

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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Letter from the President



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Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

Another New Year begins with some break in the weather. I've hunted the frozen northwest for the holidays and floods before and after. The *avian flu* has taken 100's of snow geese in **Whatcom County**. Read the **WDFW's** latest on this virus on **Page 22** of this Newsletter. Speaking of **WDFW**, they have made the decision to eliminate the **Brant** goose season in **Skagit County** for 2023. See the story on **Page 20**.

It's been a strange season. But, having grown up in **Minnesota**, I was in a good Christmas mood during the low temps and snow the week of the December 19th. I was able to get out in the cold and find very little company. Huh??? I guess I'm one of the few west siders that likes 22 degree hunts. I was recently able to get out with my sons **Jacob** and **Dylan**. They both had some success shooting on both sides of the state. Now we only have only a few weeks to go for the season.

Welcome New WWA Board Members

On the corporate front, we have made an addition to the Board of Directors and would like to welcome **Ross Barkhurst (GH)** and **William Walker (WH)** aboard. **Ross** has been a lifetime proponent for the environmental health of **Willapa Bay** where he resides. He has recently thrown his hat in the ring for one of the three vacant positions on the **WDFW Commission**. **William** has helped in the past with **WWA's Social Media Committee**, mentoring, and conservation efforts. **William's** appointment to the **BOD** was made possible by the gracious move of recently **elected** Board member, **Cameron Way**, who relinquished his **elected** position, while he continues as a **de facto** Board member as **Chairman** of the **Wenatchee Chapter**. See **Page 3** for the **WWA Run Off Election** results and an explanation of the **de facto** process which guarantees representation of every **WWA** chapter on the **Board of Directors**.

Kudos to You Members Who Make Things Happen

As I write this, I have high hopes for the **WWA** to kick off the year with duck nest building, more mentoring, fundraising, cleanups, blind building, youth hunts, and all the

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

- Thurs, Jan 19** **In Person** Quarterly Moses Lake Chapter Meeting. 6 pm., O'Sullivan Sportsman Resort Clubhouse, 6889 Highway 262 Othello WA.
- Wed, Jan 25** **New Day — In Person** Seattle Chapter Meeting, Kenmore Gun Range. Shooting starts at 5 pm.
- Thurs, Jan 26** **In Person** LC Chapter Meeting. Vancouver Trap & Gun Club Shooting starts at 5:30 pm
- Sun, Jan 29** End of the WA Waterfowl Regular Hunt Season. See Regs linked [here](#).
- Tues, Jan 31** **No Meeting of the SW Chapter** this month.
- Weds, Feb 1** **WWA Board Meeting Online Only — 7:00 p.m.** All WWA Members Welcome to attend. **Contact Corp Secretary, Bob Taylor**, for a *WebEx* Online Invitation. See **Page 1**
- Thurs, Feb 2** **In Person** Grays Harbor Chapter Meeting, Evergreen Sportsmen's Club, Rochester, WA
- Sat, Feb 4** Youth / Veteran's / Active Military Special Hunt Day — Statewide
- Weds, Feb 8** **In Person** NW Chapter Meeting, Twin Cities Sportsmen's Club, Stanwood, WA
- Tues, Feb 14** **New Day — New Location** Whatcom County Chapter Meeting, at Ferndale Library, 2125 Main Street, Ferndale. 6:30—8 pm.
- Wed, Feb 22** **New Day — In Person** Seattle Chapter Meeting, Kenmore Gun Range. Shooting starts at 5 pm.
- Thurs, Feb 23** **In Person** LC Chapter Meeting. Vancouver Trap & Gun Club Shooting starts at 5:30 pm
- Thurs, Feb 28** **Regular In Person** SW Chapter Meeting. Tacoma Sportsmen's Club, Puyallup, WA

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(President's Letter Continued from Page 1)

other great things our membership does all year. I wanted to stop and recognize how much you all do as members to forward our mission. We have great members and I appreciate all of the time each of us donates freely to pursue the love we have for waterfowling and the outdoors.

Starting off the new year I want to ask everyone to think about opportunities to promote waterfowl conservation. Any suggestions you can think up, we will consider and discuss on the chapter and corporate board levels. Happy hunting for the last of the 2022-23 season.

For the Resource,

Paul McGovern
WWA President

News for the Flock

CORRECTED RESULTS of Original 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)

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 RESULTS for Board of Directors

[Top 2 Vote Recipients]

- 6 Ross Barkhurst (GH)
- 4 William Walker (WH)

Subsequent to the vote, **Cameron Way** graciously gave up his **elected** position to the Board in order to allow the Board to appoint another diverse voice onto the Board in his place.

(he still remains a *de facto* member of the Board as the Chairman of the Wenatchee Chapter)

—
Congratulations new Board member
William Walker
of the
Whatcom County Chapter!

and Thank You

Cameron Way for a most generous move!



News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

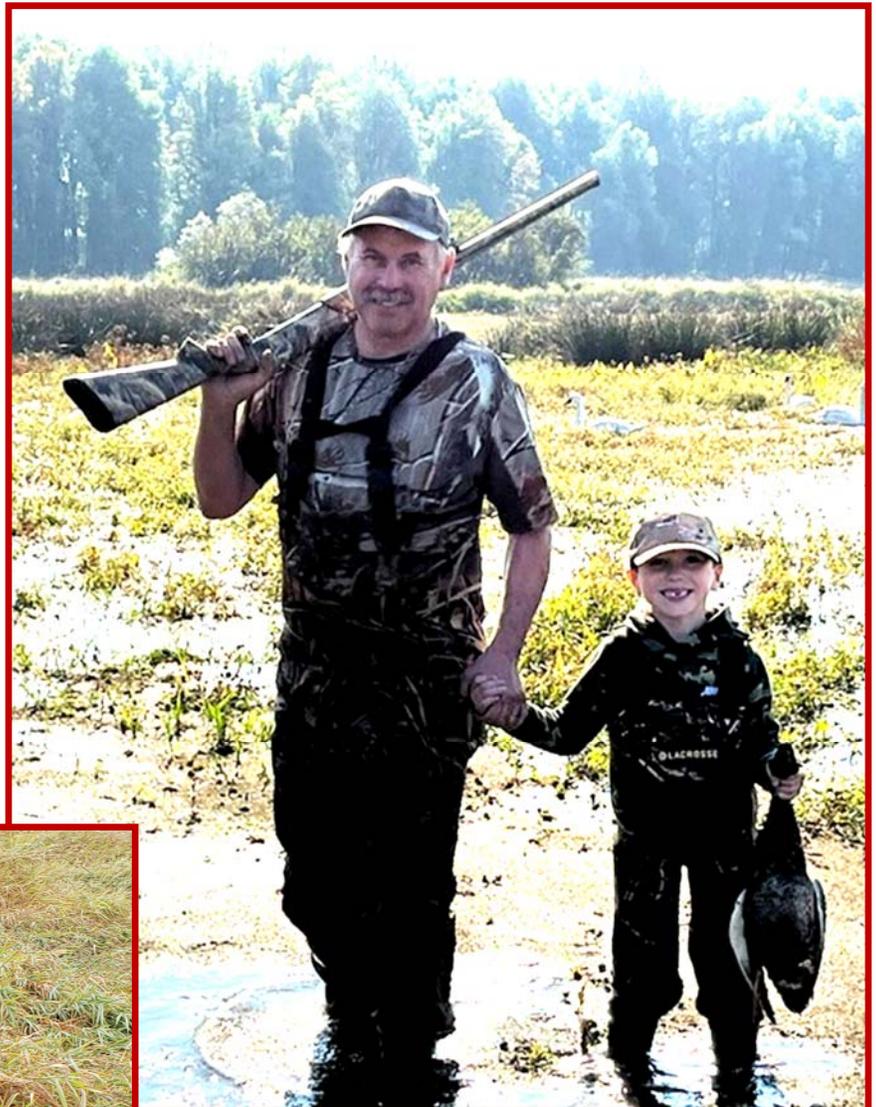
By Doug Hargin

Please Join Us Thursday January 26th

Our first monthly meeting of the new year at the **Vancouver Trap & Gun Club!** Grab your hunting buddies and come on out. We have projects and goals to plan for 2023. We need you to join us and help improve and support our local waterfowling! Trap shooting beginning at 5:30 pm and dinner with a \$5 donation. Our meeting begins at 7:00 pm. See you then!

Reports on Fall Youth & Veteran Hunts

The youth-only hunt at the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** took place on Saturday, October 29th. Although the turn out was less than expected the young hunters enjoyed a day out with no rain and overcast skies. We provided **WWA** logo duck calls and whistles along with blind bags that **David Mason**
(Continued on Page 5)



A Couple of Firsts
(Top) LC-Chapter member **Dion Hess** on the first hunt with his 6-year-old grandson **Huxley Robinson** on opening day at the **Ridgefield NWR**. **Hux (Huck)** has since gone on several more hunts. **Dion** says he helps with decoys and bird retrieves and loves it!
(Left) This was also **Hattie's** (**Dion's** chocolate lab) first ever duck hunt. On her 4th retrieve she came back with this banded mallard hen, also taken at the **Ridgefield NWR**.

LC Chapter Continued

Dan Hafenbrack handed out prior to blind assignments. Arlan Hackett and Chris Stalcup had a BBQ lunch ready for the hunters as they came in from the field. Thanks guys, for your help with the event!



Some of the Happy Vets and their Harvest!

The **Veteran's** hunt was held on **Sunday, November 13th**. The veteran's hunt is put on in conjunction with **The Fallen Outdoors** and **Ridgefield NWR** to help selected Veterans get outdoors and experience waterfowl hunting and encourage them in the activity and possibly inspire a lifelong passion. **Dave Lescalleet** and his wife **Cindy** checked in veteran's and their mentors as well as checking the birds at the end of the special hunt.

A catered Mexican lunch was held in the refuge maintenance building following the morning hunt. In conjunction with **Fallen Outdoors**, we provided commemorative **Ridgefield NWR logo duck calls, shot shells, Sitka waterfowl coats**, and a drawing for prizes at the lunch.

Thanks to **Branden Trager** and his guys at **The Fallen Outdoors** for all their efforts to make this a great experience for our veterans. Thanks also to the veterans that participated, and the following **WWA** members for help with guiding/mentoring: **Dave Mason, Bob Taylor, Bruce Head, Branden Trager, Justin Boardman, John Dorn, Jacob Pachter, Emily Kirchner, Caleb Benson, Jarrid Robinson, Eric Diehl, John Kiser and USFWS Chadd Smith**. Thanks to **Ridgefield NWR** staff for their help including: **Refuge Manager Juliette Fernandez, Refuge Assistants Eric Anderson and Chadd Smith**. Juliette was able to Join **Branden** in a blind that morning!



Vets. **Karrid Robinson, Jalin Velez** and their host, **LC-Member Dave Mason**.

LC Chapter News Continued

Stalkers of the Purple Sage

Story and Photos by Bob Taylor

On the 8th of September 2022, my 16-month-old **German Longhaired Pointer (GLP)** pup, **Blaze**, and I launched a two-week three-state trek attempting to bag the iconic **Sage Grouse**. North America's largest grouse is now teetering on an **EPA** listing, the culprits being overgrazing, cell towers, industrial noise, and habitat destruction.

I'm lucky to have **Blaze**, as there are only a couple of GLP breeders in the U.S. While excelling at everything the Shorthair variety does, with more insulation the GLP is better adept at waterfowling. **Blaze** has already shown his waterfowling worth by making swimming retrieves in mid-30 degree water and air temps. GLP's are more common in **Europe** and **Blaze's** breeding was overseen by the **University of Colorado** in an attempt to diversify the U.S. gene pool. **Blaze's** sire is a **Denmark EU Champion** while his mother, **Moxee**, lives in **Green River, Wyoming**. **Blaze** is the most challenging but most rewarding, birdiest, and most loving pup I've ever owned and has earned the moniker "**Mr. Mayhem**" for his capers in our house!

Blaze's breeder offered a two-day hunt in **Southwestern Wyoming**, the **Sage Grouse's** last major stronghold, and, with fingers crossed, we applied for very limited draws in **Idaho** and **Oregon**. To our wonder, we succeeded in getting permits in both states! We planned to hunt **Oregon's Owyhee Unit** first, the **Oregon** season only lasting eight days, then jump to **Wyoming** mid-month with our guide, then on to **Idaho's Owyhee Unit** for the trailer. We would be able to hunt

both sides of the **Owyhee River Canyon**, but at different times.

Worries included **rattlesnakes**, **porcupines**, **bears** (both **Idaho** and **Wyoming** have **grizzlies**), and **weather** which in September on these high plains could vary from **blistering to blizzard**.

My shotgun would be a **side-by-side, 12-gauge Parker Reproduction Steel Shot Special** loaded with **Boss Bismuth #5's**. It took me two years to get this very limited production shotgun, as every time an ad for one popped up someone always beat me to the draw.

Our trek from **Vancouver, Washington**, began on September 9th with a drive to **Boise** to pick up our rented RV, where we discovered the liquid propane tank was empty. The owner claimed, "there are many liquid propane sites nearby," but it took us two hours to find one. Anxious to get going, we finally arrived at our hunting site in **Oregon's Owyhee Unit** at about 4:00 p.m. We waited a couple of hours for the intense heat to dissipate, then started scouting. **Blaze** quickly went on point, but no flush.

With high hopes we awaited the dawning of Opening Day next morning.



GLP Blaze; the RV; the Oregon terrain; and a beautiful sunset!

(Continued on Page 7)

Stalkers of the Purple Sage, Continued

After four days of pooped-out paws and tired feet we gave up on this drought-stricken country. We found plenty of snake holes, but it was too dry even for rattlesnakes. There was probably more water in the **Sahara!** We found a reservoir sporting nothing but cracked mud, along with bleached bones of a dead cow, lots of merciless sun, but no **Sage Grouse**. **Blaze** was an absolute champ, never giving up on his hunts even with days of no results while I began wondering if **Sage Grouse** were mythical critters like **Sasquatch**. We headed to **Boise** to return our rented RV and give paws and feet a day off, then headed to **Green River**. While enroute we learned that a prairie fire had broken out in the area we'd just hunted — not surprised!

Oregon Lessons Learned

Mistake #1: Although possessing maps from the **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)** revealing locations of major **leks**, I assumed that birds present in the spring would be present in the fall. A phone call to **ODFW** would have informed me that the area I'd mapped had a severe drought all summer, and that I'd be wasting my time there. While **Sage Grouse** are non-migratory, they may fly as much as 100 miles in search of greener pastures.

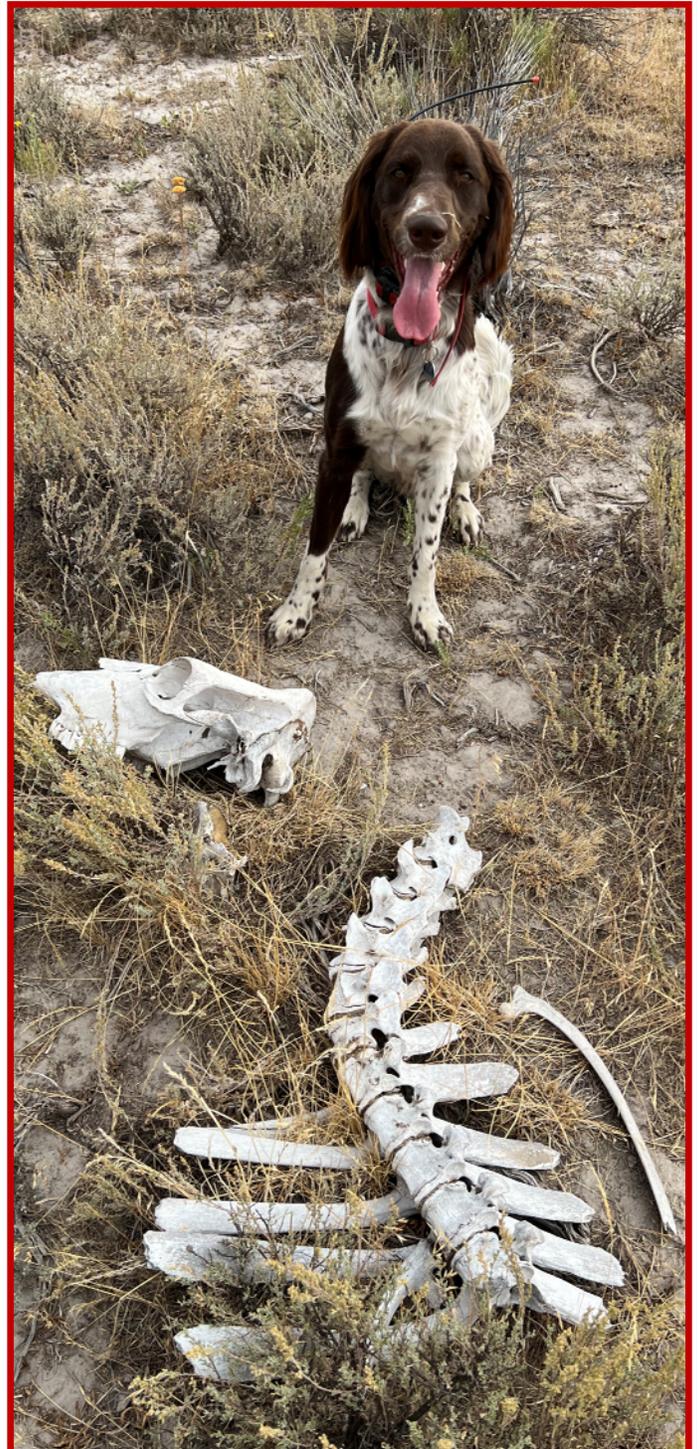
Mistake #2: The **Class C RV** I'd chosen was incapable of traversing the ratty, two-tracks needed to get into the back country. **Sage Grouse** hate noise and won't be found near any major highway. **Blaze** and I should have stuck with our **RAM** pickup.

At **Green River** we checked in with the **Wyoming Fish & Game** folk, did a bit of scouting as the **Wyoming** season didn't open until the following morn, and went to **Tom's** place to meet **Mike** and **Steve**, our hunting partners. We enjoyed wonderful company and a meal with meat from our quarry. Our hunting partners, two cousins, were quite the comedians — shades of **Walter Matthau** and **Jack Lemon**. We also met **Blaze's** Mom, **Moxee**, and brother **Frodo**. The pups got along great but showed no signs of recognition.

Next day we were all up at "O Dark Hundred" and drove to an 8,300-foot high plain encircling a large draw. Upon alighting, faint red streaks in the Eastern sky silhouetted four flushing **Sage Grouse**; a great sign! These birds looked like winged bowling balls! Some domestic sheep were seen on a distant ridgetop, and **Tom** warned us to stay away as invariably there'd be a sheepdog who wouldn't take kindly to our presence.

The high prairie was a sea of Sage Brush as far as one could gaze. Wildlife abounded. In the early dawn we saw a herd of **wild mustangs**, the stallion with his head lowered shooing his harem along. **Pronghorns** also made frequent appearances as did some domestic cattle. The Sage Brush consisted of two sub-species, and **Tom** explained that the object of our hunt was most likely to be found in the transition area between the shorter and taller varieties.

(Continued on Page 8)



Did I mention it was hot? And dry?

Stalkers of the Purple Sage, Continued

We made a two-mile wide circle around the draw, savoring much **wildlife** and **beauty** but finding no birds. As we neared completion of our circuit, two male “**bombers**” abruptly launched from a nearby ridgetop and, jittery at my first opportunity, I whiffed with both barrels! Shortly after, **Blaze** dropped behind and down the draw a bit and got “**birdie**”. **Tom** doubted that **Blaze** was on to anything as, unlike pheasants, **Sage Grouse** don’t circle behind hunters, but we hadn’t

covered the exact spot **Blaze** was working. Just when I was about to call **Blaze** off, a **hen** rocketed up and zoomed about 15 feet right over my head and exploded in a cloud of feathers as those Boss #5’s hit home.

Some of the meat was salvageable but my very first triumph was in no condition for the taxidermist. We drove to a near-by area and hiked all afternoon watching more **wild mustangs** and **pronghorns** but seeing no more birds. I felt some guilt as the only hunter in our party with any chances to connect.

The next day we drove north for two hours to another high prairie traversed by the **Oregon Trail**. As we pulled to a stop, four **Sage Grouse** — a hen and her chicks of the year — popped up on the road directly in front of **Tom’s** pickup. Trying to avoid spooking them, we backed up before alighting, but in this we were unsuccessful as the birds flushed over a rise. **Mike** and **Steve** headed in their direction, and we soon heard several shots; they each having bagged a bird.

Tom, Moxee, Blaze and I started combing the sage prairie; initially **Blaze** wanted to follow his mom but soon learned to cast about on his own. I was very pleased to see my Youngster — still a pup — quartering back and forth a couple of hundred yards in front of me as we swept the prairie for birds. (Continued on Page 9)



The author and a 6-pound trophy Sage Grouse “Bomber.”
Moxee on the left; Blaze on the right; All under a BIG Wyoming Sky!

(Photo by Tom)

Stalkers of the Purple Sage, Continued

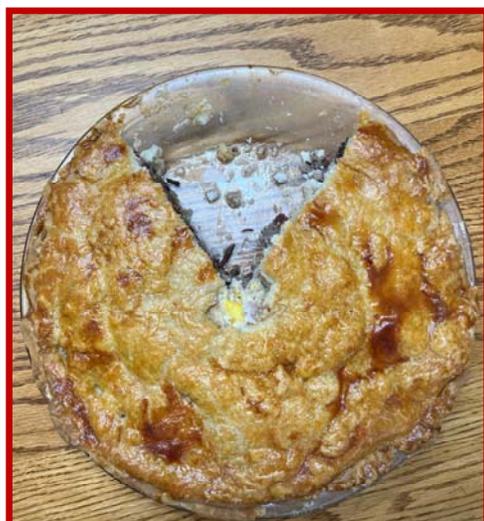
Soon, however, I learned the wisdom in having a pup steady to wing, shot, and fall. A loan hen exploded and as I once again struck out, **Blaze**, in hot pursuit, chased it over a nearby ridge, bumping about 15 more **Sage Grouse** in the process! Had he not done so, we'd soon have had our limits of two birds each. Kindly, **Tom** observed that we were upwind, so **Blaze** had no way of knowing the covey was there, but I intend to get this issue corrected by next season.

As we discuss dog-training, a late-flushing hen shot directly between us. Holding fire until safe, I pulled the trigger and savored vindication as the hen crumpled. We hiked another mile or so through the **Sea of Sage Brush** until **Blaze** went on point at the head of a draw. As he was a couple of hundred yards ahead and uphill, it took me several minutes to get to him. Just as I was getting close a "bomber" flushed. My hurried shot again ruffled no feathers, but the bird flew directly toward **Tom** who bagged it.

We hiked more and as we headed back to the truck, **Tom** told me to stay near the top of the ridge while he chose a parallel course a bit further down the draw. The day was quite heated, and **Tom** believed we'd find birds near the top of the north side of ridges as this would be the coolest spot. **Tom** knew his business as another bomber wild-flushed about 50 yards in front. To my wonder, the "bomber" folded at the **Hail Mary** shot I almost didn't attempt! A beautiful trophy weighing about six pounds. With two birds in my game vest, I was done for the day. Those **Boss #5's** proved to be plenty of ammo for **Sage Grouse**.

When we met again, **Mike** also had a second bird. We enjoyed a light snack in the only wooded grove in view; cleaned the birds; then headed back — **Mike** and **Steve** splitting north for some **Dusky Grouse** hunting in **Montana**. On the way back to **Green River**, **Tom** and I crossed the **Oregon Trail**, and **Tom** snapped a photo of me standing next to one of the old wooden trail markers.

Blaze and I had hunted for seven days for three birds, but we enjoyed some amazing scenery, great company, plus the satisfaction of having bagged the most iconic native gamebird of the American West. With aching paws and feet, we decided to skip **Idaho** and head for home and pheasants!



Sage Grouse Meat Pie!

At home, digging up a recipe from **Covey Rise Magazine**, we baked a delicious **Sage Grouse** meat pie. The preparation took several hours, but the pie was scrumptious and well worth the effort.

Blaze and I are determined to trek to **Wyoming** again next year.

I'd lost 8 pounds on this trip and absolutely can't wait to do it again!

The Author and the Oregon Trail!

News for the Flock

Seattle Chapter News

By Nick Brown

I hope everyone is getting out on those last few hunts of the general waterfowl season. I know in my circle it was another year for the books.

The **Seattle Chapter** had quite a year in 2022 as well. We were able to bring in multiple keynote speakers from **WDFW**; offer a basic first aid course; and execute our first banquet in many years. On top of it all I watched several new members come in and get involved right off the rip. We had meeting attendance for the first time in a long time.

Changes and Challenges

With the old year behind us, the New Year has already brought challenges to the **Seattle Chapter**, but time after time we pivot and proceed onward. The **Kenmore Shotgun Range** has unfortunately decided to make Monday nights a **WCW (Kenmore) Members-Only-Night**. This put us in a interesting place being that we historically met the 4th Monday of the month.

We brought potential solutions to our chapter membership and let our members in attendance have their voices heard and came up with the following changes.

New Day and Location for Meetings

The **Seattle Chapter** has collectively decided to meet the **LAST WEDNESDAY** of each month moving forward.

Unfortunately, this means we will no longer have the range to ourselves; we will be shooting with the public those nights. However, by shooting on a public night, our meetings will no longer cost the chapter any **“range rental.”**

Following shooting we will move to the **CHALET** instead of the shotgun clubhouse. Our monthly meetings will be held there for the foreseeable future. I know that this is a lot of changes and differences, the one thing we have been able to keep is the current timelines of our evenings there with shooting at 5 pm and the meeting following at 7 pm.



Seattle Chapter’s “Three Amigos” James Ono, Nick Brown, and Harold Abell found recent success in the westside, December snow!

We still plan to provide pizza at meetings, please remember a \$5 donation to the pizza fund. I am excited to see our membership very soon, and hope to continue to report chapter growth this year.



Huge CONGRATS to new member Patryk Kowalski on his first-ever, harvested bird!

Support These Businesses That Support WWA

Seattle Chapter Banquet Sponsors and Donors



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Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

December Chapter Meeting

Callie Moore WDFW Assistant Wildlife Biologist for **Whatcom** and **Skagit** counties was our guest speaker at our December Chapter Meeting. **Callie** provided the members with a summary of some of the waterfowl/sea duck/goose projects in the region.

She and other **WDFW** staff have been involved in banding of waterfowl throughout 2022 in multiple locations, with over 500 birds banded. **Callie** spoke about the data collected, and how it was used by the department including tracking some of the birds in the **Pacific Flyway**.

Callie also spoke about the current **Avian Flu Virus** including sick and dead birds sightings throughout the area. The members had many questions regarding the current population counts of waterfowl in the **Pacific Northwest**. She fielded many questions from the audience.

Callie's attendance at our meeting was very much appreciated by all. Thanks **Callie** for attending the chapter's meeting and sharing this valuable information with us.

January Chapter Meeting – Wood Duck Nest Box Build



More hands-on conservation efforts for the next generation of ducks! **Northwest Chapter** members built 11 new **Wood Duck Nest Boxes** at the meeting and planned for their placement in the area.

Your bifocals, power screw drivers and some of those season hunt stories entertained us while we assembled the boxes. With these additional boxes we will have almost 60 nest boxes deployed in the area.

All boxes and nesting tubes are logged on a spread sheet with their locations and the members that maintain them identified.



We also reviewed maintenance plans for existing boxes and nesting tubes the chapter has deployed. Wood Duck box maintenance starts immediately in the area.

Thanks to our volunteer members for the time they put forth for this conservation effort. If you would like to volunteer for these activities please contact me.

It was a productive night at Twin City Sportsmen's Club with power screw drivers blazing as members assembled nearly a dozen more Wood Duck Nest Boxes to deploy in the local wetlands. Thanks to all of our members who volunteer for this conservation effort.



Continued on Adjacent Page 13)

NW Chapter News Continued



NW Chapter members on the Twin City Sportsmens Club range at our January 11th meeting. There's still plenty of time to get some shooting practice in "under the lights" before the waterfowl season comes to an end. The range is open to the public on Tuesdays 2:30 pm to 8 pm, and the first and third Saturdays, 10 am to 2 pm.

We can pair you up with military and youth hunters. Last year we received requests to hunt from across the state. If you would like to volunteer see contact info below.

Reservations Required

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

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.

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/>

Veteran/Youth Waterfowl Hunt Feb 5th

As in past years, the **NW Chapter** will be sponsoring a Youth/Veterans/Active Duty waterfowl hunt at private properties and public locations in the north Puget Sound area on Saturday, February 4th.

(See page 14 of the **WDFW Game Bird & Small Game Hunting Regulations** for more information on eligibility and requirements linked [here](#).)

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

We are also seeking volunteers from our membership to take youth and veteran's out hunting on public or private property. If you have boat or private property and can support this hunt day, please let us know.

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News for the Flock

Pintail Boat Drawing

Congratulations to the winner!
James Ono
of the Seattle Chapter



Manufactured by Carsten 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 was held on November 15, 2022 and was open to WWA members and non-members, all as previously advertised.
- Need not be present to win

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



Washington Waterfowl Association

News for the Flock

Moses Lake Chapter News

From: Bruce Feagan and Dick Price

The Moses Lake Chapter of WWA will hold a its first quarterly meeting of 2023 on Thursday, January 19th beginning at 6 pm. The meeting will be held at the O'Sullivan Sportsman Resort Clubhouse, 6889 Highway 262 Othello WA.



(Above) A December corn field hunt on a snowy 10 degree day in Eastern Washington brought former WWA President Jim Cortines from his new home in South Dakota to join his son, Moses Lake Chapter member Eric Cortines with a full brace of mallards for both!

(Left) An early November hunt on the Potholes with WWA Mentee and Spokane Chapter Member, Ryan Lenhart, and Eric Cortines yielded another nice bag of mallards.

Both hunts were hosted by Moses Lake Chapter Chair Bruce Feagan.

Quincy American Legion Gun Club

14050 Road Q NW
Quincy, WA 98848

Open to the Public

(509) 237-1166

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

News for the Flock

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

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

I hope you all had a great **Christmas, New Year** and are having a great hunting season. It's about that time to start our Chapter business year. Our first meeting of 2023 will be on the 2nd of February at the same place — the **Evergreen Sportsman's Club**, near **Littlerock** at 7:00 pm. Their website is linked [here](#).

At this meeting we will be doing the planning for 2023. I sure hope we get more involvement with the meetings. I cancelled two meetings last year because no one was interested in coming or were too busy or whatever. So, if you can't make the meetings please try and be at this one.

We have some work ahead of us this year with many of our nesting boxes being in need of repair and/or replacement. Our nest program could grow, but we don't have the volunteer base to support expansion. The three nest tubes that we now have need to be put in place later this summer.

That's about it for now.

Thanks all.
Kurt Snyder

kurtsnyder@outdrs.net

Southwest Chapter News

By: Bruce Burns

No Chapter Meeting in January

I'm voluntarily going under the knife for (right) knee replacement surgery this month. Stay tuned for a Chapter meeting in February.

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!

Wenatchee Chapter News

Whatcom County Chapter News

Yakima Valley Chapter News

No News This Month

News for the Flock

Three Generations of Family Waterfowlers

By Bob Jorgenson

Immediate Past Chairman, Waterfowl Advisory Group (WAG)



Three Generations — Bob, Riley, Christian, and Ron!

I had an opportunity over the holidays to get a new duck hunter out in the field this year — he just happened to be my nephew, **Christian Barrett**. My son **Riley Jorgenson** was down from his fish-guiding business in **Sitka, Alaska**, so it was time to try and get out for a little duck hunting. As things worked out, both cousins were able to join their 83-year-old grandfather, **Ron Jorgenson**, and I for a day in the duck blind.

Christian has always wanted to come hunting with us and in fact has joined us on hunts before, but strictly as an observer. This time would be different — he would be joining us as a full-fledged, fellow hunter!

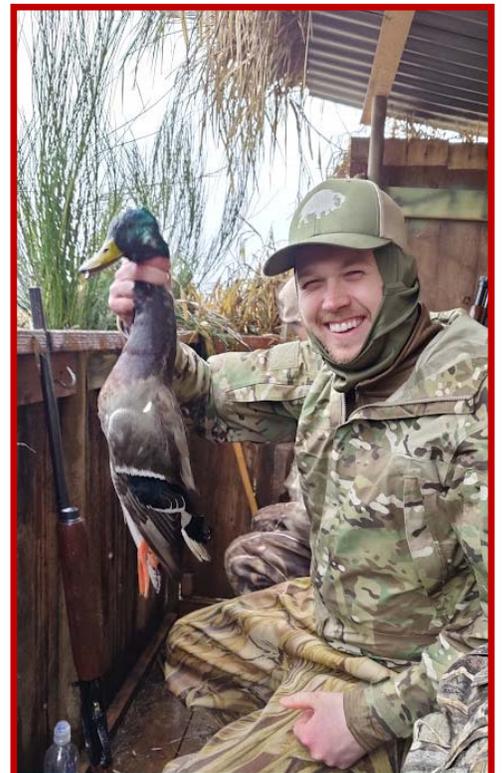
Plans were made over Christmas, and he was excited to join us on his first hunt. Not having hunted before, he was starting at **"Square #1"** needing to obtain his hunter-safety certification so with limited time online he went — so limited in fact, that he had to take his class on his ride over from **Ellensburg** while his most understanding wife drove! At 3:00 am on the drive over he passed his test just in time for our 5:00 am departure to the hunt.

Unfortunately on this first day in the blind the **"duck gods"** did not smile upon us. It was an unusually nice

day weather-wise, but a day without a bird. We've all experienced these days, but it's especially tough on one's first trip out in the field while carrying a shotgun. The hot coffee and camaraderie made for a great time anyway.

Not wanting to let **Christian** down, plans were made for another hunt and hopefully a better outcome for this new waterfowler. This time the weather was good — not great — but this time we had more birds flying thru the morning, and we got a few to cooperate. Decoying singles and doubles made the game so much more enjoyable, and **Christian** was able to harvest his first duck with one shot. With no one else shooting he was positive it was his alone! We've all experienced this first-time satisfaction also! It was **GREAT** to share it with him! One greenhead — one happy hunter! Congrats **Christian!!!**

As an added bonus I previously had a farmer friend donate her husband's shotgun collection to be given to new hunters. When **Christian** departed for home he left with a nice **Remington Model 1100**. Good times in the blind with plenty of stories over breakfast made for a great day for three generations of family spending quality time in a duck blind !!



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)**.

The 2022 election didn't go well.

We lost one friend in the state senate, and we were minus one friend in the state house, so our position was weakened in each chamber. This makes matters worse than they were last year. The **Animal-Rights (A-R)** groups had an aggressive agenda last year, and their agenda is even more aggressive this year.

Two (2) current members of the **Fish and Wildlife Commission** and a former member of the of the **Fish and Wildlife Commission** and a prominent state senator are going to try to lobby to amend Washington law regarding the make-up of the Commission.

Mandate of department and commission.

"The commission shall attempt to maximize the public recreational game fishing and hunting opportunities of all citizens, including juvenile, disabled, and senior citizens."

[RCW 77.04.012](#), full statute linked [here](#).

These **A-R** people are going to try and get hunting removed from the legislative mandate! One Commissioner made a comment that he's afraid to go into the woods because of hunters! This is how radical these **A-R** extremists are.

They will most likely get this through the **Senate Natural Resources Committee**, but the **Hunters Heritage**

Council (HHC) will be there to fight them. Fight them we will, but we need **YOUR** help! The **HHC's** record in killing legislation is perfect. As president of the **HHC**, I am proud of that record. You cannot join **HHC** directly, because the **HHC** is an organization of organizations. However you can be part of the premiere waterfowl organization in the State of Washington, you can be part of **WWA**, who is a voting member of **Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation (WWC)**, who is a member of the **HHC**. (See **Editor's Note** at the beginning of every **WA Legislative Report**).

THIS year more than ever, the threat to hunting IS REAL!

The **A-R** groups are planning an all-out offensive this session. They will try and eliminate hunting. The only way we can counter them is for all the **HHC** member organizations to be strong.

THIS IS NOT A GUILT THIP! If your current **WWA** membership is lapsed, please renew it; if you are a current member please consider upgrading. If you are in the financial position to do so, please consider making a donation or becoming a life member. We need a strong and vibrant **Washington Waterfowl Association!**

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

The **HHC** is **THE** only hunting-rights organization with a full-time lobbyist in Olympia protecting your hunting rights. **Tom Echols** works tirelessly to monitor all that is going on in Olympia and working with key legislators to kill bad bills. I will be working extremely hard this long 105-day legislative session — working with **Tom** and our legislators — to ensure we have a successful session. We can and will kill any mandate change bill as we will the other anti-hunting bills that are introduced.

There is still a lot of work ahead of us. We have a very unbalanced Commission to deal with. Even if the **A-R** people don't win in Olympia, they will still try and win at the **WDFW Commission** level.

News for the Flock

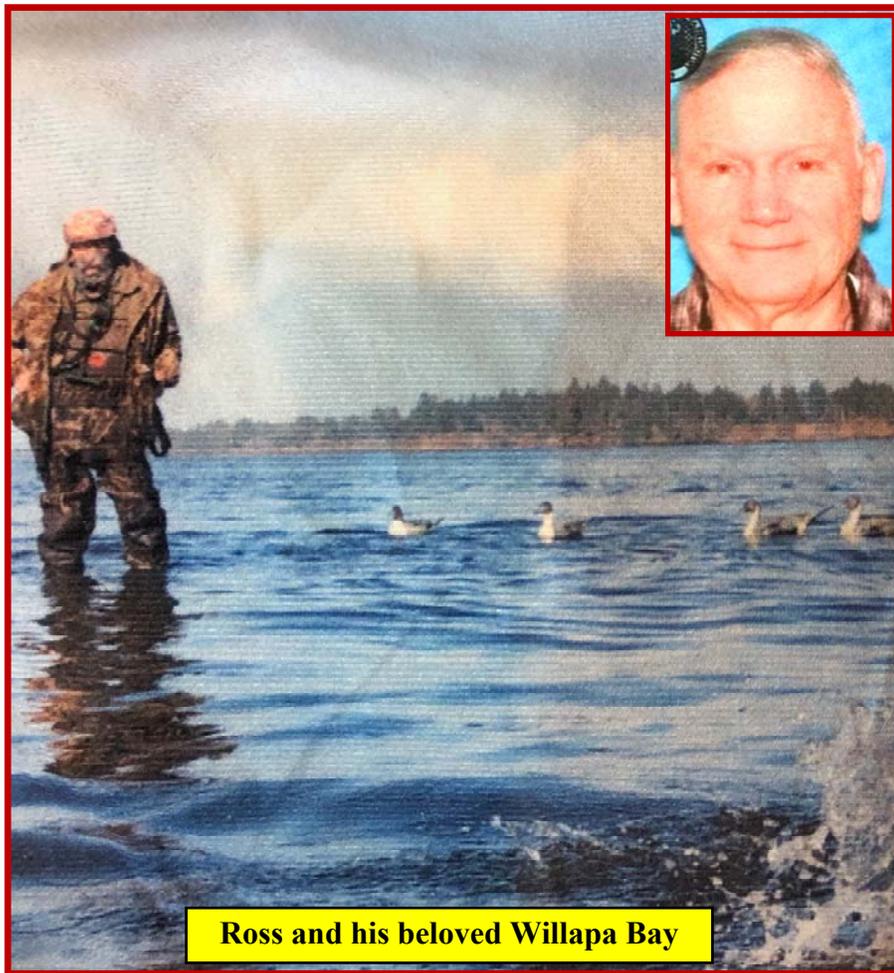
Ross Barkhurst — What an Asset to have on the WDFW Commission

Since at least 2015 **WWA Board** and **Life Member**, **Ross Barkhurst**, has been sounding the alarm about the deteriorating ecosystem in his back yard of **Willapa Bay**. He has previously written extensive articles on this issue in the **WWA Newsletter** — *“Life in the Dead Zone—The 2015 Eelgrass Die Off”* in September of 2015 linked [here](#), and *“Continuing Eelgrass Issues in Willapa Bay Affect Waterfowl”* more recently in January of 2022 and linked [here](#).

The **WDFW Commission** is well acquainted with the science talents of **Ross**. In 2019 used his major degree in **Oceanography** to study and understand circulation and effects of water in **Willapa Bay**. At request of the **WDFW Commission Chair**, **Ross** formed the citizen’s advisory group **Willapa Basin Ecosystem Review Team (WBERT)** which in turn the submitted the **“WBERT Report”** with seven recommendations for habitat improvement in **Willapa Bay** based on the best science available. Unfortunately there was no response by **WDFW** to the **WBERT** reports, and subsequently the waterfowl numbers in **Willapa Bay** have crashed.

Ross has frequented **Willapa Bay** since the late 1970’s when he purchased land there. He has lived on the bay full time since his retirement in 2002. Despite his efforts over the years as **Vice Chair** of the **Columbia County Oregon Planning Commission** and serving on the **Pacific County Marine Resource Committee**, he unfortunately has continued to witness the slow, ecological degradation of the bay. *“On the Commission I would be better able to apply my experience, education, and knowledge not only to Willapa Bay, but to the entire Outer Washington Coast in Toto,”* **Ross** says.

Education & Employment Background: Born in March of 1945, **Ross** grew up in southern Oregon; graduated the **US Naval Academy** in 1967 followed by six years in **US Navy Nuclear Submarine Service**. **Ross** spent his civilian working career in the nuclear industry from system engineer at **Trojan Nuclear Plant**; to **Plant Manager** and **Vice President** at the **Waterford Three Nuclear Plant in Louisiana**; to **President** and **CEO** of the **Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.**



Ross and his beloved Willapa Bay

Fishing and Hunting Background: **Ross** describes himself as “a conservation and habitat person first — a fishing and waterfowl observation and hunting person, second.” While working in the South, **Ross** was **President of Louisiana Tarpon Club** where he successfully advocated for *“tag and release”* **Tarpon** contests, not just kill and weigh in.

Ross has fished the **Lower Columbia River**, **Multnomah Channel**, and **Willamette River** “since age fifteen.” While stationed in **Idaho** in the **Navy**, **Ross** learned a lot about **Sage Grouse** and other upland birds “which need to be kept in the **Commission’s** mind in **Eastern WA.**,” he says.

Please take a few moments to express your support of **Ross** to the **Fish and Wildlife Commission** using the **WA State Government Portal** linked [here](#).

Click on **Fish and Wildlife Commission**, then follow the prompts. When it asks for the Applicant’s email address, **Ross** has given his consent to use his email at:

rp.barkhurst@hotmail.com

WDFW News

No Skagit Co Brant Hunt Season

OLYMPIA – The **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)** announced on January 12th that **Skagit County** will be closed to brant harvest this season.

Waterfowlers will be able to hunt for brant geese in **Clallam, Pacific, and Whatcom** counties on the scheduled days set forth below.

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

**In Clallam and Whatcom counties on:
January, 21, 25, & 28;
and**

**In Pacific County on:
January 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, & 29.**

A trend of historically low brant counts in **Skagit County** means brant hunting will remain closed in that county **including** during the **Youth, Veteran, and Active Military** waterfowl hunting one-day opportunity on Saturday, February. 4th.

“Recent aerial counts in **Skagit County** indicate numbers fell short of the 3,000-bird requirement to allow brant hunting there this season,” said **Kyle Spragens, WDFW Waterfowl Section Manager**. “These population surveys, conducted over **Padilla, Samish, and Fidalgo bays**, tallied 2,481 brant — the second lowest count in the 71-year history of these surveys.”

The surveys allow **WDFW** biologists to monitor the winter population in relation to the harvest pressure that can occur in **Skagit County**. The number of hunting days is directly related to how many brant are counted during these surveys.

“This is the sixth consecutive year of fewer than 6,000 brant in **Skagit County** bays, and while we strive to provide harvest opportunity when appropriate, these

historically low counts require us to restrict opportunities for this unique coastal waterfowl species to meet our conservation objectives,” **Spragens** said.

Brant are a migratory species of goose with a sleek black head, white necklace, and distinct brown and black body feathers with striking white flank feathers. They winter in coastal bays, estuaries, and lagoons, where they eat eelgrass, sea lettuce, and other aquatic vegetation.

WDFW reminds hunters to familiarize themselves with local regulations and boundaries. Specifically, hunters in **Clallam County** are advised to consult the **closed zones** of **Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge**, and hunters in **Whatcom County** are advised to review boundaries relevant to **Bellingham and Lummi bays**.

Brant hunters are also reminded they must possess:

1. a valid migratory bird authorization and
2. brant harvest report card.

More information on brant hunting is available in the Migratory Game Bird Seasons - Western Washington section on **page 27 of the 2022-2023 Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Regulations** linked [here](#).

The **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife** works to preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.



WDFW News

Swan Study in E WA Seeks Help

Paula Clements
WDFW Ephrata Office
Assistant District Wildlife Biologist

Starting in November there were several swans that started showing up in the **Columbia Basin**, more so than usual. There's several groups that have been seen in various parts of **Grant** and **Adams** counties. They've been observed in various areas around **George, Royal City, Potholes Reservoir**, and other locations.

conducted each year in **western Washington** where they regularly winter, but not so much in eastern Washington.

With this increase in swan numbers over the winter, I'd like to pay closer attention to it and collect as much data as possible.

If any WWA member or member of the public-in-general see swans, I'm asking that they please send me an email at:
paula.clements@dfw.wa.gov
with the location. As things warm back up and birds start migrating north again, I'm intrigued to see if any swans stay in this local area to nest.



Trumpeter Swans in Adams County, WA.

I've been conducting surveys on them in the local area on a regular basis which includes locating them while they're either roosting, flying, or feeding; determining the species (**trumpeter swan vs. tundra swan**); and then counting the total number of juveniles vs. adults. In one field, I observed 42 swans on a Monday, and by the following Sunday the group had grown to 126!

As we begin to transition back from winter into spring, I'm seeking more public assistance on this. I'd like those that see swans in **Grant** and/or **Adams County** to collect the location of the swan(s) that they saw and send it to me so I can add it to my survey area list and collect data on these swans. Swan surveys are already regularly



Trumpeter Swans at Potholes Reservoir.

WDFW Latest News Re: Avian Flu

Avian influenza: Common Q & A's Updated Dec 16, 2022

In mid-December, 2022 **WDFW** staff confirmed that a third **raccoon** in **Washington**, this time found on **Camano Island in Island County, WA** tested positive for the highly pathogenic **avian influenza (HPAI)** virus H5N1 2.3.4.4 strain.

A **raccoon** was also confirmed to have the **HPAI virus**, this time in **Spokane County** in July of 2022. Prior to that, a **raccoon kit (baby)** found at a park in **Franklin County** in June 2022 also tested positive for it. A **gull** from the same park also tested positive for **HPAI**.

Is it common for other animals to catch HPAI?

This are not the first cases of **HPAI** in mammals. This strain has also been detected in **red foxes and striped skunks in North America**. However, these are the first detections of **H5 2.3.4.4** in **raccoons** in North America, and the first detection of **HPAI** in a mammal in Washington state. While these developments may be concerning to some as they signal a spread of the **HPAI virus** from birds to mammals in our state, they are not completely unexpected and not something to panic about. According to the **Center for Disease Control and Prevention**, as **HPAI H5N1 viruses** continue to evolve, other mammals may become infected.

This is not surprising as, with colder weather returning and wild birds flocking together to feed, **WDFW** has seen an uptick in reports of suspected cases of **HPAI**. It is also not something to panic about. Following are answers to common questions regarding **HPAI**, the impact to wildlife, and the potential spread to domestic animals and humans, as well as what you can do to protect yourself and your animals:

What is HPAI?

Avian influenza, also known as bird flu, refers to the disease caused by infection with **avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses**. These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect poultry and other bird and animal species. Wild aquatic birds include ducks, geese, swans, gulls and terns, and shorebirds.

Avian influenza A viruses are very contagious among birds through saliva, nasal secretions, feces, and contaminated surfaces. These viruses are classified into two categories:

1. **low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI)**, and
2. **highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)**.

LPAI viruses cause either no signs of disease or mild disease in chickens/poultry (such as ruffled feathers and a drop in egg production).

HPAI can be transmitted to domestic birds such as chickens, ducks, and turkey and generally leads to death for these birds.

Can HPAI transfer to humans?

Bird flu viruses are not easily transmissible from birds to people, but without proper hygiene, or if in prolonged contact with a sick bird, the risk increases and the virus can spread to humans. Humans should avoid handling sick or dead birds and should keep their pets from scavenging or interacting with dead wildlife. Practices that cause birds to congregate in large numbers such as feeding waterfowl should also be avoided.

While it is extremely unlikely that hunters or people feeding wild birds could contract bird flu, the following common-sense precautions are recommended to reduce the risk of contracting any wildlife disease:

- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning harvested birds or cleaning bird feeders;
- Do not harvest or handle wild birds that are obviously sick or found dead.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning game.
- Wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol hand sanitizer immediately after handling game or cleaning bird feeders.
- Wash tools and work surfaces used to clean game birds with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10 percent solution of chlorine bleach.
- Separate raw meat, and anything it touches, from cooked or ready-to-eat foods to avoid contamination.
- Cook game birds thoroughly. Meat should reach an internal temperature of 155 to 165 degrees Fahrenheit to kill disease organisms and parasites.

If you experience flu-like symptoms following contact with sick or dead wild birds or have concerns about potential exposure to infected birds, contact your local health department. They can provide public health recommendations and guidance on symptom monitoring and testing of people exposed to avian influenza.

Additional animal and human health and safety information regarding avian influenza is on the **USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** website linked [here](#).

News for the Flock



Earl Mikkelson holds a custom-framed 2018 WA Duck Stamp Print recently given him by WWA in recognition of his many years of service as to WWA. Earl was the WWA-Corporate Secretary and a Board member for 10+ years and was one of the original members of the Duck Stamp Committee when WWA took over the Washington State Duck Stamp and Print Program from WDFW in 2012.

The custom frame for the print was made by fellow WWA Board member, Al O'Connor.

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
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 Spokane Valley, WA 99206

<https://pacificcustomcalls.com/>

(509) 315-4764

News for the Flock

The Hunter's Table

By James Ono

Seared Duck with Mushroom Sauce

I love the earthy creaminess of a good mushroom sauce. It lends itself really well to being served with a seared duck breast but can also be made with many types of game or domestic meat.

This dish can be served with just about any side you want like potatoes, egg noodles, rice, or just about any vegetable. When I made this recipe, I used skin on duck breasts and for the wine I used a chardonnay. There are likely better options for wine, but that is what I had.

One quick note — as you are thickening your sauce, get it to a point where it is just a little thinner than you would like as you will continue to simmer for another five-plus minutes so the sauce will also continue to thicken.

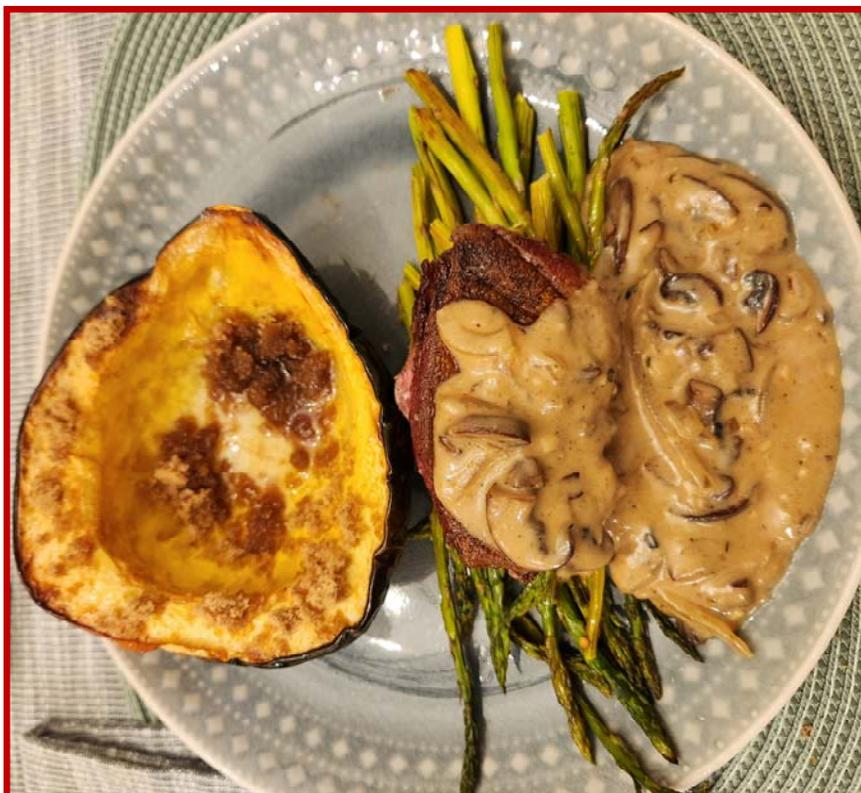
Ingredients:

- 4 Duck Breasts
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- Cooking Oil (high smoke point)
- 2 Tbsp Butter
- 12 Ounces of Mushrooms (sliced thick)
- 2 Cloves of Garlic (minced)
- 2 Shallots (diced)
- ½ Cup White Wine
- 1 ½ cups of Chicken or Game Stock
- ½ Cup heavy cream
- 2 Sprigs of Thyme or ½ tsp Dried Thyme
- 1 tsp Dijon Mustard
- 3-4 Tbsp Flour
- ½ cup Water

Process:

1. Preheat a skillet over medium
2. Add enough cooking oil to coat the skillet
3. Season the duck breasts with salt and pepper, place them in the skillet and press them into the skillet for 15 seconds (skin side down if using skin on breasts)
4. Cook about 4 minutes a side (this will vary depending on the thickness of the breasts, but you want them to be medium rare or around 125-130 degrees in the center)
5. Remove the breasts to a plate or cutting board and tent with foil

6. Add butter to the skillet (less butter is needed if you use skin on breasts as the duck fat will render out)
7. Add mushrooms and cook undisturbed until they start to brown
8. Continue to cook, stirring occasionally until their moisture has released, evaporated, and the mushrooms are well browned all over
9. Add shallots and cook until they have softened and begun to brown
10. Add garlic and stir until fragrant, about 30 seconds
11. Add the wine to deglaze the pan, scraping up any browned bits from the bottom
12. Add the stock, cream, thyme, and mustard
13. Bring to a boil then lower the heat to medium-low and simmer stirring frequently for 5 minutes
14. Mix the flour and water in a jar to create a slurry
15. Add a couple tablespoons of the slurry and stir (if the sauce is still too thin after a couple minutes add some more of the slurry, if it becomes too thick you can thin it with stock or water)
16. Simmer for another 5+ minutes (this will reduce any flour taste; you can also add the duck back to the skillet to warm up if needed)
17. Add salt and pepper to taste
18. Plate your duck breast and pour the sauce over top or on the side



News for the Flock

The **WWA** is based on volunteer efforts and donations from folks that care about the waterfowl hunting heritage. Our success rides on the shoulders of these volunteers and generous benefactors. Below in **red** is a listing of recent contributions to the five (5) primary funds established by the **WWA** since publication of the **October 2022 Newsletter**.

WWA General Fund — \$1,832

Mel Gruschow — 4 framed, matted prints to the Seattle Chapter for fund raising

WWA Habitat Fund — \$1,640

WWA Heritage Lands Fund — \$11,077

WWA Legal Fund — \$21,753.52

WWA Youth Fund — \$2,810

Jenny Lutz, in Memory of B.J. Brown — \$500 to the Seattle Chapter

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	#68 Bob Taylor S		

Congrats to Bob Taylor — Most Recent New WWA Life Member

Over the hunting season hiatus between the last **WWA Newsletter** in October and the first newsletter of January, **Lower Columbia Chapter** member **Bob Taylor** upgraded his membership to become a **WWA Life Member** at the **Silver** level.

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

Bronze Level Life Membership — \$500.00 (USD)

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

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

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

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

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

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

At its monthly meeting of May 4, 2022 the **WWA Board of Directors** voted unanimously to create a new **Platinum Life Membership at the \$5,000 level**.

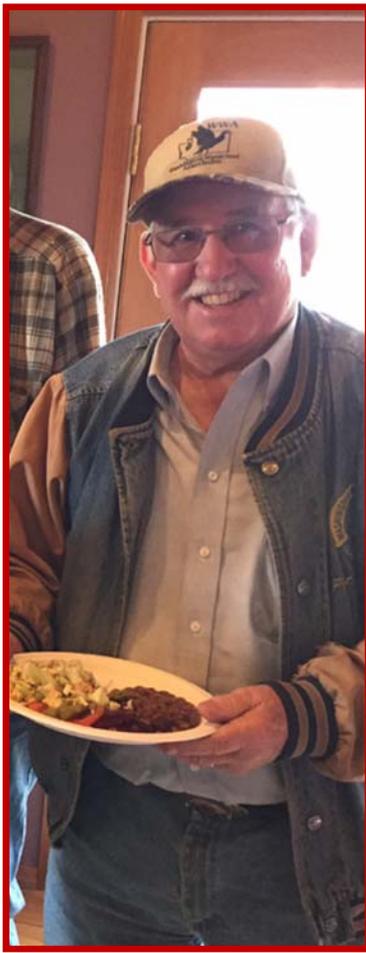
THANK YOU ALL for your "**sustaining**" support of the **Washington Waterfowl Association**.

In Memoriam



If you have someone you would like to honor in this column, please contact newsletter editor John Arrabito (jarrabito@comcast.net) before the 12th of the month you would like the memorial to appear. We would prefer a note written by the contributor. A picture is also requested.

There is no charge for this service, but donations at your discretion are always appreciated.



Former **WWA President, Leo Pfeifer**, died Friday, December 16th, in **Moses Lake**, after an extended illness. He was 81.

Pfeifer was **WWA President** for the years 2000 and 2001 when the organization was known as the **Washington Duck Hunters, Inc., (WDH)** and had not yet expanded into the several, statewide, individual chapters that make up **WWA** today.

Leo was an avid hunter of both big and small game including elk, deer, upland and waterfowl. He was a crack shooter in all venues, but relevant to **WWA** he was a four-time winner of the annual **Ferd Nist Memorial Shoot** — a competition of trap / doubles / 5-stand shotgunning over the course of each summer to determine the best “*shotgunner*” of **WWA** for that particular year. The **Ferd Nist Trophy** is named after one of the original founders of **WDH** in 1945.

Leo developed five acres near **Royal City, WA** with water and sewer hookups that he operated from the late 1970’s as a base location for an informal hunt club [**Far West Pheasant Hunt Club**] for **WWA’s** then-sister organization — the **Washington Game Bird Club (WGBC)** — while leasing multiple real properties on the surrounding **Royal Slope** area for the club’s exclusive use. Unfortunately, as with other hunter-conservation organizations like the **Minnesota Waterfowl Assn.**, and the **Oregon Duck Hunters**, the **WGBC** folded in 2013.

Over the years many **WWA** and **WGBC** members either maintained permanent mobile homes on the property or parked their campers and trailers there throughout the waterfowl and upland hunting seasons and enjoyed the amenities and utilities at “**Leo’s Place**” at minimal cost (including hot showers and a game cleaning room) — both welcome and open to the Club throughout the hunt season[s].

In the 1990’s **Leo** led several excursions of **WWA** and **WGBC** members to his family’s “**Home Place**” in **Phillip, South Dakota** for Thanksgiving week for some excellent pheasant hunting, as well as two-fer deer and turkey tags!



There will be no formal services.

(Above) Leo Pfeifer at the annual potluck gathering at the Moses Lake home of Robin and Susan Hickok after a day of WWA counting goose nests on Potholes in May of 2017.

(At Right)

Leo in one of the fertilizer tank blinds developed by WWA member Bob Stephens for use at the center pivot.

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



Ascend H12 kayak, preferably in camo or olive.
Call Mikhail at 972-408-8380

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

Still looking for a shotgun for new duck hunter.
Contact Bryan at 253-590-3301

For Sale

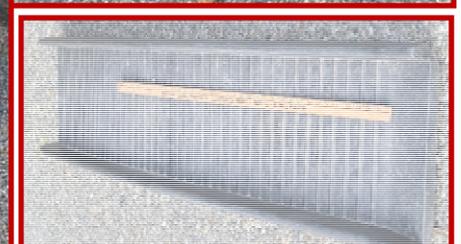
1. Mercury 3.5 hp, 4 stroke, short shaft, 2022 model, new, zero hours, \$950.00
 2. Aqua Pod blind door kit for 10 ft pod, all fasteners and frame with shadow grass fabric, new, never used \$50.00
 3. Avery Pro Grade 3-D silhouette canada goose decoys, flocked heads and motion system stakes, never used \$100.00
- Contact Tom, 253 549 9142

Benelli Nova Pump, 26" barrel, 3 chokes: full, mod, IC. Realtree APG camo, Great shape. Contact for pictures, Located in Bellingham.
Asking: \$300.00
Contact Andy, 320-267-2471

Large plastic dog kennel (approx. 36"X24"X24"): \$50
Large dog bed (approx. 36"X24"): \$15
Folding plastic dog ramp: \$10
Yard stick on photos for scale; All in good condition
Take all for \$65
Will deliver to the Mt. Vernon area.

See photos at right >>>

Contact Art, 206-755-1441,



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



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:

- Family (immediate family up to age 18) — \$ 35.00
 - Regular — \$ 30.00
 - Bronze Lifetime* — \$ 500.00 (New, 6/1/2021)**
 - Silver Lifetime* — \$ 1,000.00 (New, 6/1/2021)**
 - Gold Lifetime* — \$ 2,000.00 (New, 6/1/2021)**
 - Platinum Lifetime* — \$ 5,000.00 (New, 5/4/2022)**
 - ** Please check box if you do not wish to receive a gift.**
 - Senior (65 or over) - \$ 15.00
 - Junior (under age 18) -- \$ 15.00
 - 2-Year Regular \$ 50.00
 - 2-Year Family \$ 60.00
- (2-year memberships NOT available online)

Chapter & Newsletter: (Please specify your preferences)

Newsletter by email or hard copy

- Grays Harbor/Chehalis Valley Chapter** meets the 1st Thursday of the month (Feb – Oct) at 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 Avenue NW in Stanwood.
- Peninsula Chapter — VACANT**
- Seattle Chapter** meets the last 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 — VACANT**
- Wenatchee Chapter** – Dates and Places TBD.
- Whatcom County Chapter** meets the 2nd Tuesday of the of the month (Jan – Nov.) at **Ferndale Public Library**, 2125 Main Street in Ferndale.
- Yakima Valley Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.

Pay with a credit card from our website:

www.waduck.org

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.