

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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etter from the V-P



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Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

Presidency Vacancy and Corporate Opportunities

As of late last month the **WWA Corporate President's** position is vacant. **Ramon Guel** has voluntarily stepped down from that position. The **WWA Board of Directors (BOD)** is considering new candidates for the Presidency.

Our **By-Laws** require that corporate officers must have previously held a minimum of one year as a chapter officer or a member of the board of directors. If you are interested in being considered by the **BOD** to fulfill the remaining 14 months of the current term, please reach out to any of the corporate officers or board of directors. If you don't meet the requirements and are still interested in getting involved at the state level, please reach out to us as well. There are current opportunities on our committees (such as fund-raising and social media teams) or possible future opportunities for Board or Officer positions. We would be happy to hear from you and answer any questions.

Spring is here!

A new license year is upon us! Make sure to mail in any salmon catch record cards and buy a new license before heading out for any fishing or hunting. I am loving the longer days and better weather and am really excited to do some turkey hunting and bass fishing!

Share your Offseason Projects

If you are working on any off-season projects (blind builds, boat repairs, etc.) we would love to see them. Send your photos and stories to WaWaterfowlMedia@gmail.com, and we will share them on our social media platforms.

All-Chapters Meeting

Due to recent changes to our corporate leadership team, the All-Chapters meeting will be postponed until further notice. Please stay tuned for updates.

James Ono

WWA Vice-President

MISSION STATEMENT

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

News for the Flock

2021 EVENTS CALENDAR

- Thurs, April 15** **Opening Day** of Turkey Hunting Season, Statewide. Trust those early risers had success!
[LINK to 2021 Regs.](#)
- Tues, April 20** **Deadline** for written submittals on Proposed Dayton Harbor No Shooting Zone. (See **Page 4**)
- Mon, April 26** Seattle Chapter Meeting in-person at the Kenmore Gun Range. (See **Page 3**)
- Tues, April 27** SW Chapter Meeting Night
The Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club is open for business, and we’ll be meeting in person in the Education Building. See **Page 16**.
- Thurs, April 29** Usual LC Chapter Meeting Night
Encore Online Meeting; See **Page 6**.
WebEx Invitation to be sent by email
- Tues, May 4** On-Line — Whatcom County Council Meeting on Proposed No Shooting Zone at Drayton Harbor. (See **Page 4 & 5**)
- Weds, May 5** Cinco de May WWA BOD 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, May 6** GH Chapter Meeting, **in person**; Evergreen Sportsmen’s Club near Littlerock; 7 pm, See **Page 8**.
- Weds, May 12** NW Chapter Meeting **in person**; Twin Cities Sportsmens Club Stanwood; 7 pm, See **Page 10**.
- Tues, May 25** Usual SW Chapter Meeting Night
- Weds, May 26** Usual Seattle Chapter Meeting Night
- Thurs, May 27** Usual LC Chapter Meeting Night
- Sat, August 7** WA State Sanctioned Duck & Goose Calling Championships, Sumner Gun Club

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Thank you, your order has been placed.

Please check your email for order confirmation and detailed delivery information or visit [Message Center](#) to review your notifications.

Amazon will make a donation to **Washington Waterfowl Association** See your impact

News for the Flock

Seattle Chapter News

By: James Ono

Two-Fer Chapter Meeting Again on Monday, April 26th

As the **Kenmore Gun Range** continues with their limited shooting days and hours open to the public, we will continue beginning our meeting with shooting for **WWA MEMBERS ONLY** having access to the range[s] between the hours of 5 pm to 7 pm (the public can shoot from 3 pm until 5 pm only) followed by our business meeting and program at 7 pm. We also are allowed use of the clubhouse for our meeting, but must continue to abide by COVID guidelines by wearing masks while inside. **However, please eat before you arrive or bring something with you as we will NOT be providing pizza and soda until further notice.**

So once again we will be having a **hybrid** meeting of live and on-line participation. This month we are trying something new. We will be talking about decoy strategies and inviting all participants to share. We put together a few scenarios and asked different members to share how they would set up their spread. This is a great chance to share some of your knowledge and learn something new. Also feel free to bring up any scenarios that you would like input on. I know that there are a lot of different approaches and different types of decoys that change how each of you set your spread. No wrong answers here!

WebEx Meeting Details

**April Chapter On-Line Meeting
Monday, April 26, 2021, 7:00 pm**

<https://jamesono.my.webex.com/jamesono.my/j.php?MTID=m4cd42713162c341eebdb650fab205393>

Meeting number: 182 722 4817
Password: rgSCG6pJ28m
(74724675 from phones and video systems)

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll
Access code: 182 722 4817

Duck Box Build Party

As you may have read in a previous newsletter, we have a number of duck nest boxes that have been beaten by the elements. In an upcoming meeting we will be building boxes to be installed later in the summer. If you are interested in helping organize the nest box build, please reach out to me at Ohnoitsono2009@hotmail.com or 425-233-5936.

Chapter Officer Position

Chapter Elections are coming up soon! As much as I would love to continue as the Seattle Chapter Chair, my wife and I are expecting our first child this summer, and it has become clear that I may have trouble fulfilling the duties of the chairperson. If you are interested in the chapter chair or a possible co-chair position, please let me know. I am happy to answer any questions.

Let's Talk Turkey

Last month we had professional guide **Matt Stevens** do his turkey hunting program. As with all of his appearances before our Chapter, the presentation was GREAT; however the technical aspects for sharing, not so great. Unfortunately some of the videos and calling demos didn't translate very well to the recording.

For those of you hitting the woods this week thru May 31st, after **today's Turkey Season Opener** there is still a ton of great information for you in the video. A link to the video presentation and the password can be found in the announcements section of our chapter page linked below:

<https://washingtonwaterfowl.org/chapters/seattle>



Engagement Survey

Earlier this month you received an email with our engagement survey. We want to make our chapter work for you. If you haven't already, please take a couple minutes to provide feedback at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G27Q5F3>

News for the Flock

Whatcom County Chapter News

By: Lyle Galloway

Drayton Harbor No Shooting Proposal back under Consideration

Attention all **WWA** members and migratory waterfowl hunters and sportsmen. The **Blaine City Council** and local county anti hunters are at it again trying take away your right to hunt waterfowl in **Drayton Harbor**. Having learned their lesson[s] of two (2) years ago that Washington law specifically **EXEMPTS** noise created by the discharge of firearms as a justifiable reason for creating a non-shooting zone, they are using the issue "safety" to attempt to get their way.

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

As for safety concerns, two (2) things to keep in mind when you express your opinion to the Whatcom County Council:

1. There is already a buffer of a 300 yards from shore — no hunting ordinance for Drayton Harbor and adjoining Birch Bay; and
2. It is impossible to carve out an exception to the No Shooting Zone for one group (i.e., the Treaty Tribes), and still base the the No Shooting Zone on the only legal basis of "Safety" as recognized by WA law.

[See [RCW 9.41.300\(2\)\(a\) linked here](#)]

It is either safe or unsafe to allow the shooting of firearms within Drayton Harbor. **Any safety issues CAN NOT be contingent upon who is doing that shooting!**

Bottom Line: This latest attempt to revive the proposed No Shooting Ordinance first drafted in 2019 is nothing more than an anti-hunting group trying to strong arm hunters and sportsmen. Please see attached Maps (See adjacent **Page 5**) and Proposals Being submitted to the **Whatcom County Council** to be re-introduced on **May 4th** and will be publicly heard on **May 18th**. I strongly urge you to take the time to Read the proposal and express your opinion to the **Council** to **VOTE NO!!**

Executive Summary

1. A proposed ordinance to amend Whatcom County Code 9.32 was introduced to the Whatcom County Council on September 4, 2019 (see Attachment A), and public hearings were held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. However, no action was taken with regard to the proposed ordinance, and this remains an active item.
2. The request herein is to take action and pass the still-active, proposed ordinance. According to the Open Public Meetings Act, as there are no changes to the aforementioned proposed ordinance, additional public hearings are not required.
3. The proposed ordinance has the unqualified support from the Blaine City Council, as noted in Attachment A (Exhibits A and B), dated July 8, 2019.
4. The Lummi Business Council was approached previously and gave verbal approval for the proposed ordinance, under the condition that Native treaty and hunting rights are not abridged. This condition is met in the proposed ordinance, which states that "Tribal members exercising treaty rights to hunt on traditional hunting grounds that are open and unclaimed are not subject to this [proposed] ordinance."
5. When shooting is allowed near residential areas, even those that were previously rural, accidents occur. See, for example this news report from September 15, 2020 (audio may need to be turned on by clicking the speaker icon under the KIRO7 logo, lower right-hand corner): <https://bit.ly/3iJzwzZ>

Whatcom Chapter News Continued



No Shooting Zone – Drayton Harbor Area

PROPOSED BY: CITY OF BLAINE
INTRODUCTION DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 9.32, UNLAWFUL DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS, TO ESTABLISH A NO SHOOTING ZONE IN THE DRAYTON HARBOR AREA OF WHATCOM COUNTY

WHEREAS, pursuant to Whatcom County Code 9.32.050 the County Council may, upon its own initiative, pass a resolution declaring its intent to form a no shooting zone; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2019, the Council approved Resolution 2019-035, declaring its intent to conduct a public hearing to consider creating a no shooting zone in the Drayton Harbor area of Whatcom County, as requested by the City of Blaine; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Whatcom County Code 9.32.020 and RCW 36.32.120 the County Council has the authority and power to establish no shooting zones; and

WHEREAS, a “no shooting zone” is an area designated by the County Council in which the discharge of firearms is prohibited; and

WHEREAS, RCW 9.41.300 (2) specifically states that counties may enact laws and ordinances restricting the discharge of firearms in any portion of their respective jurisdiction where there is a reasonable likelihood that humans, domestic animals, or property will be jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, according to the request submitted by the City of Blaine (see City of Blaine Resolution No. 1765-19, attached as Exhibit A to this resolution):

- It is difficult for members of the public to distinguish between incorporated and unincorporated areas, particularly on open water, which causes numerous hunters to inadvertently move into areas where hunting and discharge of firearms is illegal;
- Citizens have expressed concerns about gunfire near homes and property and repeatedly call for police response to such incidents;
- Unincorporated portions of Drayton Harbor aquatic area, tidelands, and shoreline are within and adjacent to urban growth areas;
- Population is expanding and housing density is increasing within the areas surrounding Drayton Harbor both within the City and in areas of unincorporated Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, twenty-three other no shooting zones have been established throughout Whatcom County as a means to protect the public.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new section of Whatcom County Code 9.32 shall be added to create a no-shooting zone in the Drayton Harbor area as outlined in Exhibit B to this ordinance.

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED that Tribal members exercising treaty rights to hunt on traditional hunting grounds that are open and unclaimed are not subject to this ordinance.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2019.

News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By: Doug Hargin

Thursday, April 29th Meeting

At the time of the Newsletter's publication (April 15, 2021) we don't yet know yet if we are virtual or live for our meeting this month. We will let **all WWA-LC Chapter** members know in advance via an email blast.

Recap of Virtual Chapter Meeting March 25th

We had our third meeting of the year last month this time on the Zoom platform. Chapter member **Al O'Connor** shared **Klickitat County** turkey hunting experiences and tips with us. One aspect of his success involved working with land owners over time to build trust and a relationship to get access to productive areas.

He mentioned using wing feathers from a past bird to make two wing fans to attract turkeys. I must confess I had a mental picture of **Al** strutting around with the wings flapping and wondered how these sharp-eyed birds would react to that. That was not the case as **Al** explained that the

wing noises are done behind cover and act much like rattling antlers for deer or elk hunting. He explained that this technique had enticed some big gobblers to finish that previously were too cautious to come within range. See photo of **Al's** display of two (2) turkeys taken in April 2019.

The following is his account in his own words:

"It has taken me two (2) years to complete the display. Takes a few months to get items dried. I got both turkeys in April 2019. On the left is the fan of the 12 lb. hen and under the fan are one of her eggs, her beard, which makes her a legal harvest, and her legs, without spurs. The casings are 20 and 12 gauge. On the right is the fan of the 19.5 lb. gobbler and under the fan are his legs with spurs and his 9 in. beard. The casings are 12 and 10 gauge. In the center is painting of a black lab on a large turkey tail feather. I got it for a Christmas present a couple of years ago. Making the art display was almost as much fun as hunting the turkeys.

I started hunting Monday, April 15. It was cold with the wind blowing from the north. I had hens feeding around the blind every day and generally the same ones the first few days. There were very few song birds around, but it had warmed up on Thursday, and there were plenty flying around so I was hoping the turkeys would be moving around too, especially the Toms.

I got the legal hen on Friday, April 19. It took me awhile to notice her beard. It was tucked next to her breast feathers. She did have some red on her head though.

According to **NW Turkey Federation**, 20 % of the hens have beards. I saw another hen several years ago with a beard, but at that time I was not sure it was legal to shoot her so I didn't.

I got the gobbler Saturday morning April 20. I never heard a close gobbler before I saw him, and he was striding towards my decoys. I waited until he was within about 45 yards and shot then, because he was not going to stop. Downed him on the move."

(Continued on Adjacent **Page 7**)



LC Chapter News Continued

The Misunderstood Coot

We never see any proud photos of coot in the waterfowl hunting galleries on our phones and social media? Why is that? The fact they have a beak and feet like a chicken? No quacking, just some awfully strange sounds in the marsh? Maybe because they tend to run along the water and seem to hardly fly? Maybe just a general consensus as to their desirability? Do they taste like mud as in their nickname "Mud Hen"?

Hunting with **LC Chapter Chair Ted Blade** this last season laying out in our "pods" I dropped a "duck" flying over the decoys at a **O' Dark Thirty** shooting time. A minute later I dropped another "duck" out past the decoys. As things finally began to brighten **Ted** exclaimed, "I think those are coots you shot."

I was not in agreement as these "ducks" flew right over the outside edges of our decoys. They weren't swimming around doing the coot "head bob" I was accustomed too. Still in denial, I paddled out and retrieved my two (2)... Coots! Later that day I breasted them out along with the other "real" ducks I'd taken and soaked them all over night in cold water keeping the coot separate.

RECIPE

My favorite way to prepare wildfowl is to cube it up and marinate in soy, sesame oil, rice vinegar, fresh garlic, olive oil and something spicy overnight or two.

- **After the marinating, skewer with cubed colorful peppers and sweet onions.**
- **Next, BBQ them quickly on a hot grill (2-3 minutes a turn) until rare/medium rare. Mrs. Hargin will eat duck or goose (and coot?) prepared this way anytime. No other waterfowl version has passed her culinary standards to date.**

I saved some skewers for lunch with my buddy, former **LC Chapter Chair Rick Scott** later that week. My coot shooting prowess had preceded me from the marsh, and I assured him I would never have prepared him any coot. Yet there it was on his plate, and Rick had no idea as he happily gobbled down his mud hen with no complaints. I did fess up after we finished lunch.

Coot are actually a member of the rail family. We routinely see widgeon stealing aquatic plants from the coot, and their diets are very similar. In Louisiana they are called **poldeux** (poo-du) and prized over ducks by many.

We have a daily bag limit of 25 coot in our flyway (and for the majority of the season, a 75 coot possession limit! So you may want to check out this episode #5 of "**Duck Camp Dinners**" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6v5CKehM9GE>

After viewing this you may be shooting coot next year like never before!



Final Reminder — Member Input

We need your input for the newsletter. Hunting stories, unusual experiences and/or photos. New tech help and gear, advise and ideas you can share, experiences hunting other venues. Whatever would interest you to read about in this newsletter. Submit them to dlhargin@msn.com. Thank you!



News for the Flock

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

I will post all the donors and participating agencies when Phase One of the project is complete!

Hi all —

Wow. Where did the last month go???

Seems I was just trying to put out *last* months newsletter input. I think I'm suffering from end of hunting season stress disorder. Oh well, turkey season is always a great way to get back to normal. Now to find the time.

Union River Blind Project Update

I have some really great news updates for the **Union River Blind Project**. We have exceeded our goal of funding for Phase One of the project!

I have a bunch of people to give credit for on his. I now have 22 volunteers, four (4) with boats, and donations adding up to over \$2,000 from **WWA Corporate, WWA Chapters, WWA members** and other individual donors. We also have support from the **Port of Allyn** that is letting us use their facilities for the floating blind rebuild.

As usual I'm awed at the willingness of everyone involved to get this project on the books. It took almost no effort at all, and now we have all the resources we need! Now it's time to get our hands dirty, complete with wood slivers! The next step is to schedule the work parties! So, keep your eyes peeled for the notification coming on some tentative dates.

May 6th is the next Chapter Meeting

Our next Chapter meeting is on the 6th of May. The same place as always, the **Evergreen Sportsmen's Club** near Littlerock, at 7:00 pm sharp. We have an action-packed business season ahead of us, and I know as usual, I can count on our members to pull it off!

Tickets Now Available for 2021 Hunt for Two Raffle

One more thing, the **2021 Cedarville Farms Hunt for Two Raffle** is in full steam ahead mode. It's going to be identical to the past raffles. See your Chapter Chairman to get your tickets. If they are not selling them, please ask them why!!!!??? It's a great way to use the generously donated hunts from the Cedarville Farms Hunt Club to fund our conservation!! (See Flyer on Adjacent **Page X**)

Thanks, as always,
Kurt
kurtsnyder@outdrs.net



Congrats to Brandon DeHart — THE WINNER of the drawing for the Canada Goose carving donated by Brian Blake! The Benefit Raffle raised \$755 — with the entire proceeds donated to the Seattle Children's Hospital. Thanks to everyone who participated to make this the success it was!

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GH Chapter News Continued



OCTOBER 2nd, 2021 HUNT FOR TWO RAFFLE

Presented by; Cedarville Farms Waterfowl Club and the Grays Harbor Chapter of the Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

Two chances at a hunt for two with each ticket purchase. Win a one day, fully guided waterfowl hunt for two at Cedarville Farms Waterfowl Club exclusive properties. Overnight lodging included. All equipment provided except hunters licensing.



www.waduck.org

Washington Waterfowl Association

Ticket price is \$5.00 each or \$20.00 per five

Tickets make great gifts for that hunter that you know!

You get TWO chances with each ticket!

Need not be present to win!

See your local WWA Chapter for purchase or contact below!

**GRAYS HARBOR CHAPTER
Washington
Waterfowl Assn.**

6744 Apricot Ln Sw
Rochester Wa 98579
360-485-9353
kurtsnyder@outdrs.net

News for the Flock

NW Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

Clean homes for the Wood Ducks!

During the month of March, members of the **NW Chapter** have been performing maintenance on some of the many Wood Duck Nest Boxes deployed in the region. The locations range from local lakes, sloughs, private ponds, to state and county wetlands. Some of the nest box locations



NW Chapter member Andrew Wyman with one of several eggs abandoned in one of 5 Nest Boxes located at Sixteen Lake.



Nest Box Maintenance at Ebey Island

have proven to be successful each year, while others have had limited success.

The less successful locations require us to redeploy the boxes to the more successful locations or to new locations. With wood products including Cedar at a premium, the chapter didn't construct new boxes this year. If you have a lead on materials let us know. Thanks to our volunteer members for the time they put forth for this "hands-on" conservation effort. If you would like to volunteer for these activities please contact me.

The **Northwest Chapter** meets on the second Wednesday each month at the **Twin Cities Sportsmens Club** in Stanwood. Trap at 6:00 pm with business meeting starting at 7 pm. Raffle at the end of each meeting. See you there and bring a friend.

Support your Passion – Get Involved

Rick Billieu

rgbillieu@frontier.com

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

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

News for the Flock

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.



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www.tcsportsmanclub.org

Moses Chapter News

By: Dick Price

Thanks to a donation secured from ML Chapter member **Col. Tom O'Dell** our chapter was able to assist **WDFW** in purchasing a replacement handicap blind to be placed on the hunting site at **Rocky Ford Creek**. The site is just off Highway 17 and five (5) miles East of **Ephrata**.

Once the blind is in place we will have a work party to "brush-in" the blind in preparation for the 21-22 Waterfowl season. Access to the blind is through a locked gate controlled by the **WDFW** regional office in **Ephrata**.

As fishing picks up in the Basin, so has the wind. If you are boating on waters in the area, I would strongly urge you to wear your **PFD (Personal Flotation Device)**. They save lives and the water is still COLD!!

Turkey hunting will be open and I urge you to be sure it is a turkey you are stalking and NOT another hunter working his call. Most landowners will let you hunt as turkeys are not popular when they roost on their buildings and leave their calling cards.

Southwest Chapter

Spokane Chapter

Tri-Cities Chapter

Yakima Valley Chapter

No News This Month

WWA Legislative News

WA Legislative Report

By Mark Pidgeon

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)**.

By my next report session will be over. There are about two weeks remaining in the 2021 session. Man, time flies when you're not having fun. lol This virtual session is not fun at all, and I can truly say that I have worked harder this session than I ever have.

Some really good news, the **PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) Bill, SB 5159** passed the State House unanimously 97-0, with one excused; 47-2 in the State Senate; and now it goes to the Governor's desk for his signature. This was a bill fix that was needed for a long time. Kudos to **WDFW Director Kelly Susewind** who pushed this hard since attaining the top position. This was the most important bill to the hunting community in 2021, and it will stop **WDFW** from being at war with rural counties when it tries to buy land. This is great news for hunter access. A **GREAT BIG** win and a long time coming!

Another good bill moving to the Governor's desk is the Indemnification Bill, SB 5146, which authorizes the **Fish and Wildlife Commission** to indemnify the United States and its agencies as a condition of securing federal funds for purposes of fish, shellfish, and wildlife projects. Certain federal agencies may require indemnification language in their contracts. Indemnity may be included as a clause in contracts in which the actions or mistakes of one party may result in the other party being liable for damages. In most contracts, an indemnification clause serves to compensate a party for harm or loss arising in connection with the other party's actions or failure to act. This Bill also passed the state house unanimously 97 - 0 with one excused.

HB 1375, the crazy animal-rights bill that uses COVID as an excuse to ban mink farms, ban fur farms, and

ban the production of fur got a hearing on March 10th in the **House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources** despite the expiration of three (3) cut-off dates! That bill should have never been heard. It is dead, but it will be repackaged under a new bill number and pushed hard next session along with their entire agenda by the animal-rights (**AR**) people.

In the March **WDFW Commission** meeting when the three-year hunting proposals were being heard, Hunters flat out got killed by the anti-hunting and **AR** people. Only four or five hunters testified vs. hundreds of the **AR** "enemy," and it made a bad impression on the **Commission**.

Unfortunately there are members of the **Commission** who believe that hunting should be banned. They say they grew up hunting and fishing but... That may be a little far-fetched given the Legislative mandate in RCW 77.04.012 — "The commission shall attempt to maximize the public recreational game fishing and hunting opportunities of all citizens, including juvenile, disabled, and senior citizens." They sure can make hunters' lives a lot more miserable though, by their definition of "maximize."

In my opinion we have stretched the argument of RCW 77.04.040 (linked [here](#)) all we can to promote the appointment of **Rylan Weythman** for a position on the **Commission**. I don't think sending more messages will do any good. It is time for the **Senate Natural Resources Committee** to vote up or down for confirmation of recent **Inslee** appointments **Janet Smith** and **Fred Koontz**. There is still another seat not talked about, and that is the unexpired seat of **Larry Carpenter** which has four years remaining.

We held our **HHC Legislative Reception** for our "2020 Legislators of the Year" recently. Winners of awards were **Senator Mark Schoesler (R-9)**, **Sen Shelly Short (R-7)**, **Sen Dean Takko (D-19)**, **Sen Lynda Wilson (R-17)**, **Representative Brian Blake (D-19)**, **Rep Larry Hoff (R-18)**, **Rep Joel Kretz**, **Rep Jacquelin Maycumber (R-7)**, **Rep Jim Walsh (R-19)**, and **Rep JT Wilcox (R-2)**. We gave special recognition to **Sen Mark Schoesler** who voluntarily stepped down from leadership, and we gave extra special recognition to true champions of the hunting community **Brian Blake** and **Dean Takko** for all their years in the Legislature. Thank you every one of you for all that you do for the hunting community.

One topic that was discussed was **the Commission** — how we should not be looking just at this year, but two and four years down the road. That is very good advice!

Legislative News Continued

Keep the Pressure on Re: Your Preference for Appointments to the WDFW Commission



Rylan Weythman (left) with Mitch Myers

Washington Outdoorsmen and women are still waiting for the **Governor Inslee's** final appointment to the **Fish and Wildlife Commission**, so there is still time to voice your preference for **Rylan Weythman**, via the online portal listed at the end of this post introducing him.

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

It also wouldn't hurt to mention that Governor Inslee's two most recent appointments to the **WDFW Commission**, were specifically in violation of state law; more specifically in violation of RCW 77.04.040 linked [here](#).

RCW 77.04.040 was put in place to keep balance on the **Commission**, so all Washingtonians have a fair shot at enjoying the outdoors. The Commission is the **Citizens'** representation on wildlife management.

Please help restore "fair citizen" representation on the **WDFW Commission**. **Support Rylan Weythman!**

Rylan is an avid hunter and fisher, and not just waterfowl 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 live in Okanogan County, after spending the better part of the last 10 years in King County.

He 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.

Rylan is a very attractive Commission candidate because in one sole appointment he is the perfect replacement for **Dave Graybill**, who was from **Wenatchee**, and **Rylan** would maintain representation of that part of the state on the Commission. Take a few moments to express your support of **Rylan** to the **Fish and Wildlife Commission** using the following WA State Government portal.

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/boards-commissions/recommend-applicant>

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

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 **March 2021 Newsletter**.

WWA General Fund — \$1,533

WWA Habitat Fund — \$1,640

Gary Talbert (Union River Blind Project) — \$125
Mike Nilsen (2021 Union River Blind Project) — \$100
Trevor Morris (2021 Union River Blind Project) — \$100
Rick Sheridan (2021 Union River Blind Project) — \$75
Kurt Snyder (2021 Union River Blind Project) — \$75
Brett Schwemmer (2018 Blind Maintenance) — \$25

WWA Heritage Lands Fund — \$11,077

WWA Legal Fund — \$19,753.52

WWA Youth Fund — \$1,610

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

TWIN RIVERS BIRD TAXIDERMISTRY

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

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

- One duck mount is \$300.
- One goose mount is \$450.
- One pheasant mount is \$250.

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

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

970-988-4717

Memorial for Jackson “Jack” Otto

After a month in ICU at an Everett Hospital, on March 16th just five (5) days short of his 16th birthday, **Jack’s** heart simply gave out, and he peacefully passed away after fighting his last long battle. The **Family of John and Toni Halligan Otto** wants to thank everyone in the **WWA family** for the positive thoughts, prayers and love shown them through this most difficult time. There was a beautiful **Celebration of Life** and open house on March 28th with family and friends coming from all over the country. The **Otto family** wants to thank all who attended.

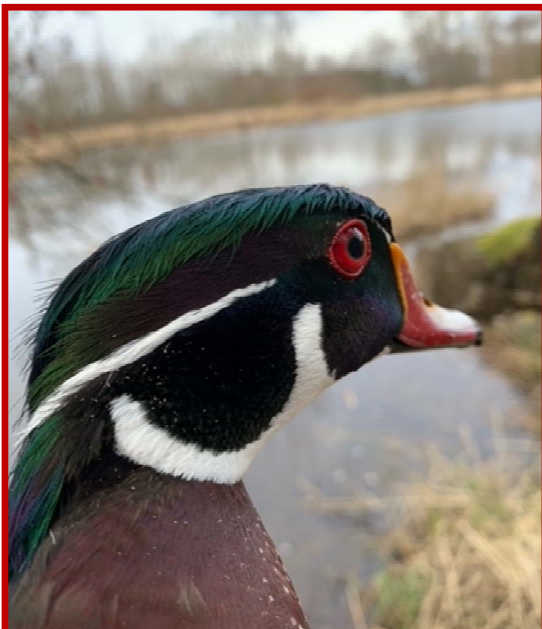
The **WWA**, with coordination from **Otto** family representatives, together have already raised over \$5,000 towards a lasting **Memorial for Jack**. ([See GoFundMe linked here](#)). The plan for this money is to purchase a memorial bench and plaque to be installed on the banks of a small pond overlooking a very special spot on the **Whatcom Wildlife Area** where **Jack** and his father, **John**, spent multiple youth-only hunt mornings in Septembers past. This was Jack’s **“Favorite”** pond, and a spot where he harvested his first wood duck. It is a special happy place that will be enjoyed by many for years in the future, by many more youth hunters who will come to view and learn about an excellent, thriving, waterfowl habitat.

The short range plan is to dedicate the bench and plaque this coming September on the morning of the youth-only hunt with the extended **Otto** family, their many friends, and the waterfowl community they enjoy being a big part of. It will be a **GREAT** time!

The long range plan with the remainder of funds left over is to establish a scholarship in **Jack’s** name to a few youth each spring to work with local **WDFW Natural Resource Technician** , **Brad Otto** (no relation) trapping and banding wood ducks; learning their biology; building a nest box; and maintaining established nest boxes at the site.

WWA for its part is looking to tie in this scholarship with the college scholarship currently being offered by its **Whatcom County Chapter** for area youth pursuing a wildlife management or similar degree. Other possible scholarship spin-offs could include a decoy carving class; along with wildlife photography; farming for wildlife; and habitat importance — because the local talent is there, available, and willing to contribute.

Details on this proposed annual event are in the works with criteria for youth students to be discussed in the upcoming months. We want to make this a special and informative event that helps teach the student the importance of conservation, and the roles consumptive users play.



Looking Over Restoration Pond

In Memory of Jack Otto — \$1,410

- WWA Corporate — \$1,000**
- Gary Talbert — \$ 125**
- John Arrabito — \$ 125**
- Lindsey White — \$ 100**
- William Engnes — \$ 50**
- Chris Ledger — \$ 10**



News for the Flock

Southwest Chapter News

By Bruce Burns

The **Southwest Chapter** held their first face to face meet in March. it was great seeing the members that came out. Most of the meeting was everyone visiting and planning for future events. One group is putting together a plan to work some Wood Duck Nest Boxes and Duck Nesting Tubes.

We also talked about this year's Washington Duck and Goose Calling Contest and trying to get some different jobs assigned to the task. In case you haven't heard — the **2021 Washington State Sanctioned Duck Calling Contest** will be held August 7, 2021 at the **Sumner Sportsmen's Club**. Pass the word around so this years contest will be the best yet!

The **Southwest Chapter** will be holding our next meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at the **Tacoma Sportsmen's Club** at 6:30 pm in the **Education Building**.

WWA Hoodies Still For Sale

We still have **WWA Hoodies** available to buy at only \$35 each (See photos below). If anyone wants one contact me via my email at bwburns36@gmail.com. Payment would be by check made out to: **WWA-Southwest Chapter** and mailed to:

Bruce Burns
P.O. Box 1429
Buckley, WA 98321

See Options below.

Midnight Valley Labradors

AKC Registered Labrador Puppies
Excellent Breeding, Great Temperament,
Wonderful for the Family or in the Field.
Yellows due Spring 2021. 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>



Tacoma Sportsmen's Club

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



WWA Hoodies, Gray Front



WWA Hoodies, Green Back

News For the Flock

The Hunter's Table

By Nick Brown

Corned Goose Breast

Corned goose breast is an easy and delicious way to transform your game meats. This recipe eats like corned beef. Whether you serve it with boiled vegetables or slice it for sandwiches, it is sure to please.

This recipe can be made with duck or goose breasts, the thickness of your meat will change how long you need to cure. **For a couple mallard breasts, the curing time was about 3 days, while the goose breasts require 5 days for the cure to reach the center.** It is also helpful to use a small bowl or plate to help keep the breasts submerged.

Additionally, this recipe can be done without the pink salt, but it won't get the same vibrant red color. The following recipe is for one lb of goose breast. **The ratio for the curing salt is very important.** Your curing salt should be about 1% of the weight of the meat.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb of Goose Breasts
- 100 grams kosher salt
- 25 grams sugar
- 5 grams pink curing salt #1
- 2 garlic cloves
- 10 grams pickling spice (toasted)

Curing Instructions:

1. Reserve ½ of your pickling spice for later. Bring the rest of your spices to a boil in ½ gallon of water.
2. Once the water has boiled, turn off the heat and let the liquid cool to room temperature.
3. Transfer the liquid to a large container and put it in the fridge to cool.
4. Once the liquid has cooled in the fridge, add your goose breasts or pour the liquid over the breasts in a different container.
5. Let the breasts cure for 5 days, flipping the breasts in the liquid daily.
6. After 5 days, the breasts should feel noticeably firmer.
7. Remove the breasts, give them a quick rinse with cold fresh water, then pat dry.
8. Dispose of the curing liquid.

Cooking Instructions:

1. Place the breasts in a pot and add enough water to just cover them.
2. Add the remaining pickling spice and season the water with salt.
3. Bring the water to a simmer.
4. Cover the pot and continue to cook on the stove on low, or in the oven at 325 degrees.
5. Cook for about 90 minutes. (this may change depending on the thickness of the breast, but you want it fork tender throughout, start checking it at about an hour).
6. If you are adding vegetables, try to add them about 20 minutes before your goose is done cooking.



Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

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

Light Truck Tires — Four (4) LT 265/75R-16/10, *Les Schwab* Terramax, 40,000 mile warranty; only 5,711 miles, **\$400**
Contact Al, H 360-892-4479 or M 360-907-9244

Classic Belgium Browning A-5 "Humpback" in 12 ga. Magnum with rib and Full Choke, good condition. - **\$1200.**
Contact Robb, 206-909-7189

Remington Model 740 Woods Master 30-6 semi-auto with scope, Very Good Condition, **\$465.**
Contact Robb, 206-909-7189

Two (2) Decoy Carts — one with dual bicycle tires; one with dual balloon tires depending upon the terrain that you have to traverse. **\$50 each.**
Contact John, 425-894-4080

Wanted

9.9 HP outboard motor.

Not looking to break the bank. lol

Contact James at 425-233-5936.

FOR SALE — BACKWATER Longtail Mudmotor — 10 hp
Briggs and Stratton motor.
Like new, sell for **\$950** (1/2 of new).
Contact John, 406-752-2190



2020/21 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print Order Form

The Washington Waterfowl Association is pleased to present the 2020
Washington State Migratory Bird Stamp and
Limited Edition Print.

Artist Timothy Turenne



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.

REMINDER TO LIFE MEMBERS

Order your 2020 prints now to secure your multi-years matching print numbers!

2020 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

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

JOIN THE HERITAGE CLUB

\$500 Life Member; \$750 Sustaining Lifetime Member* H = Honorary Members; D = Deceased

WADUCK.ORG

#1 Gary Talbert*	#2 Paul Bunn*	#3 Austin Addicoat*	#4 Rone Brewer*	#5 Fritz Kiemle*
#6 Jim Cortines*	#7 Neco Villella*	#8 Roger Bennett*	#9 Bruce Feagan*	#10 Larry Gordon*D
#11 Rich Greenshields*	#12 Mike Lovelace*	#13 Reserved on Time Payments	#14 Jack Westerfield*	#15 Bud Hufnagel*
#16 John Arrabito*	#17 Jenny Lutz*	#18 Mike Lutz*	#19 Reserved on Time Payments	#20 Anonymous*
#21 Earl Mikkelson*	#22 US Rep Jamie Herrera-Beutler H	#23 Ken Packard*	#24 Jan Sabin*	#25 Lance Kintrea
#26 Jim Kline	#27 Leon Kollman	#28 Derek Melton*	#29 Dan Stearns*	#30 John Hanson
#31 Mark Hackett	#32 Logan Sanday	#33 Mickey Clary	#34 Reserved for BQT Presentation (2021)	#35 Reserved for BQT Presentation (2021)
#36 Doug Graef*D	#37 Robb Stack*	#38 Rod Boyer	#39 Paul Sullivan	#40 Jessica Dunn
#41 Dave Farley	#42 Will Goldsmith	#43 Shaunie Cochran	#44 Claudean Talbert	#45 William Dunlap*
#46 Analise Arrabito	#47 Robert Zeka	#48 Ron Watkins	#49 Ken Boyer	#50 Henry Field
#51 Ric Wray	#52 Rich Phillips	#53 Ross Barkhurst*	#54 Michael Bess	#55 In Memory of Anne Grichuhin
#56 Frank Gallo*	#57 David Irons*	#58 David Ragsdale	#59 Tim Koehler*	

New Levels of Life Membership

Effective June 1, 2021, WWA will be converting to three (3) different levels of Life Membership acknowledging that all WWA memberships are “Sustaining” to the organization. Those three (3) new levels along with their respective emoluments will be:

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 — \$1000.00 (USD)

Includes one Pacific Calls WWA Logo’d Duck Call AND one WWA Logo’d embroidered “Life Member” Jacket.

Gold Level Life Membership — \$2000.00 (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.

Until June 1st, current \$500 level Life Members may pay \$250 and upgrade their membership to the current \$750 Life Member level and receive a WWA Logo’d embroidered “Life Member” Jacket in men’s or women’s jacket of choice from WWA vendors, *Incentives by Design* or *Corporate Casuals.com*. **After June 1st**, all \$750 Life Members will automatically be “bumped up” to the new Silver Life Member Level with no new gifts or emoluments of membership.

If you have a question about the level of your Life Membership as listed above, please contact **John Arrabito** at jarrabito@comcast.net and I 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.



Washington Waterfowl Association
Established 1945
501(c)(3) Tax Exempt

Consider Your Donation For

Heritage Lands



FARMLAND AND PUBLIC ACCESS PRESERVATION

The WWA is launching a private land/public access program called *Heritage Lands*. The goal is farmland preservation and public outdoor recreation opportunity, with the initial implementation in the Skagit and Stillaguamish River valleys.

DON'T let your Heritage Lands Turn from this into....



This Program will **Purchase Farmland, Preserve it, Conserve it, Promote it, Maintain it, and Manage it for Waterfowl and Public Hunting for you and the Next Generation.**

We need your personal, corporate, or in-kind commitment to help us exceed our goal of \$300,000! We currently have a benefactor that will match the first \$2,000. Contact Rone Brewer to donate (206) 595-7481.

Every Donation Helps! WWW.WADUCK.ORG

For additional information please contact:

Rone Brewer, (206) 595-7481
nwducks@frontier.com

Skagit Valley Photos
Courtesy of Dave Honan
www.davehonan.com

WWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Best Phone Contact: (_____) _____

Membership Type:

- Family (immediate family up to age 18) — \$ 35.00
- Regular — \$ 30.00
- Bronze Lifetime* — \$ 500.00 (New, 6/1/2021)**
- Silver Lifetime* — \$ 1,000.00 (New, 6/1/2021)**
- Gold Lifetime* — \$ 2,000.00 (New, 6/1/2021)**
- * **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 (New)**
- 2-Year Family \$ 60.00 (New)**
(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 TBD.
- Northwest Chapter** meets year round the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the **Twin City Sportsmen’s Club**, 26933 64th Ave NW Stanwood.
- 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 (Feb – Sept) at the **Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club**, 16409 Canyon Road E., Puyallup.
- Spokane Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.
- Tri Cities 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
- 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 pay for all of these “hands on” conservation projects.