

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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etter from the President



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Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has had a great season so far and has some plans to finish strong. This season has been unlike any season I have experienced in my short hunting career. As this is my first season as a dad, I didn't get out as much as I have in the past, but I had some really good days. From knocking down ducks in 60-degree weather in the Tri-Cities, hunting in the wind and the rain in a layout blind for the first time, to shooting my first Canada Goose on a 0-degree day in Moses Lake, it has been a crazy season.

Spring Bear Hunting Season and the Wildlife Commission

Not only has the hunting been crazy, but there have also been some serious developments on the Hunter's Rights front. In November, the **Washington Wildlife Commission** voted to end the spring bear hunt. For details, see the **Legislative Report** at **Page 16**. The Commission failed to follow their own processes and procedures and this vote has outraged the hunting community, making headlines in many national news outlets. The Commission ignored the recommendations of **WDFW** biologists and the **Department's Director Kelly Susewind** on the issue and did not seem to honor their promise that written statements of opinion on any issue to the Commission carried as much weight as verbal testimony at the Commission Meetings themselves.

Unable to "stand the heat in the kitchen," **Fred Koontz** resigned from the Commission less than 12 months into his 6-year term, leaving yet another seat to be filled. **Fred Koontz** had been one of the commissioners pushing the Commission to adopt a more "preservationist" vs. "conservationist" stance when it comes to our state's wildlife and natural resources. I believe we have the opportunity now to fill his vacant seat with someone who is much more supportive of "consumptive conservationism." Please see **Page 18** and **Page 19** in the newsletter regarding the qualifications of two (2) Commission applicants supported by **WWA**.

Additionally, there are multiple petitions before the Commission to re-evaluate the spring bear season. The strongest petition to reinstate the hunt is from the **Inland Northwest Wildlife Council** and **Backcountry Hunters and Anglers**. This petition is to

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

News for the Flock

2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

Sat, Jan 15	END of Grouse Hunting Season
Mon, Jan 17	END of Eastside General Pheasant and Quail Hunting Seasons
Mon, Jan 24	In Person Seattle Chapter Meeting Kenmore Gun Range. Program: First Aid in the Field. See Page 10 .
Thurs, Jan 27	Usual LC Chapter Meeting. Check for Email blast for particulars.
Thru Jan 31	END of Duck and Chukar Hunting Seasons
Tues, Feb 1	Usual Whatcom County Chapter Meeting, Laurel Farm & Western Supply in Bellingham.
Weds, Feb 2	WWA Board Meeting Online Only — 7:00 p.m. All WWA Members Welcome to attend. Contact Corp Secretary, Bob Taylor, See Page 1 for a WebEx Online Invitation.
Thurs, Feb 3	Grays Harbor Chapter Meeting, 7 pm., Evergreen Sportsmen's Club,
Sat, Feb 5	Statewide Special One-Day Waterfowl Hunt Day for Youth, Veterans and Active Military
Weds, Feb 9	Usual NW Chapter Meeting In Person ; Twin Cities Sportsmen's Club, Stanwood, WA See Pages 6 & 7
Sat thru Tues Feb 12 thru 22 Feb 12 thru Mar 2	Late Season (white goose only) in Goose Management Area #1 Goose Management Area #4 Electronic Calling Allowed, Page 11 Link to 2021-22 WA Waterfowl Regs
Tues, Feb 22	Southwest Chapter Meeting, 6:30 pm., Tacoma Sportsmen's Club
Thurs, Feb 24	Moses Lake Chapter Meeting, Time & Place details in Feb News

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remove the "year notation" from the **Washington Administrative Code (WAC)**. Per the petition "Having a "year notation" in the **WAC** led to the season being removed without the proper public notice/input.

The decision should have been permit numbers only as communicated to the public, resulting in "Continuing the established spring bear hunt until the Commission can go through the proper public notice process if it wishes to evaluate the validity of the season." The **WDFW**, its senior leadership, and their biologists are all in favor of a spring bear hunting season.

Whether you hunt bear or not, I encourage all consumptive users of both fish and game to look into this issue and **ACT NOW** as the Commission's actions on this issue affect us all. Again more information regarding this issue and actions you can take can be found in the **WWA Legislative Report** on [Page 16](#).

Finally, the on again, off again, proposed No Shoot Zone for **Drayton Harbor in Whatcom County** is off again. See **Whatcom County Chapter News** on [Page 5](#).

For the Resource,

James Ono
WWA President

News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By: Doug Hargin

2021 Veteran's Hunt Ridgefield NWR

The Veteran's hunt took place on November 11th which was the actual **Veteran's Day** this year. The refuge already had a planned closed in observance of the federal holiday. The veteran's hunt is put on in conjunction with **Fallen Outdoors and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** to help selected Veteran's new to waterfowling get out there and give it a go; encourage them in the activity; and possibly inspire a lifelong passion. **Fallen Outdoors and WWA-Lower Columbia Chapter** provided **Sitka** waterfowl coats, shotshells, commemorative duck calls and whistles on lanyards and a choice of blind bag — back pack or satchel for the **Veterans**.

Thanks to **Dave Mason** and his wife for providing coffee and pastries for the event that morning. Chapter members **Dan Hafenbrack, Dave Mason, Ted Blade, Bob Taylor, Doug Hargin** and **Dion Hess** served as guides this year. Thanks to **Dave and Cindy Lescalleet** for administrating the hunt station and **Complex Manager Juliette Fernandez** for her support and showing up for the hunt.

Special Thanks to **Dion Hess** with **WWA** and **Branden Traeger** with **Fallen Outdoors** for coordinating the event.

2021 Ridgefield NWR Youth Hunt Report

Our chapter supported the October 30th **Ridgefield NWR** youth-only hunt providing nice camo backpacks and mallard calls and whistles on lanyards. Seventeen (17) youth were in attendance of which 15 hunted.

No lunch provided again this year per the refuge's request due to Covid. While the harvest was a little slim, the weather was nice. **Complex Manager Juliette Fernandez** was there for the kids, and **Dave Lescalleet** administrated the hunter check in and out.

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Veteran Malcolm Mack, hosted by WWA's Dion Hess picked up a limit at Blind #14. Mack had hunted upland birds in the past, but this was his first experience with waterfowl.

LC Chapter News Continued



WWA-LC Chapter Chair Ted Blade (front) hosts Veteran Alex Dudder of Bremerton in Ridgefield NWR Blind #9 on the occasion of Alex's first duck hunt. Quote from Alex: "I'm so grateful to WWA and The Fallen Outdoors for setting up the hunt for us. I can't imagine a better first hunting trip!"

"Pack it Out" Garbage Bags

The **Ridgefield NWR** ran out of the blind garbage bags that we have been providing to encourage hunters to pick up after the hunt. **Arlan Hackett** was able to chase down the bag manufacturer and reorder in time to finish the season. Thanks **Arlan!**

Chapter Chair Ted Blade

Our current **Chapter Chairman Ted Blade** is leaving us for the warmer climes of Alabama. **Ted** has been our chapter chairman since 2015 and prior to that served as vice chair. **Ted** has been a steady and positive advocate and leader for **WWA**, and we are sad to see him leave. I have thoroughly enjoyed his company hunting over the years since he joined our chapter.

We volunteer and donate our time and resources towards this common goal. The good work **WWA** does for duck's and for waterfowling are the fruit of our endeavors. For me, I have found the true reward is the awesome people we become friends with through **WWA**. Thank you **Ted** for your service to **WWA** and your friendship.

Please Contribute

We need your input for the newsletter. Hunting stories, unusual experiences and/or photos. 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. Submit them to **Doug Hargin** at: dlhargin@msn.com. Thank you!

News for the Flock

Whatcom County Chapter News

By: Lyle Galloway

[Back to Square #1](#)

Council in a 7-0 Vote Reverses Itself on Drayton Harbor No Shooting Zone

Two (2) short weeks after narrowly voting 4-3 to adopt a **No Shooting Zone within a 1,000 yards of shore** within **Drayton Harbor**, the **Whatcom County Council** unanimously reversed itself in a 7-0 vote at its October 26th Council Meeting! Anyone with two (2) brain cells between their ears knows the reason why — the Tribes politely informed the Council with words to the effect, “We’ll see you in federal court!” A brief summary of recent Council action after six (6) months of “kicking the can” down the road on this issue is set forth below. Specific information on Council action on this issue going back to March 2021 can be found on the Council website under **Agenda Identification Item Number — AB2021-185** and linked [here](#). The complete story as reported by the area’s community newspaper, *The North Light* is linked [here](#).

- introduced on May 4, 2021 for a public hearing;
- previously kicked down the road from the original May 18, 2021 public hearing;
- was further kicked down the road at its June 1, 2021 Council meeting;
- was further kicked down the road at its June 15, 2021 regular scheduled Council meeting;
- was further kicked down the road at its July 27, 2021 regular scheduled Council meeting;
- was not even discussed at the August, 10, 2021 regular scheduled Council meeting;
- was not even on the Agenda for the regularly scheduled Council meeting of September 14, 2021;
- on a 7-0 vote, was introduced for public hearing at regular scheduled September 28th Council meeting;
- on October 12, 2021 passed on a 4-3 vote, a No Shooting Zone within a 1,000 feet from shore in **Drayton Harbor**; and
- on October 26, 2021 in a 7-0 vote, unanimously reversed itself on the issue!

Sea duck hunting by BOAT is the primary hunting protocol in **Drayton Harbor** that takes place over a half a mile from any beach or city boundary. This type of hunting is seasonal from early December to late January.



News for the Flock

Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

Yes, the waterfowl hunting season is once again coming to a close. Bird counts have been up and down all season. Mild weather in the far north and plenty of local rain water made for a slow trickle of birds that were spread far and wide throughout the region. On a positive note, I had the pleasure of hunting with family, good friends and some new members during the season. I hope all of your hunting adventures went well and safe this season.

Veteran/Youth Waterfowl Hunt February 5th

The **Northwest Chapter** will be sponsoring Youth/Veterans/Active Duty waterfowl hunts at private properties and public locations in the **north Puget Sound** area on Saturday, February 5th. See **Page 14** of the **WDFW Game Bird & Small Game Hunting Regulations** linked [here](#) for more information on eligibility and requirements.

Active duty military and military veterans will have an extra day to pursue waterfowl this season under federal guidelines along with the same date as the **Washington Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt**. This special waterfowl hunting day for veterans was established to show support for men and women who have served or are serving their country in the armed forces.

Volunteers Needed to Help Out

We are also seeking volunteers from our membership to take youth and veteran's out hunting on public or private property. If you have boat or private property or access to private property and can support this hunt day, please let us know. We can pair you up with military and youth hunters. Last year we received requests to hunt from across the state. If you would like to volunteer see contact info below.

Reservations Required

Contact **Rick Skiba** our chapter's Veteran/Youth Hunt Coordinator at (360) 387-2225, reskiba@msn.com or **Rick Billieu** at (425) 299-6704, rgbillieu@frontier.com

Chapter Calendar

The **NW Chapter** has several activities and events planned for the year. A few upcoming activities include a **Wood Duck Nest Box** build at our February chapter meeting. We will also spend a couple days after the season at the **Samish** and other units of the **Skagit Wildlife Area** for cleanup and a blind maintenance assessment.

We are always looking for more events and activities that support the **WWA** mission. If you have an idea just let me know or better yet come to a monthly meeting to talk about it.

Welcome to all the new WWA members!

Welcome to the recent new members of the **WWA**. **Chapter** members look forward to getting to know you. A good way to get to know the Club and its members is by attending a Chapter Meeting or sponsored event.

WWA-NW Chapter meets on the second Wednesday each month at the **Twin Cities Sportsmen's Club** in **Stanwood**. Trap at 6:00 pm and business meeting starting at 7 pm. Raffle at the end of each meeting. See you there and bring a friend.

See and like our Facebook page **Northwest Washington Waterfowl Association** at:

<https://www.facebook.com/waducks.org>

Support your Passion – Get Involved



A Successful Veteran Hunter from last Season!

NW Chapter News Continued

Brant Status and Seasons Update

Reduced brant counts in **Skagit County** mean that hunters will have **a limited two-day season on Saturday, January 15th and Saturday, January 22nd.**

Continued stable winter counts of brant have allowed for continued hunting opportunities in:

- **Clallam and Whatcom** counties – **Jan.15, 19, and 22;**
- **Pacific County** – **Jan. 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 29, and 30.**

“The recent aerial brant counts in **Skagit County** indicate numbers fell short of the 3,000-bird requirement to allow for additional hunt days beyond the approved two-day season,” said **Kyle Spragens, WDFW Waterfowl Section Manager.** “The reduced schedule is necessary to restrict harvest of western high arctic brant, which primarily overwinter in **Skagit County.**”

Spragens said population surveys conducted in **Skagit County** over **Padilla, Samish, and Fidalgo** bays tallied 2,750 birds, the fifth (5th) lowest count in the 70-year history of surveys, prompted this year’s two-day only season. “The number of hunting days is directly related to how many brant we count during these surveys – the surveys allow us to monitor the winter population,” he said.

“This is the fifth (5th) consecutive year of fewer than 6,000 brant in **Skagit County** bays, and while we strive to provide a harvest opportunity when appropriate, these types of historically low counts require us to restrict opportunities for this unique coastal waterfowl species.”

WDFW reminds hunters to familiarize themselves with local regulations and

boundaries. Specifically, hunters in **Clallam County** are advised to consult the **closed zones** of **Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge** and hunters in **Whatcom County** are advised to review boundaries relevant to **Bellingham and Lummi Bays.**

Information on brant seasons is available in **WDFW’s Migratory Game Bird Regulations** linked [here](#).

Brant hunters are reminded they must possess a valid migratory bird authorization and brant harvest report card, **including** during the **Youth, Veteran, and Active Military** special opportunity on Saturday, February 5, 2022.

HELLO BRANT HUNTERS,

We hope you had a safe and enjoyable hunt!



- Remember to record hunting activity on your harvest record cards and report it to WDFW using the online reporting system at fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov or mail to **WDFW, Wildlife Program - Waterfowl Section, PO Box 43141, Olympia, WA 98504.** Hunt activity reporting is mandatory and must be completed or postmarked by March 20, 2022, even if you did not harvest a brant.
- If you harvested Brant in **Whatcom, Skagit, or Clallam Counties**, we ask that you voluntarily submit a picture of the breast and a wing of each harvested bird. Please include the photos and the location they were harvested in an email to BrantReport@dfw.wa.gov as soon as possible after your hunt.



WHY? Two varieties of Brant winter in Washington, Black Brant and Western High Arctic Brant (grey-bellied). The Western High Arctic Brant is one of the smallest Arctic goose breeding populations globally and winters only in a few areas, including Padilla and Samish Bays. By providing WDFW with photos of your harvested Brant, we’re able to determine the bird’s age and the population it came from. This helps WDFW monitor the harvest of “grey-bellied” Brant, which are susceptible to overharvest, throughout Washington. Though this request is entirely voluntary, it is important and helpful for management.

Thank you for your participation!

- WDFW Waterfowl Section

News for the Flock

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

Hi All.

First 2022 Chapter Meeting February 3rd

We only have 23 more days till our next Chapter meeting. So, you are all invited to it on Thursday evening, the third of February, at the **Evergreen Sportsmen's Club** near Littlerock WA at 7:00 pm sharp!

<https://shootevergreen.com/>

We will be setting up this year's work parties to service all of our nest boxes and goose platforms. February is a good time to service most of them because there is a lot less foliage to deal with.

As soon as the waters recede enough, we will get this done. We tend to have some fun when we check these nests so don't volunteer if you don't like fun stuff!

Thanks much,

Kurt Snyder

kurtsnyder@outdrs.net

Southwest Chapter News

By: Bruce Burns

Happy New Year everyone from the **Southwest Chapter**. Hope everyone has had a great waterfowl season so far and ready for the final push.

We are excited to start off the year with a **Youth Calling Contest/Clinic** on March 19, 2022 at the **Sumner Sportsmen Club**, (actually with a Puyallup address for GPS). <https://www.sumnersportsmensassociation.com/>

This event will be for youth 16 and younger. We will have some prizes; lunch will be provided; and youth will have the chance to shoot some sporting clays, **FREE** of charge. This is a great chance to get out of the house / school and have a fun day! **See Flyer** on adjacent **Page 9** of this Newsletter for contact information or further info.

First 2022 Chapter Meeting February 22nd

We will be having our first meeting of the year on Tuesday evening, February 2022 at the **Tacoma Sportsmen's Club, Education Building** at 6:30 pm. It will be great to see everyone again.

Moses Lake Chapter News

By Dick Price

Not much to report from here. Snow and cold temperatures have frozen most of the ponds and most of the geese on **Moses Lake** have moved out.

First 2022 Chapter Meeting February 24th

Our next chapter meeting will take place on Thursday, February 24th. Watch next months Newsletter for exact details regarding time and place.

Spokane Chapter News

Wenatchee Chapter News

Yakima County Chapter News

No News This Month

Midnight Valley Labradors

AKC Registered Labrador Puppies
Excellent Breeding, Great Temperament,
Wonderful for the Family or in the Field.
Puppies due Spring 2022. British Gun Dog Lines,
Field Trial Championships.

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

midnightvalleylabradors@gmail.com

Check out our website at:

<https://midnightvalleylabs.com>



News for the Flock

2022 Youth Duck Calling Contest

Saturday
March 19th

**FUN
PRIZES**

Calling Seminar
Calling contest
Lunch
Sporting clay
shoot

**Location:
Sumner
Sportsmans
Club, Sumner
WA**



**Presented By Washington
Waterfowl assoc. and
Sumner Sportmans Club**

**@9AM
Registration
@8:30**

Nathan Neideigh
(253)229-5794
Bruce Burns
(253)961-8802

**FREE YOUTH
EVENT AGES
16 AND
YOUNGER**

News For the Flock

Seattle Chapter News

By Nick Brown

Greetings **WWA-Seattle** Family,

I hope the season has treated everyone well. My name is **Nick Brown**, and I am the new **WWA-Seattle Chapter Chairman**.

It is a bittersweet time of year as the general season winds down, we begin packing up the decoys and looking forward to getting somewhat of a normal sleep schedule back in our lives. The **Seattle Chapter** has picked up quite a few new members in the last few months, and we look forward to getting everyone together for our in-person meetings.

I want to personally invite all of you to our January meeting, being held Monday, the 24th of this month, with shotgun trap games beginning at 5 pm and our meeting being held at 7 pm at **Kenmore Shotgun Range**.

Program:

This month's meeting we are hosting a field first aid and CPR program presented by an enthusiastic nurse and lifelong waterfowl hunter, Patrick Murphy. I feel that first aid in the field is a critical skill and something we all need constant refreshers on.

Lastly, some housekeeping: Our meetings are resuming regularly at **Kenmore**, on the 4th Monday of the month at our usual time slot. Unfortunately we will no longer be offering an online meeting option, but hope to see everyone in person and meet and greet our new members. Just a Friendly Reminder: Masks are required inside the Clubhouse as per **King County** regulation.

Bring Your Own Ammo

I also want to inform members that the range hasn't had a steady supply of shells so plan on bringing your own or contacting **Chapter Treasurer James Ono**, who often has shells available for purchase.

Upcoming February Work Parties:

On Saturday, February 12th, local Boy Scouts will be joining **Bob Hazelbrook** and other Chapter members to rehab some wood duck nesting boxes in **Cherry Valley**.



Seattle Chapter member Isaac Kim with his first ever Geese!

This year we also plan to do builds and maintenance for wood duck nesting boxes throughout the **Snoqualmie Valley at Stillwater**, as well as in urban public parks areas in **Issaquah** and **Bellevue**.

If anyone is looking to volunteer, please contact **Bob** at: bshazelbrook@gmail.com or me at Nickibb92@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing everybody at our initial 2022 meeting on the Monday, January 24th. Thanks for your time, and please never hesitate to reach out.

Nick Brown

WDFW News

Emergency Rule Allows for Use of Electronic Goose Calling Devices

The purpose of this emergency rule is to allow the limited use of electronic calls when hunting lesser snow geese and Ross' geese in **Goose Management Area 1 during February 12-22, 2022 Hunt Period** (11 out of 107 total season days) and in **Goose Management Area 4 during February 12 – March 2, 2022 Hunt Period** (19 out of 107 total season days), bringing the Washington state regulation in alignment with federal allowances (Code of Federal Regulations 20.21.g.1).

Reasons for this Finding: Record-high winter flocks in both **Goose Management Area 1** and **Goose Management Area 4** now pose concerns over general welfare of major agricultural regions that experience intense feeding flocks during winter and spring months as well as pose a public safety threat in zones of high regional and international aircraft traffic. New data, presented to flyway management partners in late-August 2021, indicated the third consecutive year of exceptionally high productivity of lesser snow geese from **Wrangel Island, Russia** forecasting record-setting population size and anticipated winter flock concentrations.

Subsequently, in mid-September 2021, briefings by the **Canadian Wildlife Service** to **Vancouver International Airport** and early arrival of fall migrant lesser snow goose flocks raised concerns over the impact of these geese to multiple sectors of the region.

In mid-October 2021, requested renewal of agricultural depredation permits and a minimum of five (5) new farm inquiries were made to the **USFWS** and **WDFW** targeting lesser snow geese in region of **Goose Management Area 1 (Skagit-Fraser)**.

During November 2021, aerial photos documented 10,000s of lesser snow geese on **Moses Lake**, the most ever documented in this portion of **Goose Management Area 4 (Columbia Basin)**.

WAC 220-416-060 defines the term **“white geese”** as including lesser snow geese, Ross' geese and their blue phase (or plumage) variants, as the two species have identical plumage, and are nearly indistinguishable in flight. In **Washington**, lesser snow geese are the predominant white goose during the winter months, with Ross' geese are considered an incidental or rare occurrence as Washington is on the edge of the species' range in North America.

The amendment of this rule allows for an extremely limited and targeted use of electronic calls during white goose-only season segments for lesser snow geese and Ross' geese.

The amendment of this rule only impacts the lesser snow goose population that has experienced rapid population growth in the past three (3) years and is now significantly above both established flyway and winter-flock population objectives.

It is consistent with the Pacific Flyway Management Plan for the Wrangel Island Population for Lesser Snow Geese, that prescribes harvest rates in excess of 14% when total breeding population estimate is above 120,000 geese and Skagit-Fraser winter flock size estimate is above 70,000 adult geese.

The current total breeding population index (3-year average) is 611,063 geese and the Skagit-Fraser winter flock index (3-year average) is 84,624 adult geese.

This rule amendment has little to no impact on the Ross' goose populations that remains above the established flyway population objective. It is consistent with the **Pacific Flyway Plan for Ross' Geese** that prescribes including Ross' geese without special restrictions in “white goose” regulations when the population is at or above 100,000 breeding birds (counted on breeding areas in the spring), or 150,000 wintering birds (in California).

The current breeding population index (3-year average) is 348,400 breeding birds. In Washington, harvest of this species is incidental to harvest of lesser snow geese.

Guidance set under WAC 220-440-060, prioritizes the use of general season hunting to help minimize damage potential and concerns over killing wildlife causing private property damage under a migratory bird agricultural depredation permit.

For migratory gamebirds, sport harvest allows consumptive use of harvested geese, whereas agricultural depredation permits do not allow for consumptive uses as this is defined as “take” outside of established seasons under the **Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S. Code § 704)**.

The Department will propose this amendment for a permanent rule in the 2022 updates to migratory gamebird hunting season-setting rule making.

Active Link to **Migratory Game Bird Seasons** [here](#).

News for the Flock

Continuing Eelgrass Issues in Willapa Bay Affect Waterfowl

By Ross Barkhurst

My background so readers know where I am coming from: In four (4) years at the **Naval Academy** I double majored in Naval Science and Oceanography; As a former senior manager and CEO of a nuclear utility company I know that significant change can only come from the top, hence our **Citizen Advisory Group** attempted to deal directly with the **WDFW Commission and the Director**; Finally, I have personally sampled over 500 waterfowl gullets and know what they eat, when they eat, and where they eat.

For the past several years I have led a Citizen Advisory Group called **Willapa Basin Ecosystem Review Team (WBERT)** which among other things has generated a detailed review of the complete ecosystem in **Willapa Bay** — this at the specific request of the **WDFW Commission Chair**. **WBERT's** review produced a 9-page report in March of 2019 (linked [here](#)) containing over ten (10) of the best science references available that documented the ecosystem deterioration at **Willapa Bay** in detail, and made seven (7) recommendations for solutions (beginning at Page 8 of the report). The report was sent to the **WDFW Director**, the **Commission**, and other senior **Department** management.

Four (4) of us from the **WBERT Advisory Group** summarized our first report in person at a full **Commission** meeting. After considerable time passed we asked for a meeting with **Director Kelly Susewind** who had the lead to respond. He requested a conference call. In the conference call the **Director of Conservation Policy** was most active so we have talked some with him over time since then. However, the gist of conference call from **Director Susewind** was “We don’t know enough yet to respond.”

After receiving no official response to the original report from **WDFW** for over two (2) years, **WBERT** produced a follow-up 2-page report in June of 2021 (linked [here](#)) asking that the most urgent matters set forth in the report of **WBERT 1.0** be addressed. Again to date, no response!

Between the time of **WBERT 1.0** and **WBERT 2.0**, the **Commission** unanimously approved a so-called “blue sheet” of key questions directed to **Director Susewind** for answers. Again to date, we have seen no response.

I did receive one comment from a **Senior WDFW Management** to the effect that spraying could not be

possibly be the cause of the eelgrass die off I reported one year “because most sprayers only used half of allowed herbicide *imazamox* concentration.” I checked the legal spray records and informed them that this was false. Most sprayers used a **concentration of over 90%**!

In response sometime later I mentioned to a Commissioner acquaintance with seniority, that it seems to me like the **Department** is in open revolt against habitat-minded commissioners. His answer was: “you are correct!”

This observation was confirmed as recently as the November 19, 2021 **WDFW Commission** meeting when a **Department** recommended permit-only spring bear hunt — a hunt strongly advocated by **Director Susewind** based upon his agency’s science-based data — was suspended for a year by the **Commission** on a 4-4 tie vote.

In my opinion, it was a logical and predictable consequence of the September 21, 2021 letter to **Governor Inslee** from the new **Animal Rights (AR)** organization, known as **Washington Wildlife First (WWF)** — a letter advocating a redefinition of “*conservation*” to mean “*preservation*” and thus push consumptive users of the resource (i.e., hunters and fishers) out of the picture. That letter is linked [here](#).

Less Eelgrass = Less Waterfowl

Over the period since the chemical removal of eelgrass commenced, **Pacific County** has lost over half its wintering waterfowl — this according to **WDFW's** own counts.

- 2012 — 98,000 birds;
- 2013 — 70,000 birds;
- 2014 (first year of eelgrass spraying) — 22,000 birds;
- After 2014, WDFW “mysteriously” stopped counting.

My personal estimates since then (as a resident of **Willapa Bay**), range from 12,500 to less than 22,000 birds!

Millions of **Willapa** waterfowl forage use days have been lost since eelgrass defoliation began. Waterfowl are now just passing thru **Willapa Bay**. This is what they do when eelgrass is gone! Over the years I have calculated, predicted, reported, testified, and then unfortunately, watched it come to pass. Compare this loss to the **Baldwin and Lovvorn** paper linked [here](#), showing millions of waterfowl use days experienced in the smaller area of **Boundary Bay, B.C., Canada**. Birds now pass thru/by **Willapa Bay**, many to the **Tule Lake—Klamath Lake NWR Complex** on the **Oregon-California** border; starve; or die of botulism, etc.

(Continued on [Page 13](#))

Willapa Bay Eelgrass Issues Continued

The **WDFW Waterfowl Section** has received clear assignments from the **Pacific Flyway Brant Management Plan** which includes instructions to inventory the eelgrass available here for foraging and *“participating in environmental reviews.”*

[See **Page 6** of **WBERT 1.0**].

We know of no **WDFW** plans to do either.

WBERT 1.0 also recommended a mapping inventory of eelgrass in **Willapa Bay**. Again, no response.

The **Waterfowl Advisory Group (WAG)** also seems to have had no effect on this behavior.

And it's not just **Brant** that historically have fed on the eelgrass in **Willapa Bay**. **Widgeon** eat *japonica* (invasive Japanese eelgrass). **Pintail** and **Mallard** eat *japonica rhizomes*. For obvious reasons, locals refer to it as “duckgrass.” **Brant** and other geese eat *zostera marina*, a much larger — but more importantly, a protected eelgrass. **Brant** and the other geese are starting to eat duckgrass now as both become more scarce.

WDFW quit counting spring staging **Brant** in **Willapa Bay** at a time when it's needed most. Per Wilson and Atkinson (cited in **WBERT 1.0**), these numbers are far more important than the historically smaller wintering Brant because the hens must arrive in the North in good shape as there is no time nor abundant food source there for them to fatten up. As a result, when *zostera marina* acres are down, hens cannot successfully rear a brood.

Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Permit

The **ACOE Permit (aka Nationwide Permit 48, aka NWP 48)** allows spraying on commercial clam beds to kill ALL eelgrass including “protected” *zostera marina*. Without an **ACOE** Permit, commercial shellfishers could not get a **WA Department of Ecology (WDOE)** Permit.

Killing ALL eelgrass makes dredging much easier because *zostera marina* plugs dredges. And this is why **WDFW** avoids mapping eelgrass and counting waterfowl like the plague!



The permit also failed to restrict the enormous use of plastics by the Industry — like the 42,000 PVC tubes per acre — that are covered in plastic netting and used to grow geoduck clams. The netting can trap and entangle wildlife, and the plastics break down into microplastics that are hazardous to marine organisms, including the very shellfish being grown for human consumption.

In 2019 the **ACOE** lost a lawsuit in the **Federal District Court for the Western District of Washington** whose findings included among other things, *“Industrial shellfish aquaculture is known to reduce or eliminate eelgrass, including through the industry's intentional the use of pesticides. Yet the new permit did not place any restrictions on impacts to eelgrass, through pesticide use or otherwise.”* A layperson's readable summary of that lawsuit is linked [here](#).

In February 2021 the **Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals** affirmed this ruling that found and prevented a net loss of ecological function in **Willapa Bay**. Spray tests (overseen by **WDFW**) were declared inadequate by the Court.

At a public hearing in **South Bend** at the time of the initial issuance of the eelgrass spray permit in May/June 2014 when a **WDOE** Permit spokesperson was asked about the chemical spraying of eelgrass effect on waterfowl, she replied: “We are just a clearing house. We rely on our agencies to tell us about concerns, and they had none on eelgrass removal with *imazamox*.”

WDFW is AWOL

Of course this is where **WDFW** let us down — in the initial five (5) year permit period AND again on a five (5) year renewal after spraying six (6) years on first permit starting in 2014.

(Continued on **Page 14**)

Willapa Bay Eelgrass Issues Continued

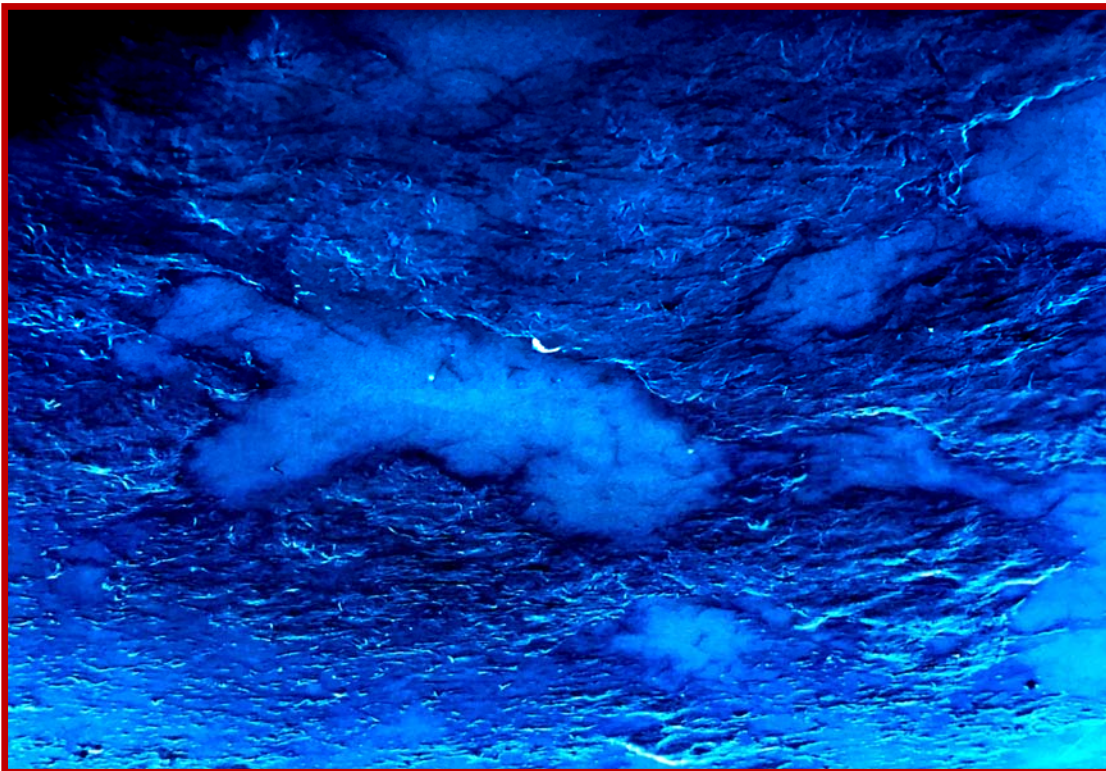


Photo of duckgrass (japonica) rhizome “grubbing pits” done by mallards and pintail. I walked out, pushed hundreds of them politely off the beds and took pictures. When one chews on these rhizomes, it is like chewing on sugar cane — lots of sugar and starch for migrating birds’ energy needs. With our weak deteriorated remnants under spray regime, such beds of rhizomes no longer exist. It takes a dense vigorous grass bed to produce rhizomes in any density. Widgeon strictly eat the grass tops, which are also now quite sparse.

With my Oceanography background training and hundreds of days on (and mostly under) water in the currents like **Willapa Bay** — where most ducks feed — I am very familiar with the vertical boundary estuaries that trap most chemicals sprayed in the area, as described by the *Banas and Hickey Oceanographic Study* (linked [here](#)). This 2005 study summarized that:

“In all seasons, despite the fact that half the volume of the bay enters and leaves with every tide, average retention times in the upper third of the estuary are 3-5 weeks.”

Also unfortunately, this study was ignored by **WDFW**. The only way **WDFW** can keep up the charade is by continuing to refuse to inventory both species of eelgrass at **Willapa Bay** as **WBERT** has repeatedly recommended.

The **WDFW** — who’s **Mission Statement** loudly boasts on its website, *“to preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems...”* — unfortunately and consistently defers to the (**WDOE**) on the issue of the lethal spraying of eelgrass in **Willapa Bay** — which adversely affects all fish and wildlife in the Bay’s ecosystem!

Summary

On the banks of **Chesapeake Bay** I have personally observed the start of what a failing estuary can do to a coastal flyway. Much more than **Willapa** waterfowl is at

stake. We are at a crossroads. The decrease-hunting-crew (**Washington Wildlife First**) can gain a foothold,

or

organizations like **WWA** can get more proactive and keep **WDFW** from hiring **Ducks Unlimited** and others to destroy waterfowl habitat in Washington in the name of salmon restoration.

I realize not many waterfowlers are interested in reading the rather long scientific and legal articles I have linked to. However I link to them for those that might want to, but also to demonstrate that the recommendations contained in **WBERT 1.0** and **WBERT 2.0** are based on **existing** scientific research and have been repeatedly enforced by the federal courts.

Our hope is that if **WWA** could take a position to implement these **WBERT** recommendations such as mapping the inventory of eelgrass here in **Willapa Bay**, it might help tip the balance.

Bottom Line — The **Department** is stonewalling the **Commission and the public** on **Ecosystem** issues in **Washington**, while its public pronouncements claim just the opposite!

WDFW Director Kelly Susewind and **Waterfowl Section Manager Kyle Spragens** were asked for comment on this article. None was received before Saturday publication.

Memorial for Jackson Otto



In Memory of Jack Otto

- thru GoFundMe, **\$4,685**
- thru WWA **\$1,635**
- Totals \$6,320**

From Brad Otto (no relation, but founder of the [GoFundMePage](#) for Jack which is still active (as is this link) to accept continuing donations towards the long range plan set forth in the box to the right.

Look for an April Youth Event !!

Parents John and Toni Halligan Otto

The weather was drastically different, but the outpouring of love was just as enthusiastic at the initial unveiling of the Memorial Bench (and Wood Duck Nest Box) in honor of their son, Jackson "Jack" Riley Otto, first at the initial public gathering on the Youth-Only Hunt Day, September 25th, and later at the family Celebration of Life on October 23rd at the recently renamed "Jack's Pond" near Lake Terrell in the Whatcom Wildlife Area.

The long range plan with the remainder of donated funds is to establish a Youth Scholarship in Jack's name with activities like trapping and banding of wood ducks; learning their biology; and the building and placing of nesting boxes at the site.

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)**.

One of the Craziest 2 Months Ever!

So much has happened since the last (October 2021) edition of the **WWA Newsletter** has been published, and so many warnings in my last editorial have come true!

I go back and I have to hammer this point home at the beginning of the legislative session, where the **Animal-Rights (AR)** groups have an aggressive legislative agenda, that the **HHC** is needed more than ever. As I said in the last edition, **HHC's** record is perfect — we have killed every piece of anti-hunting legislation in our over 25-year history, but we need you! Though you cannot directly join the **HHC** (as we are an organization of organizations), we need you to be part of **WWA!** This is not a guilt trip message. I don't operate that way.

The threat to hunting in Washington State IS real.

Washington Wildlife First (WWF) is well-funded, and they are well-organized, and they are the biggest threat hunting has ever faced in this state. The only way we can counter them is for all the **HHC** member organizations to be strong too. If your membership to **WWA** is lapsed, please renew it; if you are a current member, please consider upgrading. If you are in the financial position to donate or become a Life member of **WWA**, now is the time to do it. ***We need a strong and vibrant Washington Waterfowl Association!***

WWA is **THE** premier waterfowl organization in this state and EVERY dollar they receive stays within Washington not only for conservation but to protect your waterfowl rights.

Spring Bear Season Vote a Disaster

In a disgusting development during the November Commission meeting, hunters lost their spring bear hunting season on a controversial 4 - 4 vote. ***I want to repeat, the threat to hunting is real!*** the **AR** groups are organized and think they can eliminate hunting through the Commission.

This move was pushed by **WWF!** The Commission chair was present at the meeting, yet **Vice-Chair Barbara Baker** conducted the meeting. By Commission policy the Commission Vice Chair is the Commission Parliamentarian, yet she chaired the meeting. How can a meeting chair be the parliamentarian at the same time — a violation of **Roberts Rules of Order**, or any meeting's rules of order?

To cut the wheat from the chafe; before the meeting started we knew that **Commissioners Thornburn, Anderson, and Mclsaac** would vote Yes, and we knew **Commissions Baker, Koontz, and Smith** would vote No. The wildcard, as always, would be **Commissioner Molly Linville**, who ultimately voted Yes, for a 4 - 3 majority, so the entire spring bear season depended on **Chairman Larry Carpenter's** vote. Then it happened, **Larry "Benedict Arnold" Carpenter** stabbed the hunting community in the back, and voted with the Anti's, and we lost spring bear hunting season due to a procedural 4 - 4 tie vote.

To make matters worse, during the December Commission meeting, the plight of the **Blue Mountain** elk herd was brought before the Commission, where **AR** extremist Commissioners **Fred Koontz** (now former Commissioner) and **Lorna Smith** made complete fools of themselves.

WDFW had done an outstanding study on the herd. In 2021, the herd is 35% below management objective. The Department collared 125 calves, and only 11 of those are still alive. **WDFW** reported 7 dropped collars and 2 capture mortalities, for a baseline of 116 calves. There were 105 confirmed mortalities, 77 were due to predation, 70% of these predations were due to cougars!

(Then-Commissioner) Fred Koontz called "the socially accepted number" of dead elk "more important than the biological number."
That had to be one of the most idiotic statements ever made in a Commission meeting.

Lorna Smith's question shows her lack of wildlife knowledge and her extreme animal-rights stance, ***"Why have we jumped to predator management?"***

(Continued on Page 17)

Legislative News Continued

Tino Villaluz, the Wildlife Program Manager for the **Swinomish Indian Community**, blasted Commissioners **Koontz and Smith** at that same meeting. He pointed to treaty hunting rights and necessary pragmatic wildlife management in the West's smallest state with the second highest human population, and said, "*The arbitrary protection of predators cannot continue.*"

The day after this, hunters comments poured into the Commission about Commissioners **Koontz and Smith** (much more heavily about **Smith**), blasting them for their comments, and demanding them to resign. I was proud of hunters, who spoke up in massive numbers, angry, as they should be — loud and vocal!

Brian Blake for WDFW Commission

Hunters received a great blessing, on December 13, 2021, when **Fred Koontz** resigned from the Commission less than 12 months into his six-year appointment! We have a chance that we cannot let slip through our fingers. **Brian Blake** has announced he is seeking that position on the Fish and Wildlife Commission. For a look at **Blake's** credentials, see [Page 19](#).

Let's look at the alternative. Thirty (30) **AR** activists and radical environmental groups signed a letter to Governor Inslee to not fill the open Commission seats with hunters or consumptive users. Imagine the disaster of three (3) more **Fred Koontz** clones on the Commission. We must work harder. The choice will be between a person who has been with us every step in the way in **Brian Blake** versus another **AR** extremist like **Lorna Smith**.

Good Chance to Reinstate Spring Bear Hunt Season

The MAIN thing I want to highlight in my article is that we have a chance to bring back the spring bear season! On January 21, 2022 the Commission will hear three (3) petitions to do so in a special webinar meeting in which no public testimony will be taken. One of those petitions is the **Inland Northwest Wildlife Council's (INWC)** Petition for Adoption to Amend **WAC 220-415-080** linked [here](#). This petition is extremely well-researched; it's extremely well documented; and it's the only petition that fixes the technicalities that resulted in the spring bear season being discontinued on a **tie vote**.

It's the only petition that fixes the main problem by eliminating the **end date** in the **WAC**. It fixes the other errors and cleans up the **WAC**. The **HHC** and **WWC** both have signed onto the **INWC's** Petition for Adoption to Amend **WAC 220-415-080**.

On January 6, 2022, **WWA's Board of Directors** also signed onto and endorsed the **INWC** Petition. The other organizations that have signed on are: **Backcountry Hunters and Anglers**, the **MeatEater**, **Rocky Mouny Elk Foundation**, **Inland Empire Safari Club**, **Sportsmen's Alliance**, **Pheasants Forever**, and the **Mule Deer Foundation**.

We need you to send your comments to the Commission supporting **INWC's Petition for Adoption to Amend WAC 220-415-080**. Tell them that this petition fixes technical problems with **WAC 220-415-080**, and resolves all the other issues with that specific **Washington Administrative Code (WAC)**. Tell them that we deserve to have the spring bear hunting season back. Send your letters or comments to the Commission via email to: commission@dfw.wa.gov, or if you prefer snail mail, send your letters to:

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
PO Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Bills

Finally, I mentioned the **AR** groups aggressive legislative agenda. All links to the full bill are active.

Senate Bill 5721: Consolidates **WDFW** into the **Department of Natural Resources**;

Senate Bill 5656: Concerning Fish and Wildlife Commission members;

Senate Bill 5613: Concerning the use of dogs to hunt black bear, cougar, or bobcat. This is the repackage of **House Bill 1375**, the anti-trapping bill I previously warned about; **House Bill 1718**: Prohibiting activities related to the production and manufacturing of fur products

These bills are horrible!

Additionally there will also be bills introduced to:

- Make the **WDFW Director** a statewide elected office;
- Another one to eliminate the **Commission** and make the **Director** appointed directly by the **Governor**, both awful.
- There will be many more bad ones coming down the pike, but I will end with an outstanding bill, **Senate Bill 5608**, by a superstar **Senator Lynda Wilson** (of the **17th Legislative District** including **Vancouver** and rural **Clark County**) which would eliminate the **Discover Pass**, and make access to all state lands **FREE**, and replace the lost revenue by general fund revenues. **Kudos Senator Wilson!**

News for the Flock

Eastern Washington has been Without Full WDFW Commissioner Representation for Over a Year Now — Action More Vital than Ever

It has been over a year now since **Rylan Weythman** first sought to join **Molly Linville**, a cattle rancher/farmer in **Douglas County** and **Kim Thorburn**, a retired public health physician of **Spokane**, to complete a full state of at least three (3) to represent Eastern Washington on the **WDFW Commission** (as mandated by **RCW 77.04.030** linked [here](#)). It is those on the Eastside who continue to suffer from the lack of predator control of bears, cougars, and yes, the dreaded “W” word — wolves! At the November 19, 2021 Commission meeting it was **Thorburn** who made the motion (seconded by **Linville**) to adopt the recommendations of **WDFW** biologists for a 2022 spring bear hunting season — a move that was also supported by **WDFW Director Kelly Susewind**. Need anymore be said?

Rylan’s credentials: **Rylan** is an avid hunter and fisher, and not just waterfowl of primary interest to our membership but also big game, turkey, and upland birds. His personal background gives him unique personal knowledge of both sides of the Cascades. He and his wife **Sara**, a school teacher, currently reside in **Okanogan County**, after spending the better part of the last 10 years in **King County**.

Rylan was raised and schooled near **Wenatchee** — specifically **Cashmere** — where he spent most of his summers (and more) fishing for salmon on the nearby **Columbia River**. He left **Cashmere** to go to college and law school in California. In 2012 he returned to Washington and is currently a Partner at the prominent law firm of **Foster Garvey**, where he is a litigation attorney.

Support one of our own. Support someone who has sat in the same blinds, glassed the same clear cuts, fished the same holes, and who shares the same core values as you and the Washington Hunting and Fishing Community.

So many hunters and fishers have voiced their displeasure to **Governor Inslee** about the *status quo* of unfilled Commission seats and other Commission appointments that have not yet been confirmed by the **WA State Senate**, that the computer portal to the Governor has been overwhelmed. Keep **Rylan’s** name in the forefront of public discussion regarding future appointments to the **Commission**. If you haven’t done so yet, please take a few moments to express your support of **Rylan** to the **Fish and Wildlife Commission** using the **NEW WA State Government Portal** linked [here](#).

Click on **Fish and Wildlife Commission**, then follow the prompts. When it asks for **Rylan’s** email address, he has given his consent to use his business email at: Rylan.Weythman@Foster.com



News for the Flock

Another Commissioner Opening Leaves Opportunity to Appoint Former Head of State House Natural Resources Committee

With the sudden mid-December resignation of **Fred Koontz** from the **WDFW Commission** after less than a year of service into a full six (6) year appointment from **Governor Jay Inlee**, another avid hunter and fisher has thrown his hat into the ring — former **WA State House Legislator, Brian Blake** of **Aberdeen**.

A well-known member of the **Hook and Bullet Club**, **Brian** is one of us.

When he was in the **Washington State House of Representatives**, **Brian** chaired one of the two most important committees for hunting issues, the **House Natural Resources Committee**. What a blessing he was as the chair of that committee. Hunters especially owe him a **BIG THANKS** for the job he did in the Legislature.

Brian served on the **Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission**, the **State Hatchery Spending Project Task Force**, and the **Western Legislative Forestry Task Force**. **Brian** has been a logger. He understands forestry issues, and how important those are to the hunting community. **Brian** has a deep understanding of commercial fishing issues.

When **Governor Jay Inlee** appointed **Fred Koontz** to the Commission, it was the first time that the commercial fishers were left without representation on the Commission. The legislative mandate, **RCW 77.04.012**, (linked [here](#)) dictates that “the Department shall promote orderly fisheries and shall enhance and improve **recreational and commercial fishing** in this state.”

When asked about his votes in favor of commercial fishers, **Blake** in a public podcast on **Fish Hunt Northwest** explained that those votes were as a Legislator representing his constituents, and that his votes on the **Commission** must follow the statutory mandate of the Legislature for **WDFW** and represent all fishers.

If you are so inclined to support **Brian Blake** on the **Commission**, please send your emails and letters to the **NEW** Washington State Government computer portal linked [here](#), or if you prefer send by snail mail to:

Governor Jay Inlee
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002



Brian Blake



News for the Flock

The Theory of Drowning

By Larry Hill

It's that time of year again, and I thought maybe it may be an appropriate time re-post this. I apologize for the redundancy, but if it changes only one person's mind, it is worth it in my opinion.

There seems to be some confusion and myths regarding waders, PFD's and drowning. Please bear with me, as education is usually a long process.

First, the average adult is only slightly positively buoyant in the water (about 3-5lbs). This depends on the physical structure of the victim. Muscle is negative, fat positive. Lung volume is the primary means of floatation at the time of drowning.

There are wet drownings and dry. Wet meaning the lungs have filled with fluid, dry meaning the esophagus has spasmed and closed. Dry drowning is the most prevalent. Needless to say, it doesn't really matter as the victim is dead, but it does play a part in floatation and recovery. In most cold water drowning the victim may have an involuntary gasp, allowing water to enter the lungs and the drowning process to begin. With practice in cold water immersion, this gasp may be taught to be controlled aiding the survival efforts. Many rescue personnel practice this quite often in controlled conditions, most civilians have never tried it.

Neoprene waders to provide a good amount of floatation regardless of whether they are filled or not. Think of a diver's wetsuit, a ¼ inch wetsuit may need 20lbs-30lbs of weight in order for the diver to overcome the positive effects of the neoprene and allow them to sink.

Shell waders do not provide much, if any floatation. If a belt is worn with them, they may offer floatation for a limited amount of time. **Needless to say, belts should always be worn, regardless of the type of wader being worn.** Without a belt, the waders will fill immediately hindering swimming and floatation. Both are awkward to swim in, but if the person relaxes, floats on their back, a good distance can be covered in a short amount of time. The addition of clothing, shells, gloves, guns etc., only hinder the floatation and swimming process.



By wearing a PFD, positive floatation can be achieved within seconds. This can add as much as 20lbs of positive lift, which is more than adequate in most cases for the victim to float and breathe, regardless of different types of clothing and waders. The vest style is the most preferred by rescue personnel, but waist PFD's are extremely effective and they do not hinder entries or egress, nor do they hinder shooting.

If no PFD is worn, then the body generally sinks within a short period of time (neoprene waders being the exception) and can be extremely difficult to located, especially in rivers and low visibility waters. Since the body is only slightly negative, very little current may move it substantial distances. It may also snag very easily on submerged limbs and debris and may or may not refloat with time (refloat is another topic).

I could only hope all waterfowl hunters/fishermen, etc. may choose to wear some form of PFD, not only for themselves, but for family, friends and the rescue personnel.

Accidents rarely happen in good conditions. Most occur due to wind, rough water and overloading. While the water may look peaceful, one never knows what lies beneath the surface. The **Snake River** for example has been a dumping ground for more than 100 years. I have found combines, barbed wire rolls, fence posts driven into the bottom, wrecked cars, sunken trees, etc., all while drifting in major current with zero visibility, while attempting to find someone who thought a PFD was too much trouble, or was too macho to wear one.

Just like you, the rescuers and divers have family and friends who would like them to return from looking for another drowning accident victim. Please give some thought to their families and love ones before you simply say **"it's my right not to wear one!"** It may be your right, but your family still (lord knows why) wants your body back, even if it kills someone else.

Good hunting to all and please be safe!

P.S., If the boat capsizes, stay with the boat if possible. Most watercraft are equipped with floatation (as per the US Coast Guard Regs). Decoys, decoys in bags, and seat cushions are also excellent to grab on to.

News for the Flock

The Hunter's Table

By Kurt Snyder

Quick Duck Jambalaya

— Yum is an Understatement

You can cook this recipe in about a half hour but you will need to plan it a day ahead of time to season the duck. It will feed two (2) to three (3) normal people. (I can eat the whole thing, lol).

A cast iron pan is a must for frying the duck. The skin should be fried a bit crispy and cast iron will do this wonderfully.

Also, you will need these two items;



It may seem like cheating to use a rice mix but I have found **Zatarain's** products to be about as good as a mix can be. You can make your own Jambalaya of course, but that is your choice.

Just cook the duck like in the recipe and add it to your home-made Jambalaya. To make this a quick meal, use the **Zatarain's!**

I use diver duck for this, but any good duck will work if you leave the skin on. Fry the whole duck breasts **fast and hot so to not over cook them**. They should be warm but still red inside after frying. When frying, stay at the pan. You can fry bacon and use the bacon grease instead of oil to fry the duck if you wish. Crumble the bacon and add it to the Jambalaya. **Don't you DARE use farmed duck for this! Lol**

Ingredients

- Six (6) ringer breasts, or any diver duck, cleaned, dry with skin left on. Two or four will do if that's all you have.
- One half pound andouille sausage;
- 1 box **Zatarain's** Jambalaya mix;
- **Tony Chachere's** creole seasoning;
- Fine ground black pepper;
- 2 tablespoons of oil for frying. I like peanut or avocado oil but **Mazola** will do. Or use bacon grease.

Prepare the duck the day before cooking by drying them with paper towels. Coat lightly with the black pepper then coat with the **Tony's** seasoning. Do both sides. How much is a taste thing. I like a moderate coating but not so much that it over powers the duck. Cure overnight, **uncovered** in your refrigerator or on a garage shelf if it's winter. **Do not rinse or wipe before frying.**

Slice the andouille to ¼ inch slices at an angle then fry in the oil until browned well; drain; then set aside.

Fry the duck breasts two or three at a time in the hot oil on **just below high**. Fry for one minute then flip. Move the breasts around to keep the meat from sticking. Make sure the skin gets browned well. Drain and set aside. Cut into ½ inch cubes while the jambalaya mix is heating up.

Prepare the Jambalaya mix according to the instructions. As soon as it comes to a boil, set burner at simmer and add the sausage and duck meat (and the crumbled bacon if you want). Check for doneness at 15 minutes. The rice should be cooked to firm. **al dente**, if you will. Like your rice soft? Simmer for another 5 minutes.

Serve hot and enjoy!

The frying of this duck and sausage will make a GREAT gravy for just about anything. Like duck! If you can make a good gravy, **DO IT** after frying this recipe. Save it for another day! If you don't know how to make gravy, read next months recipe!

News For the Flock

2021/22 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print Order Form

The Washington Waterfowl Association is pleased to present the 2021 Washington State Migratory Bird Stamp and Limited Edition Print.

Artist Denise D. Nelson



Revenue received through this program will be used by the Washington Waterfowl Association and the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, 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 check to:

**Washington Waterfowl Association
Duck Stamp Program
18207 Rhodes Lake Road
E. Bonney Lake, WA 98391**

News For the Flock

2021 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print Order Form

Please send me:



Quantity ____: unframed print(s) and stamp(s)

Quantity ____: frame for print & stamp



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

Please Ship Prints to:

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

I have included \$70.00 for each unframed print & stamp for a total of \$ _____.00

I have included \$175.00 for each framed print/stamp for a total of \$ _____.00

*Shipping and Handling \$ 10.00

Total Amount: \$ _____.00

-- Easier Yet --

Go to

<https://www.washingtonduckstamp.com/shop>

to place your order

News For the Flock



2008 WA State Print



2021 WA State Print & Stamp



Duck Calls, Duck Straps, WWA Logo'd Caps and more Prints...

WWA PHOTO CONTEST

WATERFOWL
SEASON PHOTOS
•
WIN PRIZES!



We think that with almost everyone having a camera with them, especially hunting, that we could give some prizes for this year's best hunting photos. This contest is **FREE** and open to all that hunt and their guests. WWA members will choose from the available **prize list**:
Game lanyards, duck stamp prints and duck calls. Non-members receive an annual WWA membership and a hat!

- Entrants can submit three images.
- Photos must be taken during the 2021/22 waterfowl season.
- Your three images must be submitted electronically with a submittal form.
- All images will become property of the WWA and may be used for advertising and/or to promote safe and fun hunting! (Originals can still be used by the contestant)
- Winning images will be posted in the WWA monthly newsletter.
- Judging will be performed by the WWA Promotion Team and will take place at the end of the season, the second week of March.
- Entries must fill out the photo submittal form at

www.waduck.org then send your photos to:

wawaterfowlmedia@gmail.com

Submitted images should reflect the hunt, hunt prep, travel to and from, dogs, decoys, sun rises and sunsets, camps and anything else water-fowling hunting related. Images should show good sportsmanship and comradery!

Some things to think about: open gun actions; safe gun handling; safe boating; avoid showing alcohol and remember that kids will be looking at these images so keep it clean and classy!



2009 WA State Print

Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

Wanted

Collapsible blinds. Will pay CASH for: A-frame style blinds; panel blinds; or layout blinds.

Please text Marc at 425-890-4471

For Sale

Mustang Floatation Suit and Jackets. Unused – just stored. These are \$200.00+ when purchased new.

All proceeds go to Washington Waterfowl Association

\$ 50.00 each!

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Qty 1 – MJ6212 | Size L (42-46) Bomber Style - Black |
| Qty 1 – MC 1520 | Size S (34-38) Orange |
| Qty 1 – MC1520 | Size L (42-46) Black |
| Qty 1 – MC1520 | Size XL (46-50) Yellow |
| Qty 1 – MC1530 | Size S (34-38) Orange |
| Qty 1 – MC1530 | Size M (38-42) Orange |
| Qty 1 – MC1530 | Size L (42-46) Black |

Thermotic Floatation Suit. GR Woodford – Unused - Just stored. \$ 50.00

Qty 1 – S3X-X35 Size S

Contact – Rick at (425) 299-6704 or rgbillieu@frontier.com



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.
- 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.

For Sale

12' Aluminum Duck Boat. Rusty trailer, working lights. She's no beauty queen. 30lb thrust *Minn Kota* trolling motor included. **\$750.**

Contact Sam, in Mountlake Terrace, 425-256-0655

Redington neoprene waders size L. The waders have booties and are made to be worn with wading boots. Color is forest green. The waders had very little use and are in excellent condition. **\$25.00.**

Contact Jack, 360-910-7867

FN Browning A5 Square back 12 ga. Magnum in VG shape. Full choke. **\$750**

Contact Robb, 206-909-7189

Ithaca Model 37 12 ga. pump with Poly Choke in good condition. Nice light field gun, **\$495**

Contact Robb, 206-909-7189

8' Olympian fiberglass dinghy, oars, 4hp Suzuki w/ self contained tank. Easily seats two adults or an adult & 2 children. Pic's left & below. **Total Package — \$600 OBO.**

Contact Jim, 206-612-8772



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renew Online at 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 or call 425-221-3986.

WWA Life Members

#1 Gary Talbert G	#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 SD
#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 G	#18 Mike Lutz G	#19 Reserved on Time Payments	#20 Anonymous S
#21 Earl Mikkelson S	#22 US Rep Jaime Herrera Beutler H	#23 Ken Packard G	#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 Reserved for BQT Presentation (2022)	#35 Reserved for BQT Presentation (2022)
#36 Doug Graef S D	#37 Robb Stack S	#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 S	#60 Brad Davis
#61 James Ono	#62 Ann Bullard	#63 Vance Boyer	#64 Albert O'Connor	

New Levels of Life Membership

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

Bronze Level Life Membership — \$500.00 (USD)

Includes one **WWA** Logo'd Belt Buckle **OR** one **Pacific Calls** WWA Logo'd Duck Call.

Silver Level Life Membership — \$1,000.00 (USD)

Includes one **Pacific Calls** WWA Logo'd Duck Call **AND** one WWA Logo'd embroidered "Life Member" Jacket.

Gold Level Life Membership — \$2,000.00 (USD)

Includes one **Pacific Calls** WWA Logo'd Duck Call, **AND** one WWA Logo'd embroidered "Life Member" Jacket, **AND** one guided Duck or Goose hunt for one.

All will include the option to decline the gift[s] accompanying their respective membership in order to provide maximum financial support to **WWA**.

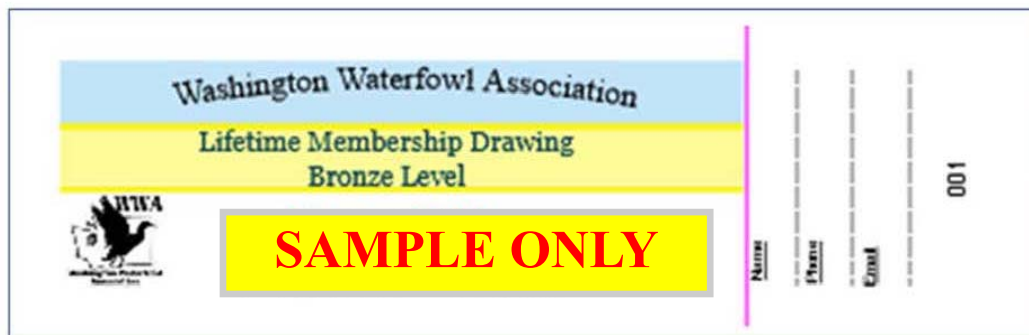
All formerly \$750 "Sustaining" Life Members were automatically "bumped up" to the new Silver Life Member Level with no additional necessary payment nor any new emoluments of membership awarded.

If you have a question about the level of your Life Membership as listed above, please contact **John Arrabito** at jarrabito@comcast.net or **Mark Pidgeon** at marpwwa@gmail.com and we will be happy to help you by researching **WWA** records to make sure that we have the correct information about your existing Life Membership support of **WWA**.

THANK YOU ALL for your "sustaining" support of the **Washington Waterfowl Association**.

News for the Flock

WWA Life Membership Raffle



The WWA-Fund-Raising Committee has identified this drawing as one of several ideas for generating revenue and an opportunity to promote our organization.

The drawing is for a \$ 500.00 Lifetime Membership at the 'Bronze Level'

The Bronze Level membership includes a WWA Belt Buckle or a WWA Logo'd Pacific Call Duck Call.

Congratulations to the 2021 Winner

Albert T. O'Connor

of the

Lower Columbia Chapter!

Look for another Raffle for a WWA Life Membership in 2022.

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 five (5) primary funds established by the **WWA** since publication of the **October 2021 Newsletter**.

WWA General Fund — \$1,533

WWA Habitat Fund — \$1,640

WWA Heritage Lands Fund — \$11,077

WWA Legal Fund — \$20,753.52

WWA Youth Fund — \$1,810

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 TAXIDERMÝ

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 \$320.
- Seaducks & Mergansers are \$350.
- Goose mount is \$500.
- One pheasant mount is \$280.

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. Pen ink can bleed onto the bird.
- 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.



loran.navarro@yahoo.com

970-988-4717

Active Link to >>>: [Twin Rivers Bird Taxidermy FB Page](#)

More WDFW News

Swans Have Returned to Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties



OLYMPIA - Trumpeter and tundra swans are returning to **Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom,** and other western Washington counties.

Trumpeter swans that migrate to Washington originate from forested regions of **Alaska and Canada's western Yukon and northern British Columbia** for the winter. They are the heaviest living bird in North America, with wingspans that can exceed 10-feet. They breed in shallow ponds, lakes, wetlands and rivers, with the largest numbers of breeding pairs in **Alaska**.

Tundra swans migrate to Washington from windswept tundra habitats of the **Alaska Peninsula** for the winter. **Tundras** are smaller than **Trumpeters**, with wingspans up to six (6) feet, and they have a noticeable yellow spot at the base of their eye.

Both species of swan can form long-term pairs and raise their young together, with young birds following the parents during the first year to important stopover and winter areas in search of food and places to rest. Their natural diets are made up of aquatic vegetation and underwater roots and tubers. They often eat with their heads submerged underwater. However, with changes in the availability of their native habitats, current wintering habitat is supplemented by eating grasses and leftover agricultural crops like corn and potatoes.

Swan populations

Approximately 20,000 **Trumpeter** and **Tundra** swans migrate between November and April. Swans are an example of a long-lived waterfowl species, with several individuals documented to live more than 20 years. Through the year, about five to 15 percent of swans die from natural causes, and about two (2) percent wintering in western **Washington** die from hitting power lines or ingesting lead shot or fishing weights. Lead shot has been banned in **Washington** & nationwide for waterfowl hunting since 1991.

To protect swan populations, there are no swan hunting seasons in **Washington**. (The last **Trumpeter** swan hunting season was in 1918.)

The **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)** has re-established a hotline to report sick, injured, or dead swans in **western Washington** counties as part of its ongoing effort to assess the impact of lead poisoning on trumpeter and tundra swans.

People can call (360) 466-4345, ext. 266, to report swans that have died or need help in **Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish,** and other western **Washington** counties. Callers should be prepared to leave a short message, including their name and phone number, and a detailed location.

For the full story, use the following [link](#).

TAXIDERMIST FACEBOOK 

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



Whidbey Island TAXIDERMISTRY
1685 CARLTON WAY
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON
98277

SHOP 360.675.9008
CELL 360.672.5100 WWW.WHIDBEYISLANDTAXIDERMISTRY.COM

While It's On Your Mind

Get your **FREE** WA State Duck Stamp

To receive a complimentary (as in **FREE**) WA State Duck Stamp, mail a copy of your 2021-22 License (showing an authorization to hunt Migratory Birds) along with a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) to:

WWA Duck Stamp Program
18207 Rhodes Lake Road E
Bonney Lake, WA 98391

(Absolute Deadline is March 31, 2022)
(Unclaimed Stamps will be destroyed in April)

Link to WDFW Regs

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].


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.

2021-22 Regs Are Out; Linked [Here](#)

See Migratory Game Bird Season Summary on **Page 18** of the Pamphlet, (Page 20 of the Link).



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



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




TWIN CITY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB
 STANWOOD WA

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

www.tcsportsmanclub.org



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)**
- ** Please check box if you do not wish to receive a gift.**
- Senior (65 or over) - \$ 15.00
- Junior (under age 18) -- \$ 15.00
- 2-Year Regular \$ 50.00
- 2-Year Family \$ 60.00
(2-year memberships NOT available online)

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

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

Pay with a credit card from our website:

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 Sportsmen's 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 Sportsmen's 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.