

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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Find us @ www.washingtonwaterfowl.org & www.waduck.org

October 15, 2022



P.O. Box 40182
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Letter from the President



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Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

Well, you should be reading this after the opener for the 22-23 season. I hope everyone has all the decoys they need. It's nice that we have a few more shells this year — they're just a little more expensive. Now if you can afford to put fuel in your vehicles, we can get out and start enjoy the waterfowling.

I have been busy carving and painting my decoys this off-season and just returned from the **Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show** in Astoria, OR on the weekend of October 1st. Some details of the show can be found on **Pages 16 & 17** of this Newsletter

Congrats to the WWA-Seattle Chapter!

I also want to congratulate the **Seattle Chapter** for an excellent re-entry into world of post-Covid fundraising banquets. See **Pages 4 thru 6** for a write-up on the very successful event. We had some incredible donations from many local retailers, **WWA** members, artists and guides. Please see the list of donors and use their services when you can as they are true partners with the **WWA**.

My wife **Heather**, and I, my son **Jacob**, and his 2 friends, **Carter** and **Timothy**, all headed up to **Monroe** to attend the banquet. My wife was crowned the **Women's Duck Calling Champion** (after an inauspicious start by blowing in the wrong end of the call, she is *[was until this article, lol]* a very good sport) and is now recruited by our family of waterfowlers as our designated duck caller for the season.

I have been scouting ducks around the sound, in the local rivers and on the **Columbia/Pacific Flyways**. I have counted so many local duck and geese that I'm very optimistic about the season.

I was made aware on one of these trips that **WDFW** has started construction on raising (thankfully not razing) the dike at the **Skagit Headquarters Unit**. Apparently, it was originally built too low and they are now raising the level by three (3) feet, according to the local that I spoke with on the **Unit** two (2) weeks ago. The friendly neighbor commented that the **Unit** is full of birds, and we saw an impressive number considering we were there at low tide.

(Continued on Page 2)

MISSION STATEMENT

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

News for the Flock

2022 EVENTS CALENDAR

Sat, Oct 15	Opening Day of WA Waterfowl Regular Hunt Season. See Regs linked here .
Mon, Oct 24	In Person Seattle Chapter Meeting Kenmore Gun Range.
Thurs, Oct 27	Usual LC Chapter Meeting. Check for Email blast for particulars.
Sat, Oct 29	WWA-LC Chapter sponsored Youth Hunt at Ridgefield NWR. See Page 7 for registration info; Link for info is here .
Tues, Nov 1	Usual Whatcom County Chapter Meeting, at Laurel Farm & Western Supply in Bellingham; 6:30 pm.
Weds, Nov 2	WWA Board Meeting Online Only — 7:00 p.m. All WWA Members Welcome to attend. Contact Corp Secretary, Bob Taylor, for a <i>WebEx</i> Online Invitation. See Page 1
Thurs, Nov 3	NO Grays Harbor Chapter Meeting until February — Hunt Season Vaca!
Weds, Nov 9	In Person NW Chapter Meeting, Twin Cities Sportsmen's Club, Stanwood, WA



**Washington Waterfowl
Association**

IN THIS EDITION

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

Page 3	Official Runoff BOD Election Ballot
Page 6	Support Those Who Support WWA
Pages 8	Delta Waterfowl Youth Hunt
Page 9	Mentorship Program Kickoff Flyer
Page 13	Pintail Boat Drawing Flyer
Page 16 & 17	Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show
Page 18	Legislative Report
Page 19	HHC Candidate Endorsements
Page 20	News From the WAG
Page 21	Other WDFW News
Page 22	Recipe — Wild Duck Dan Dan
Pages 24 thru 25	WWA Life Member Page A Promise Finally Kept
Page 26 & 27	Duck Stamp Order Form
Page 28	WWA Classifieds
Page 29	Opening Day 2022
Page 30	2022 Waterfowl Regs linked here
Page 31	WWA Membership Application

(President's Letter Continued from Page 1)

Now if the weather would just cold enough to push some new birds down from the north.

I'm sure many of the members reading here are planning their trips, and I for one, have a couple planned for **McNary National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** in November and December. Last year's outing was birdy enough to get me going back for more.

Be safe out there and send me some pictures of all your successes in the wetlands.

For the Resource,

Paul McGovern

WWA President

News for the Flock

CORRECTED RESULTS of 2022 BOD ELECTION

Due to a mistake in transcribing the 2022 Election Results for seats on the **WWA Board of Directors (BOD)** from actual compilation to publication in the **WWA-September 2022 Newsletter**, the **corrected** results are set forth below.

Corrections Include:

- two (not one) write-in votes for **Cameron Way**; and
- omission of one write-in vote for **Doug Hargin**.

Board of Directors

- 27 Bruce Feagan (ML)
- 24 Kurt Snyder (GH)
- 22 Paul McGovern (NW)
- 20 Rick Billeau (NW)
- 17 Bruce Burns (SW)
- 16 Dick Price (ML)
- 12 Al O'Connor (LC)
- 12 ~~Nathan Neideigh (SW) (Withdraw)~~
- 10 Ken Boyer (SEA) (Write-in)
- 8 ~~James Ono (SEA) (Withdraw)~~
- 2 ~~Joe Schumacher (SW) (Withdraw)~~
- 2 Cameron Way (WEN) (Write-in)
- 1 Ross Barkhurst (GH) (Write-in)
- 1 Grant Duchesne (SW) (Write-in)
- 1 ~~Doug Hargin (LC) (Withdraw)~~
- 1 William Walker (WH) (Write-in)

With these corrections, only the 9th elected position on the Board is up for choosing in the run-off 2022 election — official ballot in the column at right.

Note: Chapters who have no elected representation on the Board, are de facto represented by either their Chapter Chair, or the Chapter's designated representative to the Board.

2022 WWA Official Run-Off Election Ballot for Board of Directors

[Board of Directors: (Vote For No More than 1)
(Listed In Alphabetical Order with Chapter Designations)]

- [] Ross Barkhurst (GH)
- [] Grant Duchesne (SW)
- [] William Walker (WH)

Ballots can be emailed to the current **WWA-Corporate VP, Mark Pidgeon**, at:

marpwwa@gmail.com

or

to the current **WWA-Corporate Secretary Bob Taylor** at:

bobtaylor15@icloud.com

or

postmarked and addressed and mailed by USPS to:

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

by **October 31, 2022.**



News For the Flock

Seattle Chapter News

By Nick Brown

The Seattle Chapter Did It !!!

Our banquet hosted on October 8th was a huge success! We are still counting up totals, but we have made over \$9K so far! Our raffles, silent auction, and ticket sales were our biggest revenue streams. What started as an idea for a family park picnic turned into a much bigger project that couldn't have been done without the support of our members. **James Ono** and I learned a lot from organizing this event and have full faith that our next one can be even better and (dare I say) BIGGER ??? I want to personally thank some of the other *"young blood"* in the Chapter that did yeoman's work in making this banquet such a big success including just to name a few:

- Incoming **WWA-Corp President Paul McGovern** has been busy the past month plus obtaining donations; traveling as far as **Astoria, OR** to pick them up.
- **Tim Jenkins**, a new member in the past year helped us by hauling and helping with venue set up; previously he also helped us to solicit and secure items for the raffle.
- **Ben Harrison**, also new member within the last year helped move all of our raffle and auction items to the venue and get everything set up.
- **Cameron Way** and **India Cain** travelled all the way from **Quincy** to bring the earrings that **India** made for the raffles. Both of them also stayed late and helped to clean up.
- **Matt Reat**, who joined **WWA** just a few years ago through the **Mentorship Program** donated a **Winchester Model 50**.
- **Trevor Morris**, a long time hunter and **WWA** member since 2017, graciously donated his **jon boat and trailer** for live auction
- **Wilbur Lue** and **Dave Levinson**, both Kenmore Range members donated a whole lot of gear to the banquet.

With all list one invariably forgets people and I apologize in advance, but a **HUGE THANKS** to all the unsung chapter members that helped with the usual thankless tasks of set up, break down, and clean up as well.

Long-Time Life Members Step Up

There was also a lot of *"white hair"* in the banquet crowd last Saturday night and other long-time members whose significant donations greatly helped with our success. Thanks to the following **Life Members** (reversed alphabetically for a change) for their generous contributions:

- **Jack Westerfield (SW)**, decoy carver extraordinaire, who donated one of his own creations as well as purchasing 11 others at the banquet, including a pair of **Green Wing Teal (GWT)** donated by his carver friend, **Kurt Benson**, who unfortunately couldn't be in attendance;
- **Claudean Talbert (NW)**, longtime personal banker for artist **David Hagerbaumer**, who donated two (2) of his books that he had personally signed for her;
- **Brett Stark (SE)**, who donated a beautiful pair of **Roy Weatherby** Pintail decoys, pictured at right;



Check out the paint detail on this Pintail hen by carver Roy Weatherby. James Ono was "almost" too busy helping to run this banquet to protect his winning silent auction bid on this pair of decoys donated by Seattle Chapter and Life Member, Brett Stark.

(Continued on Adjacent Page 5)

Seattle Chapter News Continued

Long-Time Life Members Step Up Continued:

- **Bruce Feagan (ML)** who donated a hosted hunt at **Potholes** and procured another at **Potholes** from his good friend, **Shelby Ross** of **Ross Outdoor Adventures** (formerly of **Duck Taxi** fame)
- **Ken Boyer (SE)**, who donated a \$300 bottle of wine for auction, and paid another \$300 (thru proxy) for **Bruce's** hosted hunt, complete with a lunch of BBQ'd fresh duck poppers during the hunt; and
- **John Arrabito (SE)** who donated his usual **Estate Planning Package** as well as a couple of waterfowl prints and traveling gun cases.

Other "**gray hair**" donors, helpers, and attendees included:

- **Bob Swartz (SE)**, another prolific decoy carver, who donated a half-dozen of his black cork working **GWT** decoys and another half dozen of his canvas over wire working mallard decoys;
- **Dick and Jan Schweiter (SE)** who donated some beautiful **WA State Duck Stamp prints** mounted with multiple stamps and metallic seals;
- **Dick Price (ML)**, a collection of waterfowl oriented artwork collected over a lifetime of attendance at multiple and previous **WWA & DU** banquets.
- **Arlan Hackett** of the **Lower Columbia Chapter** drove all the way up from **Vancouver** to join his son, **Mark Hackett (SE)**, a **Life Member** with the **Seattle Chapter**, to drop some coin at the banquet and support the cause.
- **Terry Breidenbach** and his wife, **Patty** showed up early and helped us put our banquet programs together.

At the banquet **Arrabito** representing **WWA-Corporate**, presented long overdue **WWA Life Memberships** to brothers, **John and Jason Otto**. See the **Life Member Section** at **Pages 24 & 25** of this Newsletter for the story and photos.

A BIG WELCOME to the new **WWA**

Members who took advantage of the **Seattle Chapter's** partial membership subsidy at the banquet.

Matt Benson & Jana McClain	Nick & Kelsey Berto
Even Bubola	Anthony Chapin
Dustin Dalum	Jodan Doucet
William Duquette	Jeff Ellingsen
Nate, Colleen & Carson Fenton	Rick Fenton
TJ & Destiny Fittis	Tim Galde
Bill Goodenough	Ryan Goodenough
Matt Harris	Jared & Ashley Johnson
David Levinson	Chad & Kim Lukehart
John R, Jr & Susan Otto	Carter Russell
Aiden Seigman	Timothy Twa

Last Chapter Meeting of 2022

With the season almost here, the last meeting for **Seattle Chapter** will be held on Monday, October 24th, at our usual time — shooting beginning at 5 pm followed by our business meeting at 7 pm. Please remember to bring \$5 for the pizza fund.

I encourage all active members to attend this meeting as there are some pretty significant changes

coming to the **Kenmore Shotgun Range** that will affect our chapter meeting venue moving forward when we resume our regular meeting schedule in January.

This is a chance to have your voice heard on some pertinent issues our chapter will be facing in the near future. Looking forward to hearing your input.



New WWA Member, Carter Russell already checking out the Winchester Model 50 shotgun that he won in the Silent Auction at the Seattle Chapter Banquet.

The gun was donated by WWA member Matt Reat.

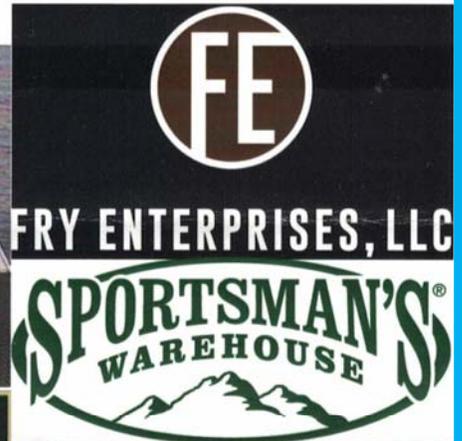
Seattle Chapter News Continued

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- John Arrabito
- Kurt Benson
- Ken Boyer
- Nick Brown
- Bruce Feagan
- Rick Fenton

- Bob Hazelbrook
- Rick Holt
- Dave Levinson
- Wilbur Lue
- Paul McGovern
- Trevor Morris
- Tom Newell

- James Ono
- Matt Reat
- Dick Schweiter
- Robb Stack
- Brett Stark
- Bob Swartz
- Claudean Talbert

WWA—NW Chapter

WWA—ML Chapter

WWA—GH Chapter

News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By Doug Hargin

Shillapoo Work Party Camouflage Blinds



Where's Waldo?
Bill Dose looks on while Phil Prosper puts the finishing touches on the Shillapoo Corn Field Blind.

On Wednesday afternoon October 4th, **WWA** volunteers were able to camo 11 blinds for the season opener at the **Shillapoo State Wildlife Area**. **Region 5 Wildlife Area Manger Daren Hauswald** and **Assistant Manager Zack Breitenstein** led the group. The blinds done are the in the most promising hunt locations.

Conduit-framed hides are light weight and versatile to facilitate hunting in the flood up area later in the season. Thanks to **Phil Prosper, Marlin Reinholdt, Bill Dose, Cliff Pepper,** and **David Mason** for their work!

Ridgefield NWR September 17th Work Party Report

We grassed up and cleaned out the blinds at the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** in preparation of the upcoming season. **Ridgefield Engineering Equipment Operator Chadd Smith** worked along with **WWA** members to get things ready for the opener.

Thanks to **Michael Andreotti, Bill Dose, Sean Mathews and Friend, Jerry Piazza, Arlan Hackett, Chris Stalcup** and **Terry Cockrum** getting his advanced hunter hours for their efforts.

Ridgefield NWR Youth Hunt October 29th

The youth hunt at the **Ridgefield NWR** will take place on Saturday, October 29th. Applications by email for that hunt were accepted through Monday October 1st for young hunters under the age of 16. Our chapter will have calls, prizes and hopefully a **BBQ** lunch for the hunters.

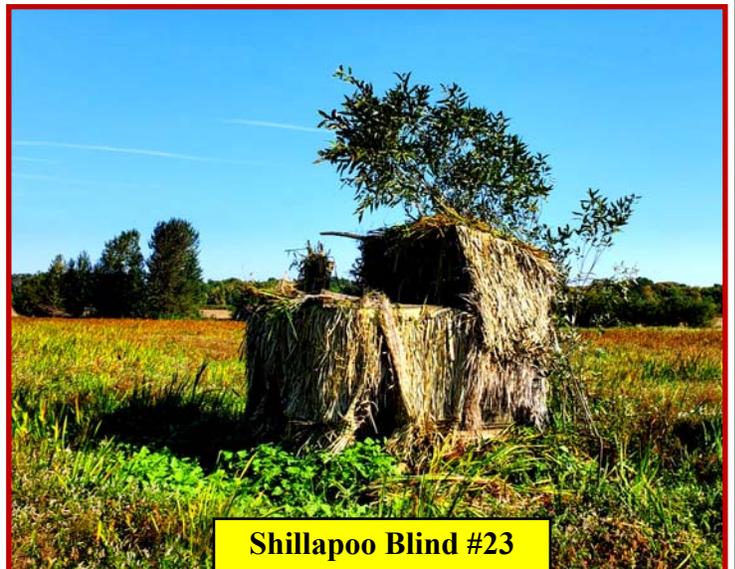
Ridgefield NWR Veteran's Hunt November 13th

The **Veteran's** hunt is on Sunday, November 13th this year. The veteran's hunt is put on in conjunction with **Fallen Outdoors** and **Ridgefield NWR** to help selected Veterans new to waterfowling get out there and **give it a go** and encourage them in the activity and possibly inspire a lifelong passion. **State Senator Lynda Wilson** and husband **Tracey** will host a catered lunch at the refuge maintenance building following the morning hunt.

In conjunction with **Fallen Outdoors** we will provide commemorative **Ridgefield NWR logo'd** duck calls, shot shells, waterfowl coats and other swag to be announced.

September Meeting Report

The afore-mentioned **Chadd Smith** talked about his experience and hopes for the **Ridgefield NWR**. He joined the **Ridgefield** staff last November as an **Engineering Equipment Operator**. **Chadd** — who has been with the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)** for some 21 years — comes here from his prior position at the **Kilauea Point NWR** on the **Island of Kauai**. We would like to thank **Chadd** for his presentation and answering our questions about his work on the hunt area.



Shillapoo Blind #23

(Continued on Adjacent Page 8)

LC Chapter News Continued

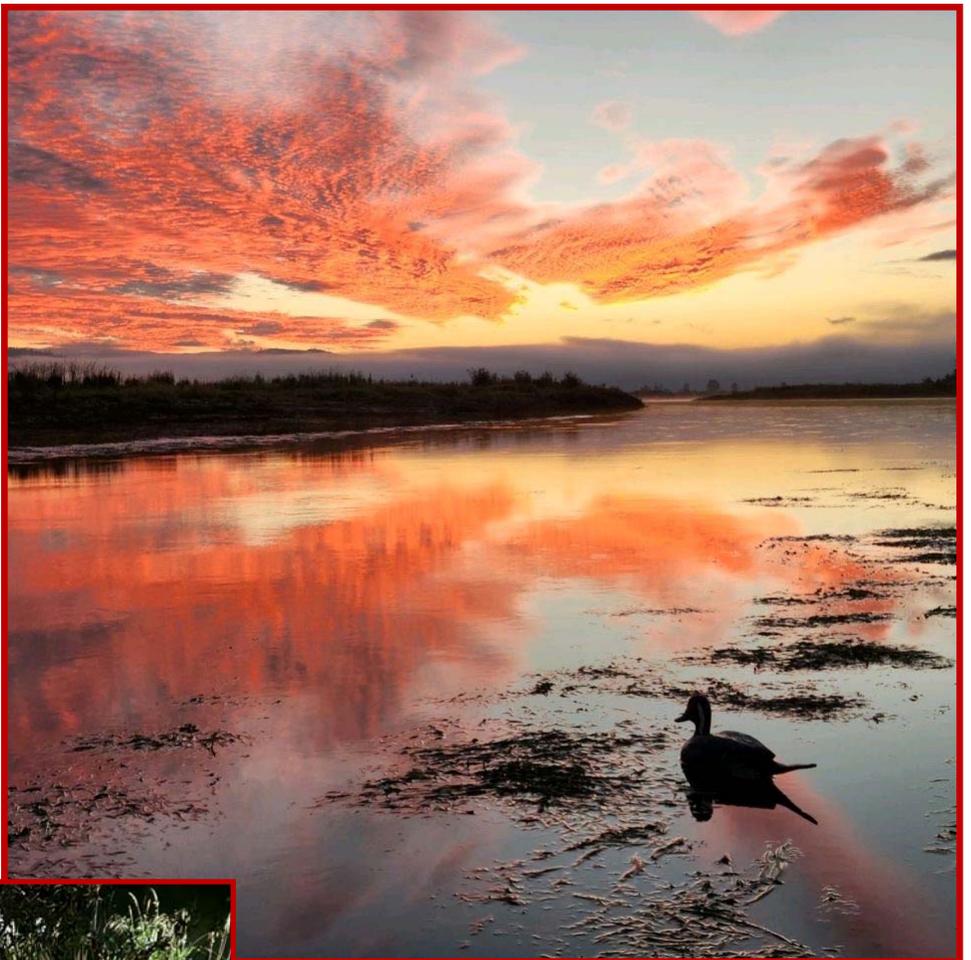
LC Chapter Support of Delta Waterfowl — Columbia River Chapter Youth Hunt

Our chapter provided lunch for a large group of young waterfowlers at the **Delta Youth-Only Hunt** on the **Columbia River in Skamokawa, WA** on Saturday, September 24th.

They had a big turn out with 26 girls and boys along with some 50 adults in support. Seven (7) youth harvested their first duck!

The tides were not favorable for any type of hunt that day. There were challenges with sand bars, initial low water conditions, and later, boats stuck getting into the blinds.

Arlan Hackett and **Chris Stalcup** represented the chapter and **WWA** at the event. They served food under a sign with **"Lunch Provided by WWA Lower Columbia,"** along with a pitch to join **WWA** via our website.



**The Answer:
When We Are Asked —
Why We Do, What We Do!**
All Photos Courtesy of Delta Waterfowl — Columbia River Chapter



News for the Flock



2022 - 23

MENTORING KICKOFF

Mentors and
Mentees - Sign
up now

Pizza Party for
the Chapter with
the most
participation

Contact Paul McGovern for
sign-up
hans1031@frontier.com

**DON'T MISS THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PASS ON
THE TIME-HONORED TRADITION OF NORTHWEST
WATER FOWLING AND TO IMPART YOUR KNOWLEDGE
ON THE NEXT GENERATION OF WATERFOWL
HUNTER/CONSERVATIONISTS.**



News for the Flock

Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

October means the general Hunting Season is upon us. Quality time with the kids, dad or good friends. Make an effort to take someone out with you that may not have the knowledge of where to go or how to hunt waterfowl.

WWA's Mentoring Program is a great way to get a hunter started. Donate your old equipment or decoys to someone just starting to waterfowl hunt. In the **Pacific Northwest** there's plenty of opportunities to get out in the field. I hope all of your hunting adventures go well this season. Be safe and don't forget to mention the **WWA** to the individuals you meet in the field.

Youth Hunt 2022

On Saturday, September 24th, the **Northwest Chapter** held its annual **Youth-Only Waterfowl Hunt** at the **Edison Gun Club** and the **Swinomish Hunt Club**.

Low tides in the morning kept all the Youth Hunters, Moms, Dads and Grandparents on fresh water ponds. The morning flights were good and several young hunters scored birds. Plenty of **Teal** were flying. Limited wind until 11:00 am slowed things down.

Once the wind started to blow and tides in both areas started to turn the birds started flying. Lots of **Pintails!!** All the kids had a great time and were able to harvest ducks. The biggest success was the kids just having fun and the memories of an early season hunt.

Special thanks to the hosts — **Nick & Cassie Waller** of the **Swinomish Hunt Club** and **Tony Breckenridge** of the **Edison Gun Club** for the generous use of their facilities.

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

Next **Youth Hunt** is scheduled for February 4, 2023. This will be in conjunction with the **Veterans/Active Military hunt**.

(Continued on Adjacent Page 11)

For a Photo Collage of other Youth-Only Successful Hunts, see **Page 12**.



Stayten Diereck with his first-ever Canada Goose on the first day of early Goose Season! Stayten recently completed his Hunter Ed Class, and this was his first-ever waterfowl hunt, hosted by his step-grandfather, WWA-Life Member Rich Phillips in fields on the Port Susan Bayfront south of Stanwood.

NW Chapter News Continued

October Chapter Meeting

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

Skagit Wildlife Area (SWA) Report

Greg provided an overview of current conditions and plans for this **16-Unit Wildlife Area**. The **Samish Unit** was planted with 250 acres of millet and 150 acres of corn. Rainy weather in the early season made for a late planting.

The **Island Unit West Island** was planted with millet in May and June. Lots of natural yellow nut sedge in all areas of the island. Do to the breach in the **East Island**, it was not farmable.

Funding and planning are progressing for the restoration plan. Mowing of cattails on **Milltown Island** continues in preparation of the restoration of the island. Design for the islands restoration is at 90 %. Channelization of the island, water retention areas, and raised (high ground) areas are part of the design approach. Most work will occur in 2024/2025.

Debay's Slough was planted with 23 acres of corn. No changes are anticipated for all other units of the **SWA**.

Private Lands Hunting Program Report

Rob provided the attendees with information on WDFW's **Private Lands Hunting Program** linked [here](#). This is a state wide program that provides the public with opportunities to hunt at private properties. Land owners in partnership with **WDFW** allow public hunting on their properties.

Region 4 of WDFW contains 15 **Hunt-by-Reservation** and 54 **Hunt-by-Registration** sites. Twenty (20) of the sites will be available for the opener with all other sites opening shortly after. Late harvests were driving the late site availability. With the shortage of rain no sites will have standing water, however given a couple months we should see plenty of sheet water in farmlands.

Six (6) sites were lost in the **Stanwood** area this year due to new farmland area buffers imposed by **Senate Bill 5727** and landowner pushback.

Rob provided the members with some of the other changes to this years program including a revised reservation process on the website that will be implemented later in the season. Overall the opportunities

for success at private land locations looks good for the later part of the season.

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

New WWA Corporate Fund Raiser

Don't forget to check out the Flyer for the **Pintail Boat Drawing** on the adjacent **Page 13**.

The **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 7pm. Raffle at the end of each meeting. See you there and bring a friend.

Rick Billieu
rgbillieu@frontier.com

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

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



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NW Chapter News Continued



The La Plant Boys All Score!



Conner Skinner at the ready!

**Cruising
out for
Another
Retrieve.**



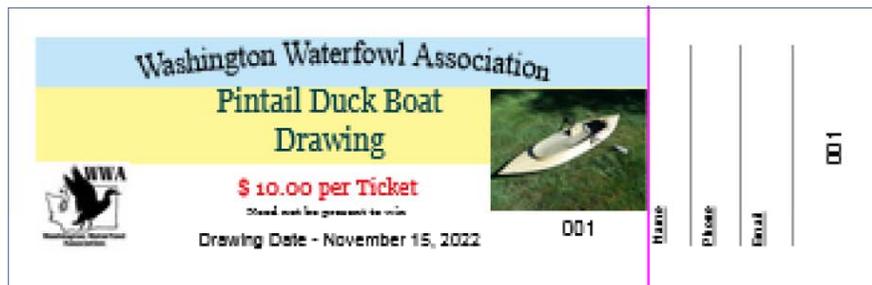
Audrey Pretty with a mixed bag of Teal, Wigeon & Pintail.



**Christopher Roberts
with his two Teal and a Pintail!**

News for the Flock

Pintail Boat Drawing



TICKET PRICE IS \$ 10.00 PER TICKET
DRAWING DATE IS NOV. 15TH 2022

Manufactured by Carstens Industries
 Used Boat in Great Condition
 New boat sells for \$ 1800.00
 Base painted and ready for Camo
 Includes removable outboard motor
 bracket
 Perfect for one hunter, dog and gear



Length: 13' 4"
 Beam: 39"
 Depth: 12"
 Weight: 100 lbs.
 Capacity 500 lbs.

- The drawing is open to WWA members and non-members
- Need not be present to win

See your local WWA Chapter Chairman, WWA Officer or
 Board Member to purchase tickets



News for the Flock

Moses Lake Chapter News

From: Bruce Feagan and Dick Price

The Royal Lakes Project

It looks like after six (6) months being on the job, the **WDFW's Cultural Resources** person has finally gotten the first priority job on their list – the **Royal Lakes Project**. This project was funded by **WA Stamp & Print Fund** monies in the 2020-2021 fiscal year and hopefully will now be going forward with dirt actually moving.

In addition to the Stamp & Print funds I have secured another \$18,000 for habitat work for nesting cover and winter survival cover. Hopefully I will be able to secure another \$10,000 next spring to get us close to the \$33,000 needed to complete the **Upland Habitat** part of the project. I will also be trying to secure additional funding for the complete wildlife species habitat project.

This **Royal Lakes Project** is just southwest of **Royal City** and on the bench overlooking **Crab Creek** and should produce plenty of opportunities for waterfowl and upland birds once the project is completed — probably in 2024.

WWA-ML Join Pheasants Forever to help Quail



On Thursday, October 6th, Volunteers from the **Moses Lake Chapter** joined volunteers from the **Columbia Basin Chapter of Pheasants Forever** in rehabbing a Quail feeder in the **Quincey** area.

The feeder shelter was dismantled, repaired and relocated to a more suitable site.

WWA-ML members **Todd Teeters**, new **WWA** member **Eric Strong** and **Bruce Feagan** joined **Woody Trihey** and **Fred Dobler** of the **Columbia Basin Chapter of Pheasants Forever** on the project.

(L-R) Recent New WWA Life Member **Todd Teeters**, **Woody Trihey**, recent seller of the 60-acre Flat Lake Property to WDFW, (See story in WWA September Newsletter.) **Fred Dobler** of Pheasants Forever - Columbia Basin Chapter, and **Eric Strong** of WWA-ML.

(Photos by Bruce Feagan)

News for the Flock

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

Hi all.

Well, here we go! With hunting season just a few days away! Damn, where did the year go?

Our chapter slowed down a bit from prior years. We didn't go in the hole at least. I would like to thank you all once again for being a member of the **WWA**. Being a totally volunteer organization I think we are doing pretty good. Because of you!

Now that the "*plandemic*" is over maybe things will improve for waterfowl conservation.

A few high points for this last year are:

- The **WA State Legislature** has finally recognized eelgrass as being threatened and passed a bill to start studies as to how they can control its well-being. Yes, the same government that issues permits to kill eelgrass with **Imzamox**. The bill holds no substance for me as they are blaming the demise of the eelgrass on "**ocean Acidification**." (It's in the bill)!
- The **WDFW Commission** has been stacked with a majority of anti-hunters. The **gov'ner** has ignored the state constitution (once again), by doing this. If **WA** state hunters don't wake up and read the future, hunting will die.
- Waterfowl numbers are way down. They don't seem to matter much to a government that puts politics in front of everything. They blame man made **climate change** and continue to do nothing that succeeds. I thought volunteering would help. We have more types of waterfowl in this state than any other, yet their survival has been threatened by loose political policies. Think about the wildlife when you vote in November.
- There is a runoff election happening now in the **WWA** (for the 9th elected Board of Directors position) among three (3) members that received one write-in vote each. I would never try to influence an election, but I will be voting for **Ross Barkhurst**. He is super active in waterfowl conservation and has a lot of experience with the sciences of the environment.

I wish you all a safe, fun, and successful hunting season.

Thanks all.
Kurt Snyder

kurtsnyder@outdrs.net

Spokane Chapter News

By: Paul McGovern

Attention: WWA Spokane members —

I am pleased to announce that **Spokane area WWA** member **John Rasmussen** has stepped forward to assume the position as the new **Chapter Chairman** to help revive the local chapter and head up activities there going forward.



However, **John** can't do it alone. He needs the help of all you other **Spokane area WWA** members! There are enough **WWA** members in the **Spokane area** to qualify once again for a replenishment of the "**Start-Up**" funds from **WWA-Corporate**.

Be on the lookout for upcoming announcements directly from **John**. Let him know you're willing to help get the Chapter back on its feet.

THANKS, **John**, for stepping up to carry us forward!

Southwest Chapter News

By: Bruce Burns

No Chapter Meeting in October

Wenatchee Chapter News

Whatcom County Chapter News

Yakima Valley Chapter News

No News This Month

Our next Chapter meeting won't be until the first Thursday of February — February 2, 2023.

News for the Flock

Columbia Carver's Show Report

By Paul McGovern

The **Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show** — the premier wildlife carving show and competition in the **Northwest** — was held on weekend of October 1-2 in Astoria, OR and featured plenty of carvings to bid on, FREE instruction classes for all level of carvers, and a few vendor booths selling — what else — decoys!! For the artists in the carving competition there was \$10,000 in prize money!

I was accompanied by my wife, **Heather**, and a few of the guys from the **WA Refuge Carving Group**: **Kurt Benson, Larry Harbaugh, Jim Moore, Steve Reed, and Jack Westerfield**. Another member of our group, nationally known carver **Tom Newel**, sent his birds to the show but was in **Illinois** visiting with his brother's family. Many birds from our club took top honors. See list at the end of this article.

The afore-mentioned classes conducted by world class carvers from all over the country, and I was fortunate to have attended several excellent and informative lessons. **Kurt Benson** from the **NW Chapter** held an excellent class on creating new "antique" decoys. **Kurt** was also one the expert judges at the show and took some time to show me — a novice — how he differentiates the best from the rest on a couple of high-quality carvings.

Jack Westerfield purchase the **Green Wing Teal (GWT)** that **Kurt** donated to the **Seattle Chapter Banquet!**

I started my weekend in an all-day class where we learned to carve a Canvasback drake head. When complete **Master Carver Tom Matus**, an instructor and judge for the World famous Ward Museum of Salisbury, MD, demonstrated some tricks for setting the glass eyes. **Tom** then shared some secret paint-blending techniques. He also explained basic color wheel theory. See the picture of the Canvasback drake head on this page.

Saturday I was able to attend the airbrush painting class taught by **Brad Snodgrass**, of southern Oregon. **Brad** is often featured in **Wildfowl Carving** magazine for his incredible decoy painting skills. **Brad** showed the class how to airbrush an exquisite **Redhead drake bust carving**. The finished product was auctioned off at the end of the show. The **Redhead bust** was taken home with two other incredible auction pieces by our own **Larry Harbaugh**.



I also joined in a presentation on collecting decoys from **WWA Life Member Brett Stark** of **Olympia**, and picked up his generous donation to the **Seattle Chapter Banquet** of a pair of **pintail decoys** by **Roy Weatherby** (See photo of the pair on page 4, linked [here](#)).

I was inspired enough to leave the show as a proud owner of a great **black brant decoy** (see the photo above). It was carved by the old time New Jersey master carver **H.V. Shourds**. I had no idea about this carver but my eyes told me that it was a nice bird.

I purchased it from a local vendor and **WWA member Dennis Fisk** of **Lake Stevens**. If you are interested in collecting carved wood decoys, **Dennis** would be a great person to contact locally.

To show just how much is thought of **Kurt's** carvings, fellow carver-extraordinaire, **WWA-Life Member**

(Continued on Adjacent Page 17)

Columbia Carvers Show Continued

The Show also hosted the **Oregon State Waterfowl Calling Championships** on Saturday at the event. Look for this show again next year right before the hunting season and make plans to attend this premier waterfowl show.

Awards taken from our Refuge Carving Group were:

- **Shorebirds** – Open, Jim Moore, Killdeer

- **Miniature Waterfowl** – Open, Tom Newel, Green Wing Teal (GWT)

- **Miniature Waterfowl**, Jim Moore, Gadwall Hen

- **Style Decoys** - IWCA (floating) – Intermediate, Larry Harbaugh, Long Tail Drake; and a

Harlequin Drake

- **Style Decoys** - International Wildfowl Carvers Assn., IWCA (floating): ISPD: Puddle Ducks – Intermediate, Larry Harbaugh, GWT Drake and a Pintail Drake

- **Style Shorebird Decoy** - IWCA: ISSA Avocets & Stilts, Open, Larry Harbaugh, Avocet

- **Washington Ducks Unlimited (DU) Purchase Award** - Shoveler Drake, Jim Moore, Shoveler Drake



**Carving
of
Noah's Ark
by
Larry Harbaugh**

**Kurt Benson
in the
Background**

WWA Legislative News

WA Legislative Report

By Mark Pidgeon
President, Hunters Heritage Council

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

It All Comes Down to This

I have no fancy quotes to start my article this month. It all comes to this. Election Day is November 8th. Twenty-four (24) days after you receive this newsletter electronically, a few days later if you receive it hard copy.

You all hear of this *“red wave”* coming nationally, but what about in our state? What are we going to do about it here in Washington? We in the hunting community need to do our part.

The **HHC** is the **ONLY** hunting-rights' organization that does electioneering. It is the only one that does interviews and endorses pro-hunting candidates. It is the only hunting organization with its own **Political Action Committee (PAC)**. The **HHC** has provided a list of endorsed hunting candidates for the general election. See adjacent **Page 19**. We have done our part.

In my previous articles I have quoted **HHC Hall of Fame member Brian Blake**. He was a superhero in the WA Legislature, and he was always there to protect us in that venue. He gave us excellent words of wisdom in his **Northwest Sportsman** article about hunters need to get involved in politics, but it's part that. We're in the home stretch. We can't have a repeat of the primary where hunters didn't come out and vote. There's too much at stake for that to happen.

Are you happy with the **Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission**? Do you love **Commissioner Lorna Smith**? **Commissioner Melanie Rowland**? Do you want these **Animal-Rights (AR)** radicals to go unchallenged? Do

you love having no spring bear hunt season?! Then don't vote. Just throw your hands up and give up.

Instead we need your **VOTE!** Get out there and cast your vote. Let's make a change in the **Washington State Senate Natural Resources Committee**.

We need to vote in legislators with pro-hunting views. The **HHC** did a magnificent job this session killing a bunch of very bad anti-hunting bills including one bill that would have banned taxidermy in this state. That's how bad the animal-rights agenda was.

Again, hunters can sit on their thumbs and not vote. The cost of their freedom is not worth a stamp? I can tell you the animal-rights people vote. Cast your ballot. There is no excuse.

We have real opportunities to make a *difference in races that matter in issues important to us!* We can beat **WA State House Representative Alicia Rule** who was a prime sponsor of the proposed **Drayton Harbor “No Shooting Ordinance.”**

Alicia Rule only received 48.69% of the vote in the primary. **Tawsha Dykstra Thompson**, is an outstanding candidate who can win this race. She is endorsed by the **HHC** and the **HHC PAC** contributed to her campaign.

How nice would it be to have a person who supported the proposed **Drayton Harbor No Shooting Ordinance** out of office?! There's one way to do it! Vote her out! Cast your ballots!

The **HHC** has made it easy for you. We have provided a list of candidates for your convenience. See also adjacent **Page 19**. Please vote. This is a critical election.
Thank you.

HHC Full 2022 Candidate Endorsements

United States Senate

Name	Party	Incumbent
Tiffany Smiley	Rep	No

HHC Full 2022 Candidate Endorsements

United States House of Representatives

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Joe Kent	3	Rep	No
Dan Newhouse	4	Rep	Yes
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	5	Rep	Yes
Elizabeth Kreiselmaier	6	Rep	Yes
Matt Larkin	8	Rep	No
Keith Swank	10	Rep	No

Washington State Senate

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Shelly Short	7	Rep	Yes
Judy Warnick	13	Rep	Yes
Nikki Torres	15	Rep	No
Janelle Cass	21	Rep	No
Jesse Young	26	Rep	No
Terry Harder	29	Rep	No
Linda Kochmar	30	Rep	No
Drew MacEwen	35	Rep	No
Bernard Moody	38	Rep	No
Simon Sefzik	42	Rep	Yes
Jeb Brewer	44	Rep	No
Ryika Hooshangi	45	Rep	No
Bill Boyce	47	Rep	No

Washington State House of Representatives

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Andrew Barkis	2	1	Rep	Yes
JT Wilcox	2	2	Rep	Yes
Chad Magendanz	5	2	Rep	No
Jacquelin Maycumber	7	1	Rep	Yes
Joel Kretz	7	2	Rep	Yes
Stephanie Barnard	8	1	Rep	No
April Connors	8	2	Rep	No
Greg Gilday	10	1	Rep	Yes
Karen Lesetmoe	10	2	Rep	No
Bryan Sandlin	15	2	Rep	No
Jim Walsh	19	1	Rep	Yes
Brian Pruiett	24	2	Rep	No
Cyndy Jacobsen	25	2	Rep	Yes
Susanna Keilman	28	1	Rep	No
Casey Jones	30	1	Rep	No
Ashli Tagoi	30	2	Rep	No
Drew Stokesbary	31	1	Rep	Yes
Mark James	38	2	Rep	No
Debra Lekanoff	40	1	Dem	Yes
Tawsha Thompson	42	1	Rep	No
Kyle Christensen	42	2	Rep	No
Mark Harmsworth	44	1	Rep	No
Ryne Rohla	44	2	Rep	No

Kitsap County Commissioner

<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Axel Strakeljahn	3	Rep	No

WDFW News**News From the Waterfowl Advisory Group (WAG)**

From Kyle Spragens
WDFW Waterfowl Section Manager

There is a lot to share and prepare for ... of course, many of you are preparing for the opener this weekend (or are perhaps coming back from excursions to Canada) ... always an exciting time of the year, and one that serves as an important “mental-milepost” for the year ahead.

However, as I have described to this group [WAG] before, this is a strange time of the year for me and the **WDFW -Waterfowl Section** as we “live” in three (3) waterfowl seasons at the same time due to:

- grant reporting deadlines and harvest summaries (2021-22),
- approaching current season (2022-23), and
- regulatory federal frameworks being settled to inform the future season (2023-24).

So here are some statements that I hope peak your interest, related to waterfowl topics and activities:

1. Washington state is the ***smallest (by area)*** state in the **Pacific Flyway**.
2. Washington state’s average of 30,000 ***active waterfowl hunters is 2nd in the Pacific Flyway only to California*** (which averages 50,000).
3. Washington state ***regularly is in the top-10 nationally for duck harvest***, with greater than 400,000 ducks harvest per season (especially when breeding habitat conditions are good to excellent; not the case in drought).
4. Washington state’s duck ***harvest is consistently composed of 45-50% mallard*** and 15-20% American wigeon.
5. Washington state ***mallard harvest has ranked 2nd nationwide the past 4 seasons***, behind only Arkansas.
6. Washington state ***mallard harvest has been higher than California for 7 of the past 8 seasons***, including the past 4 consecutive seasons.
7. ***Washington state duck harvest***, including mallard, ***is reliant on out-of-state breeding stocks*** for more than 90% of total harvest.
8. From the traditional Alaska-Canada-Prairies waterfowl breeding population surveys, ***all 10 duck species have come down off of historic highs around 2015*** and are currently at or just above long-term averages (average recorded levels since 1955), ***and continuing to trend down with the exception of blue-winged teal and redhead*** (neither of which influences Washington annual harvest totals).
9. The ***northern pintail estimate from this past summer was the lowest on record*** and was 32,500 pintail above the complete closure threshold.
10. ***Habitat conditions*** (including wetlands and “waterfowl friendly-working lands”) ***in key areas of the continent are at their worst since the 1980s***, and water conditions in key winter areas of the Pacific Flyway will impact waterfowl distribution and future abundance.

I get asked quite a bit about “what does the **Waterfowl Section** do?” The **WDFW-Waterfowl Section** along with **Flyway** partners (**state, federal, international, tribal**) do more than I have time to describe here, but some of the core monitoring that is necessary to inform the regulatory process include:

1. ***Conducting an aerial Washington Breeding Population survey*** that compliments the national surveys conducted by **USFWS**, giving us state and flyway-specific estimates for species like mallard, Canada geese and much more (this has been standardized since 2010 to align with similar surveys in BC, OR, and CA that are supported by the states or **Pacific Flyway** agencies and directly influences the annual regulatory options).
2. ***Conducing a winter aerial Puget Sound survey*** that monitors long-term status, trend, and distribution ***of all 11 sea duck species in the Puget Sound***. (directly informs state discretion restrictions to preserve long-term sustainable harvest opportunities on these unique waterfowl, in comparison with estimated harvest).

(Continued on Page 21)

Other WDFW News

Fish and Wildlife Shoots Wrong Wolf, More Attacks Confirmed

October 6, 2022

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Wolves from two (2) packs in northeast Washington state have attacked more cattle, prompting the **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)** to consider whether to again try culling the **Smackout Pack** after a botched attempt last month.

WDFW confirmed today that the **Smackout Pack** wounded a calf in a private **Stevens County** pasture, the **Capital Press** reported [Full story linked [here](#)]. Officials said the pack also injured a calf on Monday, October 3rd and probably attacked another on Monday, September 26th. The pack has attacked at least 11 head of cattle since August 17th, according to **Fish and Wildlife's** count.

State biologists tried to kill one wolf from that pack in early September, but from a helicopter accidentally shot a pup that probably belonged to another pack, officials said

The pup was near a collared wolf from the **Smackout Pack**, according to **Fish and Wildlife**. Agency spokeswoman **Staci Lehman** said the state is determining whether to try again.

Two (2) members of the **Leadpoint Pack** were killed by state biologists last week in an effort to stop the pack from preying on cattle in the same county, officials said previously.

As of Dec. 31, 2021, the **Department** said 206 wolves in 33 packs lived in Washington. The numbers grew from 2020, when 178 wolves in 29 packs were counted.

WDFW Been Busy Banding Ducks

Between **Grant and Adams Counties**, WDFW put out over 700 bands this past summer, according to **Paula Clements, Assistant District Wildlife Biologist** out of the **Department's Ephrata Office**. "Our goal was to capture and band as many mallards as possible, and in doing so we managed to also capture northern pintail, redhead, and teal."

The greater majority of bands put out in this District were mallard bands. "We're looking forward to adjusting some of our strategies to put out even more bands in the summer of 2023." said **Clements**.

Clements indicated that **WDFW** is planning on revamping their mallard nest tube project this winter (probably around February), and will be looking for public participation in creating and monitoring those nest tubes. If anyone is looking to volunteer for those duties, **Clements** said, "Be sure to send them my way!"

WAG News Continued from Page 20

3. **Band >1,000 Western Canada geese in Washington** to provide insights on harvest distribution, timing, harvest and survival rates (directly informs boundaries of Goose Management Areas and the structure of September Canada goose seasons).
4. **Band >1,000 mallard in Washington** to provide insights on harvest distribution, timing, survival rate and harvest rate (which directly serves as a check on the annual harvest regulatory option).
5. **Band >800 mourning dove in Washington**.
6. **Conduct winter survey for brant** in the four primary counties (directly informs flyway regulatory frameworks and season-date availability for **Skagit county**).
7. **Conduct winter survey for snow geese in Fraser-Skagit** (cooperative effort with **Canadian Wildlife Service**) and now **Columbia Basin** (cooperative effort with **ODFW** and **USFWS-refuges**) that documents minimum estimates, distribution and age-ratios (directly informs **Goose Management Area 1 (GMA 1)** boundaries and harvest monitoring requirements, and has informed rapid succession of bag-limit and other regulation changes in both **GMA 1 and GMA 4**).
8. **Send staff to participate in the annual Pacific Flyway wingbee** to sort through and identify species-age-sex of more than 20,000+ wings and tail fans submitted by waterfowl hunters across the **Pacific Flyway**; and
9. **Work with Flyway-partners to initiate and support waterfowl** (and other migratory gamebird) studies to help inform and improve management and conservation; some examples include: delineating cackling goose harvest estimates from the flyway wingbee tail-fans, delineating breeding distribution of **Taverner's cackling goose**, marking of **band-tailed pigeon** to identify mineral sites for annual monitoring that informs harvest season selection, **development of a North American key sites atlas for sea ducks** to compliment the **North American Waterfowl Management Plan**,

News for the Flock

The Hunter's Table

By James Ono

Wild Duck Dan Dan

I have traditionally made *Dan Dan* with pork, but on the advice from **Seattle Chapter Chair, Nick Brown**, I tried it again with ground duck and it was amazing.

In all honesty, you could use any ground meat for this and it will probably be fantastic. For directions on making ground duck, you can check out **Lower Columbia Chapter Treasurer, Doug Hargin's** recipe from the **WWA June 2022 Newsletter** linked [here](#).

For the chili oil, I prefer to use a chili oil with chili flakes in it. You can usually find a variety at the store or you can make your own.

This recipe is also easily tweaked by personal preference. As written, this recipe will have a little kick but isn't super spicy.

If you would like to turn the heat up or down, you can adjust the amount of chili oil and Sichuan peppercorns.

Ingredients

The Meat:

2 tsp of oil
8 oz ground duck
2 tsp of *hoisin*
2 tsp of cooking sherry
1 tsp soy sauce

The Sauce:

4 Tbsp *Tahini*
6 Tbsp soy sauce
4 tsp white sugar
½ tsp five spice
1 tsp *Sichuan* Peppercorns (toasted and ground)
2/3 cup of chili oil
4 cloves of garlic minced
½ cup of hot water from the noodles

The Noodles:

1 lb. Rice noodles
2 heads of baby *bok choy* washed and split or a handful of spinach

Toppings:

Chopped peanuts
Chopped scallion

Directions

1. Set a pot of water to boil
2. For the meat mixture, combine the hoisin, sherry, soy sauce, and five spice set aside
3. Dice the *kim chi* and set aside as well
4. For the sauce combine the *tahini*, sugar, five spice powder, *Sichuan* peppercorn, chili oil, and garlic in a heat safe bowl as you will be adding hot water later. Whisk to combine into a relatively smooth sauce.
5. Heat a wok or pan over high heat, add some oil and brown the duck. I like mine pretty crispy.
6. Add the *hoisin*, sherry, soy sauce, and the five spice you previously combined
7. Continue to cook, stirring frequently until the liquid has evaporated. Then set aside
8. Return the pan to the heat, if needed add a little oil and add the *Kim Chi*
9. Cook, stirring frequently for 2-3 minutes and set aside with the pork
10. Add the noodles to the boiling pot of water and cook per package instructions
11. Remove the noodles into a colander to drain
12. Add the *bok choy* or spinach to the boiling water
13. Boil until the veggies are wilted
14. Add the sauce to the pan you cooked the meat over medium heat and add the ½ of noodle water
15. Whisk until smooth and warm then remove from heat
16. Portion the sauce into bowls or plates.
17. Add the noodles and vegetables
18. Then add with the meat and *kim chi* mixture and top with peanuts and scallions
19. Mix everything and dig in



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 **September 2022 Newsletter**.

WWA General Fund — \$1,732

WWA Habitat Fund — \$1,640

WWA Heritage Lands Fund — \$11,077

WWA Legal Fund — \$21,753.52

Ken Packard — \$1,000

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 TAXIDERMISTRY

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

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

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

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

Other Terms and Conditions:

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



Trio of Teal

loran.navarro@yahoo.com

970-988-4717

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

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.

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

H-Honorary Member; D-Deceased

WWA Life Members

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

A Promise Finally Kept

By John Arrabito

Way back in 2011 a promise was made by **WWA**. **John Otto** had 31 mounts of ducks that he and his brother, **Jason Otto**, had harvested in their travels over the years performed their own taxidermy on. **John** was displaying them at a **Ducks Unlimited** event and was frankly surprised at how many duck hunters "didn't know their ducks," as he put it.

From there **John** and **WWA** came up with an agreement to help educate hunters with his mounts — **John** agreed to donate them to **WWA** who would create a mobile display in exchange for **WWA Life Memberships** for both he and **Jason**.

The above listing of **WWA Life Members** has been published in each and every **WWA Newsletter** since near the beginning of the **Life Member Program** in February of 2010. On the **WWA** website [www.waduck.org], one can get access to **WWA** monthly newsletters going back to 2013.

From the **WWA Newsletters** of March of 2014 thru September of 2022, the monthly **Life Member** page[s] have always recited the following for **WWA Life Memberships #34 and #35: "Reserved for BQT Presentation (20XX)." Year after year, only the double XX would change!**

Today after eight (8) years of **XX's** and into perpetuity, positions #34 and #35 will reflect the highest level of **WWA Life Membership (Platinum)** with the names of **John Otto and Jason Otto!**

(Continued on Adjacent Page 25)



John Otto, wearing his new WWA Life Member Jacket receives his Life Member Plaque at the Seattle Chapter Banquet on October 8th.

Unfortunately his brother Jason was ill that night and couldn't attend. Missed you Jason. Here's your WWA Life Member Plaque!

I first became acquainted with **John** and **Jason Otto** thru **John's** prolific outdoor writing and **Jason's** prolific outdoor photography posted online in the **WA Refuge Forum**.

In their years chasing winged wildfowl all over the country, the **Otto Bros.**, accumulated a ton of memories which **John** could accurately call up as he has been keeping a daily journal of his hunting since 1991! **John** converted those memories into stories about hunting everything from **seaducks and brant geese to grouse and band-tail pigeon** which he put together in a 168 page book enhanced with photos and illustrations by **Jason**.

In a law, there is a saying that a litigator prepares three (3) versions of his legal argument to a Court — the one he sees in his brain; the one he puts to paper; and the one he delivers in oral argument. Despite four (4) pages of typewritten notes, in my presentation to **John** of his **Life Member plaque** I couldn't remember the name of his book. For that I apologize, and here it is — **"A Season of Wing-Shooting — Hunting Tales from Washington State."** You can find it on **Amazon** at this active [link](#).

John treated **WWA** readers to a taste of his writing in the March, April, and May 2022 Newsletters with his three (3) installments of **"Waterfowling Down Mexico Way."** If you haven't read the stories yet, you can access those older newsletters under the **"About Us"** tab on the **WWA** website. If you have, now you know where to get **John's** book.

If you would like to wait, **John** says he is in the writing mood and he is busy on another book that I am confident will include **Mexico Waterfowling** and a recent September 2022 trip to Canada with **Jason**, and their father, **John R. Otto, Jr.** Additionally, **John** and **Jason** have been chosen to represent the **Pacific Flyway** in a new book by **Outdoor Life** scheduled to come out in mid-2023.

I would be remiss if I didn't include some **Thank You's** to **NW Chapter Chair, Rick Billieu**, who ordered the style of **Life Member Jackets** that **John** and **Jason** picked out and got them timely delivered; to **WWA-Corp VP Mark Pidgeon** who arranged for the beautiful plaques; and to former **WWA member Howard Hicks** who built the traveling/wheeled display case for the 31 duck mounts!

News for the Flock

2022-23 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print

The Washington Waterfowl Association is pleased to present the 2022-23

Washington State Migratory Bird Stamp
and
Limited Edition Print

Artist Donnie Hughes



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

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

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

News for the Flock

2022 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print Order Form

Please send me:

Quantity _____ 2022 Signed & numbered print with
matching stamp \$70.00



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

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

Please Ship Prints to:

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

2022 Signed & numbered print with matching stamp	\$	70.00
Frame (ONLY SOLD WITH PURCHASE OF PRINT & STAMP)	\$	105.00
Shipping & Handling	\$	10.00
Total Amount:	\$	185.00

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

Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

Wanted



Looking to buy any of the following: Benelli SBEII Lefthand; Ithaca MAG-10; or 8-gauge shotguns. Text Connor at 206-941-3311

Looking for an experienced duck hunting partner. I did lots of duck hunting as a kid not much in the last 30 years. Semi-retired 14-year veteran Navy/Army. Contact John at 425-785-3741

Looking for 26" or longer barrel for 12 ga. Winchester "Defender." Prefer blued with vent rib but interested in anything that will fit. Contact John at 425-785-3741

20 gauge autoloader, 28" barrel.
Call Bruce at 206-714-8020

A waterfowl boat blind that would fit an 18' foot Lowe boat. Contact Regan, 209-283-0804

Shotgun for new duck hunter.
Contact Bryan at 253-590-3301

For Sale

Two (2) sets of Insulated waterfowl coats & one set of bibs. Sizes: The coats are *Columbia* large and *Cabela's* medium; the bibs are *Remington* medium.
Make Offers — Contact Mel, 206 818-4230

Savage 12 ga --3" Renegaugue Waterfowl. Adjustable LOP, comb height, drop & cast. Synthetic stock — Mossy Oak, Shadow Grass Blades. Only 50 rounds shot. Compare at: \$1,400.00. Selling \$1,000. Call/Text Jack, (360) 910-7867

See Photo at Right >>>>



FREE WWA Classifieds

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

Rules are simple:

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

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



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

News for the Flock



Opening Day, October 15, 2022

I recognize
WWA Members
Nick Berto and Kurt Benson.

Who do you recognize?

Midnight Valley Labradors

AKC Registered Labrador Puppies
Excellent Breeding, Great Temperament,
Wonderful for the Family or in the Field.
Puppies due Spring 2023. 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>



9722 E Montgomery Drive
Suite 20
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

<https://pacificcustomcalls.com/>

(509) 315-4764



Thanks for Your Support

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

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.

2022-2023 Migratory Game Bird Regulations are Linked [Here](#).



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



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




Tacoma Sportsmen's Club

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



WWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Best Phone Contact: (_____) _____

Membership Type:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|-----------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family (immediate family up to age 18) — | \$ | 35.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular — | \$ | 30.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bronze Lifetime* — | \$ | 500.00 | (New, 6/1/2021) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Silver Lifetime* — | \$ | 1,000.00 | (New, 6/1/2021) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gold Lifetime* — | \$ | 2,000.00 | (New, 6/1/2021) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Platinum Lifetime* — | \$ | 5,000.00 | (New, 5/4/2022) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ** Please check box if you do not wish to receive a gift. | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (65 or over) - | \$ | 15.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Junior (under age 18) -- | \$ | 15.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2-Year Regular | \$ | 50.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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** — Dates and Places TBD.
- 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 Sportsmens' Shows painting decoys, and with seriously ill youngsters on a decoy painting project
- Providing full scholarships for boys and girls to attend a week at Youth Conservation Camp on Orcas Island, WA
- Working with the WDFW in the creation of premium quality waterfowling hunt areas
- Building and rehabilitating blinds in public hunting areas
- Distribution and planting of thousands of pounds of donated corn seed for waterfowl consumption
- Working with the Yakama Tribe in banding upland birds and waterfowl, and building duck "blinds" on tribal lands
- Goose and duck nest counts and banding of both with the WDFW and USFWS
- Working with the WDFW on dove counts & planting WDFW food plots in Eastern WA with WWA owned tractor and farming implements
- Sponsoring of the Annual NW Decoy Collector's Show
- Participating in multiple Sportsmens' Shows annually
- Donation of funds and volunteer man hours for Swan Mortality Mitigation Studies
- Donation of funds and volunteer man hours to WDFW for goose banding and satellite tracking
- Litter pickup projects at public hunting areas, boat ramps, and along highways; and conducting multiple fund raising banquets annually to pay for all of these "hands on, boots on the ground" conservation projects.