. Specifically, the bill's conference report contains language directing the USFWS to refrain from removing the levee systems on the **Lewis Point, Porter Point and Riekkola Units**, allowing it more time to address strong community concerns over this management alternative that would flood the refuge. The measure was approved by the House on Friday, December 16 (passed 296-121) and Senate on Saturday, December 17 (passed 67-32).

"This is good news for the folks of Southwest Washington who care about the future of this refuge," said **Jaime**. "It's clear that the proposal to permanently alter this valued community treasure does not have the public fully behind it. I will continue to do whatever it takes so that this permanent change doesn't move forward without the support of this community.

"I've been glad to take this issue to Congress for the folks of Pacific County, but we secured this protection because of the collaborative work of many. **Senator Hatfield, Representative Blake and Representative Takko, Pacific County Commissioners Jon Kaino, Norman Cuffel, and Lisa Ayers**, recreationalists, hunters, cranberry growers, and local citizens deserve credit for making their voices heard.

"I'll continue working hard so that residents of Southwest Washington are the ones who shape the future of this refuge they care so deeply about."

Background: In early 2011, **Jaime** became aware that the **USFWS** was pursuing controversial management alternatives that would flood and permanently alter the **Willapa National Wildlife Refuge** – and the Pacific County Community largely knew nothing about it.

Jaime worked with **USFWS** to extend the public comment period, and in March personally hosted a listening session in Ilwaco for hundreds of Pacific County residents to ask questions and express concerns. Despite the lack of local support, however, **USFWS** officials were readying plans to breach the dikes in preparation for their preferred management alternative.

In May of 2011 she helped lead a bipartisan coalition of elected officials and citizens to successfully convince the **Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)** to cancel funding for the dike breach. The Army Corps of Engineers subsequently cancelled the permits to demolish the dikes. Yet efforts to move forward with this change to the refuge are not dead, and **Jaime** continues to hear from concerned citizens who want to preserve the refuge as it has been for nearly 75 years.

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News for the Flock

Honorary Life Membership

Because of her support of retaining the waterfowl habitat at **Willapa National Wildlife Refuge** and efforts in the US Congress on the behalf of our **Willapa Coalition** (See story on Page 13), the **Washington Waterfowl Association** presented **U.S. Representative Jaime Herrera-Beutler** an honorary Life Membership. **WWA President Jim Cortines** and **Board Member, Howard Hicks**, travelled down to Vancouver and met the Representative to award the membership.



Thank you Rep. Herrera-Beutler.

Dues Goin' Up

Last year the Board of Directors voted for a dues increase beginning January 1, 2012. Individual and Family memberships both increased \$5 to \$30 and \$35, respectively. Youth and Senior memberships were raised from \$12.50 to \$15.



**WWA President
Jim Cortines and
his lab Dusty
after a
successful
South Dakota
hunt.**

News for the Flock

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

801 Kingsmill Parkway, Columbus, OH 43229

Ph. 614/888-4868 • Fax 614/888-0326

Website: www.ussportsmen.org • E-mail: info@ussportsmen.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2011

Contact: Doug Jeanneret (614) 888-4868 x 227

Mike Faw (614) 888-4868 x 214

HSUS Casts Dark Cloud Over American Agriculture in 2011

Courtesy of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance/ www.ussportsmen.org.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), through its quest to become a mainstream organization, has again resorted to “backdoor” tactics by partnering with—or possibly forcing its agenda on—the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Those HSUS efforts to infiltrate USDA regulations were recently exposed on the floor of U.S. Capitol with testimony by Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kansas). Moran noted in his Nov. 2, 2011 comments that he discovered U.S. Department of Agriculture memos authorizing the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to hold a forum—at taxpayer expense—on animal rights and agriculture. In fact, another memorandum noted that a prior meeting with HSUS and USDA staffers was held to “set the agenda” for the upcoming forum. Moran noted in his Senate testimony that USDA met with HSUS despite it being an animal rights organization and “no friend to rural America, farmers or ranchers.” “HSUS spends their dollars lobbying against rural America and farmers and ranchers,” stated Sen. Moran. “Tax documents show that HSUS spends less than one percent of its budget on animal shelters.”

In a March 2011 HSUS news release, the group applauded the U.S. Department of Agriculture for launching a new database to increase public access to information regarding research facilities and other entities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act. The [new database](#) came about, however, as a result of a lawsuit settlement agreement between USDA and the HSUS about access to animal research records under the Freedom of Information Act. The HSUS had sued the USDA, and many taxpayer dollars were spent defending against the HSUS suit that was filed in 2005. Details are at http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2011/03/usda_animal_care_records_database_032911.html. Was this an HSUS effort to gain more control over the U.S. Department of Agriculture? Many other HSUS actions showcase their efforts to attack and infiltrate the agriculture industry. Another September 2011 HSUS news release reveals that other groups are joining the HSUS in their costly and bitter ballet initiatives directed at farms, ranches and agriculture.

“In Ohio, in 2010, The HSUS—and many of our traditional allies such as Farm Sanctuary, Mercy For Animals, the Toledo Area Humane Society, the Ohio Environmental Stewardship Alliance, and others—waged a campaign to place a [measure](#) on the statewide ballot to phase out a variety of the most inhumane factory farming practices,” reports HSUS's Wayne Pacelle in a blog about Ohio and farming.

The HSUS has also focused their agriculture “sights” on Nebraska.

A Sept. 14, 2011 blog by HSUS's Wayne Pacelle decried Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman as “ill-informed and patently dishonest.” This was because the Governor held a series of meetings with ranchers and farm groups across the state to tell them that HSUS was attempting to force its way into the state and is definitely no friend to farming or the agriculture industry. HSUS also boasted it had “...hammered out agreements in California, [Colorado](#), [Maine](#), [Michigan](#), and [Ohio](#) on farm animal welfare....” Of course those agreements were often the results of lawsuits or threats of costly ballot initiatives by HSUS.

In May 2011, another HSUS release noted the group's pleasure when Florida's “lawmakers chose not to enact agribusiness' proposal to criminalize taking photographs or videos of farm animals.” Seems HSUS videos being taken by “planted” HSUS employees at farms have appeared on television shows as documentaries or in national news programs as actual news. Yet, according to HSUS in an April 14, 2011 release, “undercover investigations of the meat industry have a long and important history in the United States.” “All sportsmen and American's should be concerned that the nation's largest animal rights group has become advisors and partners to the agriculture industry,” warns Bud Pidgeon, U.S. Sportsmen Alliance president and CEO. “This group's recent pushes to pass animal rights legislation that affects farms nationwide should be a warning of what to expect in the future—and that these recent actions by HSUS are very suspect.”

To view Senator Moran's exposure of HSUS and its ties to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visit You Tube at <http://youtu.be/nodVyu0vIRk>. Details on an HSUS undercover raid can be found at http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2011/06/teley_award_smithfield_video_060911.html.

IN MEMORIAM



If you have someone you would like to honor in this column, please contact newsletter editor Rone Brewer (nwducks@frontier.com or 206.595.7481) before the 10th 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.



DONATIONS

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 is a listing of recent contributions to four primary funds established by the **WWA**.

You can contribute in so many ways to the **WWA**, from locally to statewide, helping the **WWA** carry on!

The **WWA** wishes to thank the following for their generations contribution to the Waterfowler's Heritage.

WWA Youth Fund—\$155

WWA Legal Fund—\$3,731

WWA Habitat Fund—\$80

WWA Heritage Lands Fund—\$755



Photograph of the Month



**Member Eric
Cortines and
his lab Bo
During A Fine
Eastern
Washington
Hunt.**

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Membership Type:

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- Regular — \$ 30.00
- Life — \$ 500.00
- Sustaining Life — \$ 750.00
- Senior (65 or over) -- \$ 15.00
- Junior (under age 18) -- \$ 15.00

Chapter & Newsletter: (Please specify your preferences)Newsletter by email or hard copy

- Grays Harbor/Chehalis Valley Chapter** meets the 2nd Thursday of the month (Jan – Oct) at the **Evergreen Sportsmen's Club**, 12736 Marksman Road, SW, Olympia.
- Lower Columbia Chapter** meets the last Thursday of the month (Jan – Oct) at the **Vancouver Trap Club**, 11100 NE 76th St in Vancouver.
- Moses Lake Chapter** – Dates and places to be determined.
- Northwest Chapter** meets the 2nd Thursday of the month (Jan – Nov) at the **Conway Fire Hall**.
- Peninsula Chapter** meets the 1st Saturday of the month (Feb – Nov) at **Bear Arms** in **Port Hadlock**.
- Seattle Chapter** meets the 4th Wednesday of the month (Jan – Oct) at **Kenmore Shotgun Range**, 1031 – 228th Street SW, Bothell.
- Southwest Chapter** meets on the last Tuesday of the month (Jan – Oct) at the **Tacoma Sportsman's Club**.
- Spokane Chapter** – Dates and places to be determined.
- Whatcom County Chapter** meets the 1st Tuesday of the of the month (Jan – Nov.) at the **Lynden Gun Club**.
- Yakima Valley Chapter** meets the 2nd Thursday of the month (Jan – Nov) at the **VFW Hall in Prosser**.

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A few facts about the WWA:

- Established in 1945
- Non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization
- 10 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 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 Sportsman's Show painting decoys, and with seriously ill youngsters on a decoy painting project
- Providing 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 hunt waterfowling 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 Sportsman's shows annually
- Donation of funds and volunteer man hours for Swan Mortality Mitigation Studies
- Donation of funds and 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 fund all of these "hands on" conservation projects.