

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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FEBRUARY 15, 2023



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Letter from the President



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Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

Another season in the books!

I had a **GREAT** time hunting with a few new guys, some old friends and my family. My young **German Shorthaired Pointer Mabel** bagged more pheasant roosters in her second year than her first. She is getting better in the duck blind sneaking fewer licks on my hunting friends than before, but she's still climbing on the bench to greet everyone to the pack.

Now that the season is past, my thoughts are turning to off-season activities like trap shooting and decoy carving. Of course this includes conservation work too. I'll be checking in on my wood duck nest boxes, and helping the **NW Chapter** with events doing cleanups, blind building and this year even some nest tube maintenance.

I attended the **Sportsmen's Show in Puyallup** this last week and had great discussions with other like minded conservation groups. A lot of discussions was had around new proposed legislation, and how we all need to advocate for access and hunting interests. Next month we will re-cap the growing success of our **WWA Hunter Mentoring Program**. This month we have a some great stories and photos from many different chapters regarding the **February 4th Special Hunt Day for Youth, Veterans, and Active Military**.

Save the date (**Saturday, August 5**) for the **Annual Washington State Calling Contests** with a new venue this year at **Orting Station**. We have maintained the sanction for another year to keep the calling contest within our **WWA Stewardship** in order to send our state duck calling champion to the **Worlds Contest in Stuttgart, AR** in November. However, the first step is securing some prizes for our winners. See the **Flyer on Page 11**.

As I requested last month please continue to send me any suggestions for conservation efforts you would like to see in the coming year.

For the Resource,

Paul McGovern
WWA President

MISSION STATEMENT

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

News for the Flock

2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

Wed, Feb 22	New Day Seattle Chapter Meeting Kenmore Gun Range. Shooting starts at 5 pm.
Thurs, Feb 23	Lower Columbia Chapter Meeting Vancouver Trap & Gun Club Shooting starts at 5:30 pm
Sat & Sun Feb 25 & 26	Seattle Chapter Work Parties with Bob Hazelbrook cleaning and rehabbing Wood Duck Nest Boxes at Stillwater and Cherry Valley. See Seattle Chapter News on Page 7
Tues, Feb 28	Usual SW Chapter Meeting Tacoma Sportsmen's Club Begins at 6 pm
Weds, Mar 1	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, Mar 2	Grays Harbor Chapter Meeting, Evergreen Sportsmen's Club, near Rochester, WA
Weds, Mar 8	NW Chapter Meeting, Twin Cities Sportsmen's Club, Stanwood, WA
Tues, Mar 14	New Day — New Location Whatcom County Chapter Meeting, at Ferndale Library, 2125 Main Street, Ferndale. 6:30—8 pm
Sat, Mar 18	LC Chapter Post-Season Cleanup of Ridgefield NWR. See Page 3
Sat, Mar 18	Delta Waterfowl Columbia River Chapter Fund Raising Event St. Helens, OR. See Flyer on Page 6
Sat, May 20	Puget Sound Decoy Carving Contest sponsored by WA Brant Foundation Maiben Park, Burlington, WA
Sat, Aug 5	WA State Sanctioned Duck Calling Contest, Orting Station, Orting, WA See SW Chapter News on Page 10

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While It's On Your Mind

Get your **FREE** WA State Duck Stamp

To receive a complimentary (as in **FREE**) WA State Duck Stamp, mail a copy of your 2022-23 WA Small Game License (showing an authorization to hunt Migratory Birds) along with a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) to:

WWA Duck Stamp Program
P.O. Box 7823
Bonney Lake, WA 98391

(Absolute Deadline is March 31, 2023)
(Unclaimed Stamps will be destroyed in April)

News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By Doug Hargin

Guest Speaker

Monique (Ferris) Gray spoke at our January meeting. She is the **Private Lands Hunting Access Biologist** and coordinator for the **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)**. She works with landowners in six counties to provide public hunting access for waterfowl, upland, big and small game.

Gray did a great job explaining the opportunities and different types of access provided through the program. If you were at the meeting, she revealed some new properties that have come on board for the program and generally have very light pressure the first season. You can learn more and make reservations via this [active link](#):

Ridgefield NWR Close Down and Clean Up

We will clean up the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge** on **Saturday, March 18th**. We will meet at the hunting check station at 8:00 am. Join the work party early in the day, then support our friends at the Delta Waterfowl gathering later that evening. See Flyer on **Page 6**.

Rick Scott Hits the Road

Former Chapter President and **Current Interim President, Rick Scott**, literally hits the road this month upon his retirement. **Rick** had been our chapter president for many years prior and stepped in when **Ted Blade** moved to **Alabama** last year.

Rick and his wife **Nancy** are heading out in their trailer to tour the country for a year as full time **RV'rs**. **Rick** has been a huge contributor of his time and talents for many years. We will miss his corny jokes and funny stories at our meetings and events. Most of all, we will miss a friend and helper to all of our members. We wish he and **Nancy** safe and happy travels over the next year.

New Chapter President and VP!

We would like to welcome and congratulate **Michael Andreotti** as our new **Chapter President** and **Phil Proper** as **Vice President**. **Michael** has served as **VP** for a number of years. **Phil** is a very active newer member with fresh ideas and enthusiasm for our chapter. Thanks gentleman for stepping up to serve!



Army Lt. Bobby Ohly is a new WWA-Lower Columbia Chapter member this year. He was hosted on the February 4th Special Hunt Day for Youth, Vets, and Active Military by member Bob Taylor and his 8+ year-old Golden Retriever, Skye, at Blind #16 at the Ridgefield NWR. Bobby took five birds for the day, but was most proud of this Pintail Drake — not a common species back in PA where his family is from. This was Ridgefield's first year staging the Special Hunt Day.

LC Chapter News Continued

A Day with a Hunter: Ridgefield Refuge Manager Learns Lessons With Conservation Mentor

By Juliette Fernandez,
Refuge Manager, Ridgefield NWR Complex



Ridgefield NWR Complex Manager Juliette Fernandez & Daisy.

I didn't grow up hunting. I was more inclined to hop out of a moving vehicle like an action hero to save a crossing tarantula!

When I started as the new **Refuge Manager** at **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** in 2020, I was informed that the relationship between hunters and the refuge had been challenging in the past, and that the requests, needs and functions of this program would be different from my past refuges. I also knew I was a good listener and looked forward to building bridges and finding our commonalities.

I have friends who are hunters so I framed my approach to this new hunt program with them in mind. My hunting friends are some of the best biologists I know, and they are also some of the most passionate conservationists I know. They love challenging their outdoor skills and being outside. All of that applies to me, too. When I arrived in my new position here, I met with the hunt community and learned that, for many of them, they felt the same.

I started having monthly check-in meetings with the **Washington Waterfowl Association** and soon learned they were immensely friendly and really wanted to help. I went out with them to "**camo up**" the refuge hunt blinds before the season started and humbly asked them to teach me all of their tricks. I made it a point to come to the early hunt at 4:30 am on five occasions through the season, just to wish them luck as they picked their blinds for the day and congratulated them as they checked their birds back in. At the **Veterans Day** hunt and lunch, I served them food and thanked them for protecting the lands I am honored to manage.

All of these things were tiny tokens, but our relationship shifted from adversarial to friendly. But there was another step I needed to take — I wanted to go with them on a hunt.

I asked an avid hunter if I could join his adventure one day. **WWA-LC Chapter** member **Rich Hannan** happily agreed to share a blind — and his experience — with me on a cold morning in January of 2022.

My alarm went off at 3:45 a.m. and I was off to the races. Two pairs of wool socks: check; long underwear: check; cargo pants: check; dark puffy jacket: check; rain jacket: check; headlamp: check; mask: check; gloves: check; warm hat: double check.

I got to the refuge gate and 15 trucks were already waiting for the hunt gate to open. As the arms of the gate started to move, diesel engines woke the night air once again and a caravan of lights crept to the hunt unit.

We were the 15th lottery pick, so I waited in my car to hear our number called on the AM radio. Resting my eyes and listening for my turn, it was both peaceful and exciting. **Rich** and I went through the check-in process as if I was a member of the public so I could walk in his shoes.

We picked our blind, and made our journey into the dark, marking the dark road with our boot prints. **Daisy**, our four-legged hunt companion, had on her camo vest and a collar with a tiny green light that shined like a minuscule beacon that helped me locate her in the dark. She obediently walked with me and Rich down the muddy road and led the way to the blind. To the faint tune of adjusting

(Continued on Adjacent Page 5)

LC Chapter News Continued

leaves and settling damp branches, **Rich** and I set up more camo, placed the decoys on the calm water and ran a string from several of them to our hunt blind. “This,” he said while pulling at the string, “is a non-battery way for us to give movement to the decoys, mimicking a wingbeat and creating a ripple.”

He gave me a small heater, and told me he brought me apple cider and snacks. I crawled into the concrete hole and peered out through the camo at the still waters as the sun began to fade the stars into memories on the cold morning. I asked **Rich** what got him hunting.

“I didn’t grow up with it, but my grandmother read me **Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*** as a child, and I knew conservation was my path. It got me interested in hunting, so I taught myself,” **Rich** answered.

Species that I was familiar with from my biology classes, and from casual appreciation, soon took on new personas as **Rich** shared their qualities with me from a hunter’s perspective.

“Teal are tiny fighter pilots zigging this way and that. They are really fun to watch.” It evoked memories of the old **Snoopy** cartoons and his adventures as the **Red Barron**. “I don’t take **bufflehead** often,” **Rich** continued.

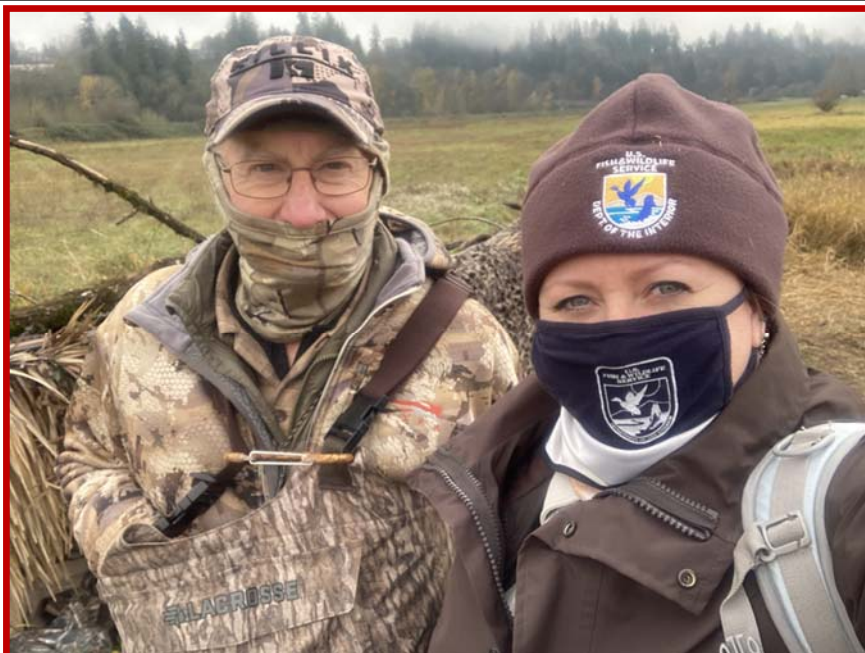


Daisy and the lone duck harvested this day.

“They are too darn cute and don’t taste as good. I don’t shoot anything I don’t eat.”

I thought of the meat I get at the grocery store for my son to eat. I look for ethically farmed animals with no artificial additives. Essentially, we eat meat, but we like **happy meat** from well-treated animals. **Rich** likes free-flying ducks that he harvests and takes straight home to his family’s dinner plates.

“**Pintail** are very wary, circling around and around until they are ready to land,” **Rich** shared. I



Richard Hannon and the author on her first waterfowl hunt (CA January of 2022).

noticed that **Daisy, Rich’s** dog, also circled about four times before she laid down on her mat to rest.

Rich and I spent six hours together. Geese flew in the distance but it was a pretty quiet hunt day. **Rich** seemed disappointed that there wasn’t more activity, but I was very content.

Hot plumes of steam floated off my coffee container, swirling and waning, and I heard the refuge wake up. Fidgety sparrows hopped around us, tiny beads of dew dropped from the grass blades, a train in the distance hummed along with the wind through the trees. I was happy.

Rich and **Daisy** went home with one duck that day. “I’ll bring you some duck breast with a recipe for a great way to make it for your family,” **Rich** said.

We walked back to the car. **Daisy** — wet and paws muddy — was satisfied from another day out with her dad.

The experience was enlightening and gave me a new perspective.

I may still be inclined to hop out a car to save a tarantula, but I have a new understanding and appreciation for a different color of nature enthusiast. Like most hunters, **Rich** is a conservationist. He loves the birds; he respects nature and that balance; he eats his dinners in the most natural form; and he calls the refuge home.

News for the Flock



Columbia River Chapter Annual Fundraising Event

Saturday, March 18, 2023 | Doors Open: 5:30 PM | Dinner: 7:00 PM

Please join us for a night of fun for the entire family. Support the Organization that gives back in a big way locally to make a difference for Ducks and Duck Hunters!

Venue Address:

Columbia County Fairgrounds Pavilion
58892 Saulser Rd
St. Helens, OR 97051

[ATTEND EVENT](#)

For more information, please contact:
Sean Mathews at (661) 864-6915
Deltawaterfowlcra@yahoo.com

The Delta Waterfowl Chapter works with the facility to follow the required social distancing regulations, provide personal protection equipment, to include masks upon request and hand sanitizer along with any additional precautions set and approved by the state and local authorities.

News for the Flock

Seattle Chapter News

By Nick Brown

Glad to see a turnout at our new meeting space in the **Chalet** at the **Kenmore Gun Range**. It seems like it will be a more than suitable space for us.

Upcoming Collaboration

While nothing is set in stone yet we are actively working on a collaborative effort with our local **Backcountry Hunters and Anglers chapter**, and the **WDFW** to do a crop planting in **King County**. This has been a project that is slow to get moving, but I'm excited to announce the ball is rolling! We got a ways to go before it becomes a reality but stay tuned for more on this project to improve our chapter's local hunting grounds.

Swap Meet at March Meeting

With the season wrapped up I would love to put together our annual swap meet for our March meeting. So while we are not doing it this month, get in the garage now and start getting all your used gear together for the March meeting. **Pre-Covid**, the swap meet historically boasted great member turnout. I would like to restore it to its prior glory, as I always enjoyed 'em.



The Grays Harbor Chapter has already started refurbishing Wood Duck Nest Boxes, See Page 12, and other chapters, including Seattle, will start the process later this month and into March.

Our Nest Box Guru, Bob Hazelbrook, will be leading work parties at Stillwater and Cherry Valley on Saturday and Sunday, February 25th & 26th. Volunteers are welcome to join him. Contact Nick Brown at nickibb92@gmail.com if you want to join in on the action.

No more excuses that you've run out of spots to place them !!!

Photo from the FB page, Amazing World
Courtesy of Brett Stark

New Day and Location for Meetings

The Seattle Chapter has 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.

Our February meeting will be held, Wednesday, February 22nd at **Kenmore**. Shooting with the public will start at 5 pm with our meeting down in the **Chalet** at 7 pm. Please remember the \$5 donation to the pizza fund. The range seems to be in steady supply of shot shells these days but I always encourage everyone to be prepared with a box or two if they wanna shoot.

Finally, just a reminder — If you get a chance please support those businesses that supported our Banquet last October. See **Flyer** on **Page 20**.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

News for the Flock

Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

Well the long season is over. Never seems to be long enough, and I'm not ready to start mowing the lawn! Unless your hunting the extended season, it's time to transition into those off season adventures. This is also the right time of the year to do some maintenance on Wood Duck Nest Boxes, Mallard Nesting Tubes and Goose Nesting Platforms. The **NW Chapter** has several activities and chapter meeting guest speakers planned to keep us engaged in our outdoor passion.

Report on Veteran/Active Duty/Youth Waterfowl Hunt

The NW Chapter sponsored Youth and Veteran waterfowl hunts on their **WDFW** designated **February 4th Special Hunt Day**. This was the fourth year that the chapter — with the help of public and private property owners— sponsored this special hunt opportunity in our general locale.

Hunts were conducted from several locations from **Samish Bay** to the **Snohomish River Delta**. We had numerous Veterans and Youth participate in the event. Check out the photos on this and the adjacent **Page 9!**

The weather and tides were in our favor again this year, and most participants scored waterfowl on their hunts. We had hunt parties at the **Edison Gun Club**, the **Nature Conservancy property in Port Susan**, at **Fir Island** and in the **Snohomish River Delta**.

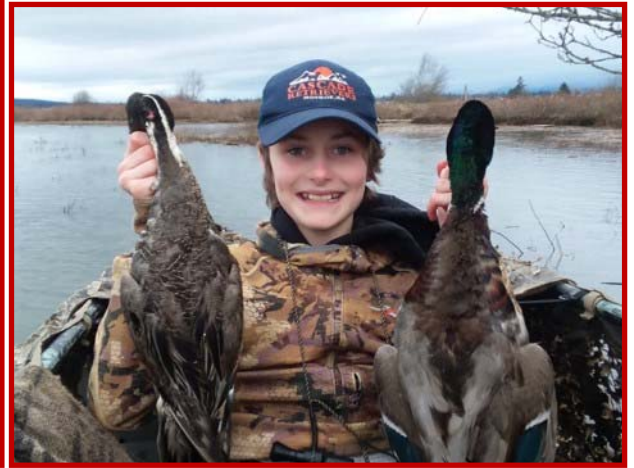
Special thanks goes out to **Tony Breckenridge** of the **Edison Gun Club** and **Amber Parmenter** of the **Nature Conservancy**. Thanks to **NW Chapter** members **Tom Elliott**, **Matt Browder**, and **Rick Billieu** for providing guided hunting opportunities.

As usual, **Rick Skiba** our chapter's **Veteran/Youth Hunt Coordinator** did an outstanding job of communicating with all participants and guides as well as setting all the

hunts up. **Thank You Rick Skiba!!** Another successful hunt with great memories for all.

Chapter Calendar

We have several **Activities and Events** planned for the year. The chapter is currently installing new Wood Duck Nesting Boxes in the region and taking care of maintenance and refurbishing actions for existing boxes.



George Murray and his son, Peter, with a couple of drakes — Pintail and Mallard — that Peter took in the Snohomish River Delta on February 4th!

We are planning to do an after-season clean-up at the **Sammish Unit** in April. The **WDFW** is draining all of the standing water in the unit for crop production in the spring. While we are there, we will complete an assessment of all blinds for needed maintenance.

We will also spend a few days in April at **Smith Island** for our second annual clean-up there.

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

(Continued on Adjacent Page 9)

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SHOP 360.675.9008
CELL 360.672.5100 WWW.WHIDBEYISLANDTAXIDERMY.COM

NW Chapter News Continued



Jason, Evelyn & Andrew VanRoeyen at the Nature Conservancy.



(Above)
Mike Shireman and his son Carson at the Nature Conservancy property, & a nice pair of GWT Carson took there.

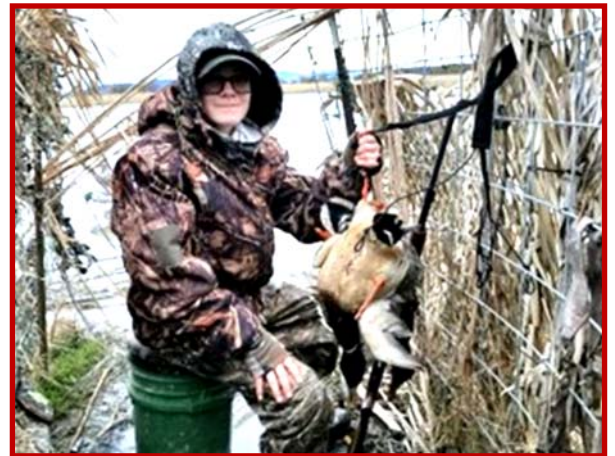


Veteran Shawn Tripp and Youth Hunter Nolan Elde on Fir Island.



Matt Browder with a nice strap at Spencer Island.

(Right)
Bradley Tormey with one of 3 greenheads taken at the Edison Gun Club.



The NW Chapter meets on the second Wednesday each month at the **Twin Cities Sportsmen's Club** in **Stanwood**. Click on the active link in their ad at right for more information. Trap shooting 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/>



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

www.tcsportsmanclub.org

News for the Flock

Southwest Chapter News

By: Bruce Burns

The **Southwest Chapter** is hoping everyone had a safe and eventful waterfowl season. We are starting this coming year with the planning of this year's **Washington State Duck Calling Contest**.

There will be a new venue this year, we are going to have it at the **Orting Station** in the town of **Orting, WA**.

Lower Columbia Chapter member Bob Taylor has stepped forward to fill the huge "hunting boots" of **Nathan Neideigh** to Chair this year's Committee putting on the event.

Nathan's past leadership has made this event a huge success — financial and otherwise — for the **SW Chapter** in every year since 2019 that he has headed up the Contest.

He even put on a **Youth -Only Statewide Calling Contest** in 2022.

Recently, **Bob** and I spent some time with **Danielle** from the **Orting City Hall** to preview the proposed venue at the **Orting Station** and we determined that it should work very well for our needs. The public park will make the event very accessible to the public at large – not just the calling community.

The planning has started with volunteers soliciting prize donations in order to make this year's event another success. See the **Flyer** on the adjacent **Page 11**, and mark you calendars now for **Saturday, August 5, 2023** for the actual event.

First SW Chapter Meeting of 2023

Hopefully, the **SW Chapter** will be having our first meeting of the year on Tuesday, February 28th.

I say hopefully because by the time you read this I will have *gone under the knife* to have knee (right) replacement surgery on Valentine's Day, February 14th! I am assuming a two-week recovery will allow me to be able to hold that meeting.

As usual, the venue for the meeting will be the **Tacoma Sportsmen's Club** (in Puyallup) at 7 pm in the **Education Building**. Am looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing stories of the past waterfowl hunt season.



WWA-SW Chapter member Lance Book (center) and his buddies, Nathan Nelson (L) and Tom Ailing (R) enjoyed a successful seaduck hunt recently up on the north Washington coast!

Tacoma Sportsmen's Club

16409 Canyon Road E
Puyallup, WA

Welcome

Open to the Public

A Disabled Friendly Facility

(253) 537-6151

www.tacomaspotsmensclub.com

News for the Flock

Washington State 2023 Sanctioned Duck and Goose Calling Championships



Where: Orting Station, 101 Washington Avenue NW, Orting, Washington 98360

When: Saturday, August 5th, 2023

Notes: Four contests: Kids under 12, Novice Duck Calling (have not previously competed), Washington State Sanctioned Duck Calling (winner goes to Stuttgart, Arkansas, to compete in the World's Championship), and Open Goose Calling.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in all classes are awarded prizes to be disclosed prior to the contest.

Our State's champ will receive \$1,000 to help defray costs in attending the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart, Arkansas.

Contest hosted by the **Washington Waterfowl Association**.

Why we're asking for donations: The **Washington Waterfowl Association** stands all costs for this contest and the event's success is dependent on the generous contributions of those wishing to help with our conservation efforts and to instill a love of nature in our folk. We are a 501(c)(3) Non-profit. Your donations are tax-deductible, and we will gladly issue a Tax Receipt upon request. In addition, all donations will be recognized during the contest and in our newsletter. Our motto is "Hunters for Conservation" to which we've been true for 77 years.

How To Donate: please contact: **Bruce Burns** ~ (253) 961-8802

bwburns36@gmail.com or **Bob Taylor** ~ (360) 798-534 bobtaylor15@icloud.com

News for the Flock

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

Hi all.

Well here we are, another duck season behind us, the decoys and a ton of equipment *kinda* put away, and now it's time for some relaxation. Right? Wrong.

It's time to do what we do best — hands-on waterfowl conservation! There is a lot to this conservation thing. Nest boxes, nest tubes, nesting platforms and such, but in addition we have to think about our government. Are THEY as conservation minded as us? I wish I could say heck yes!! But alas, I cannot.

Does our government support us in our efforts to make sure that the waterfowl populations remain steady? I have seen evidence of government officials supporting (or wanting to) waterfowl conservation, but in my humble opinion they aren't really into it. We have a government that has stated that they support conservation but have done quite the opposite. A few examples:

- They passed a bill to **STUDY** the eelgrass loss situation, but then issue permits to kill it with the herbicide **imazamox** in tidal areas that spread the stuff with water currents to the untargeted areas, then argue with us that "**climate change**" is at fault. See related story by **WWA Board member, Ross Barkhurst**, on **Page 17**.
- Then the governor stacks the **WDFW Commission** with out spoken anti-hunters. Now government wants to PAY them for their efforts to eliminate hunting!

So where do we go, and what do we do? We do what we do best with what we have. Which isn't much. With 20,000+ waterfowl hunters in this state, we can only get 500 of them to support the **WWA**. What is it with all the hunter apathy???

We need a young work force. We need money. We need to get in their face and not allow our government to ignore waterfowl conservation. Please, I ask that anyone reading this to vote responsibly. That's about it.

Monthly Chapter Meetings News

Our monthly Chapter meetings have had a big downturn in attendance. So I have made a command decision to start using technology to conduct some of our business. Meeting minutes and treasury reports will be done electronically. I may — with member support — reduce the number of meetings from nine to five.

We have some serious work parties scheduled in the near future. Three or more of our nest boxes need



Chapter member Scott Morrison servicing a Wood Duck Nest Box at Cedarville Farms. Seven of the first nine of the nest boxes that we serviced had successful hatches like this one.



replacing. We are getting 10 years of use out of them and sometimes more. The cedar boxes have weathered well, but our fir boxes are all falling apart.

Our most recent work party consisted of mostly the same, small, bunch of old guys. If you have the time to volunteer, please contact me to be added this year's work party list. Thank you ahead of time.

As always, youth are always welcome at our work parties.

(Continued on Adjacent Page 13)

GH Chapter News Continued

Upcoming March 2nd Chapter Meeting

I have invited **Kelly Riordan**, WDFW Region 3 **Hunting Coordinator** to speak at our next Chapter meeting. I have been corresponding with **Kelly**, and I find him to be a pretty good guy. He hunts and has a *blog* with the **WDFW**.

That's how I heard of him. It would be great if we could get a whole bunch of us to show up to greet him.

Members from other chapters are more than welcome to attend. The meeting will be at **the Evergreen Sportsman's Club** near Littlerock, whose website is linked [here](#) on Thursday, March 2nd at 7:00 pm, sharp.

That's about it for this month,

Thanks for your continued support,
Kurt Snyder
kurtsnyder@outdrs.net



Once again Jon McAninch hosted a group of four Veterans on the February 4th Special Hunt Day for Youth, Vets, and Active Military at his Cedarville Farms Hunt Club.

Captain Dick Jensen (above) was present and accounted for, along Steven Frost's super dog, Maizy (above).

Pat Fleege at left.

Jacob Pachter below.

Kurt Snyder rounded out the four.



Gentlemen,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



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 world is filled with unfortunate souls who didn't hear opportunity knock at the door, because they were down at the convenience store buying lottery tickets."

--Napoleon Hill

"Politics is the art of the possible, the attainable."

--Otto von Bismarck

We have two widely different bills that sportsmen's coalitions are hanging their hats on; yet one bill is fatally flawed, and it will never hear opportunity knock, just like the **Napoleon Hill** quote. The other bill has broad bi-partisan support that has strong backing from the **Hunters Heritage Council (HHC)**,

The fatally flawed bill I am talking about is **SB 5675**, (linked [here](#)), a bill to reform the **Fish and Wildlife Commission**, prime sponsored by one of our best friends, **Senator Lynda Wilson**, and co-sponsored by two **HHC Hall of Fame** members **Senator Shelly Short** and **Senator Mark Schoesler**.

NO ONE can deny that the **Commission** needs reforming, but the group behind the bill did a poor job drafting the bill. This bill is not the way to reform the **Commission**. This bill has so many holes in it I can't cover them all. Starting off in the very beginning, page one, Section 2, lines 12 thru 18 of the bill:

"The governor, in consultation with the senate natural resources committee chair, must establish a commission nominating committee that must appoint the members of the commission nominating committee and convene the first

meeting of the commission nominating committee by January 2024. The commission nominating committee shall meet as necessary to recommend to the governor all potential commission members to be appointed..."

With this process, we still have the same flaws as we do with the current **Commission**: The Governor is still going to do the appointing, and now we are throwing in the **State Senate Natural Resources Chair, Kevin VanDeWege**, who is a **Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS)** "**Legislator of the Year**." I am sure this is a political bone to get the bill a hearing, but it's not worth that kind of expense to sell your soul. Poor politics!

Page two, Lines 3 and 4:

Two members representing hunting organizations, with one representing big game and the other small game;

Where are the waterfowling and bird hunting organizations? General hunting organizations? Umbrella organizations? Define hunting organizations? This is a bill of exclusion, too tightly defined. Our stacked anti-hunting Commission will have to define these in **Washington Administrative Code (WAC)**. That will be very ugly!

This bill keeps getting worse. Luckily, this bill won't likely even get a hearing. The tribes are against this bill and so is agriculture.

Now to **Bismarck's** art of the *possible, attainable*.

HB 1698 (linked [here](#)) changes the way gray wolves are managed and would allow for regional delisting of wolves and for the wolf plan to be rewritten. The list of sponsors is impressive — Total bi-partisan support on the eight sponsors, four Democrats and four Republicans.

Prime Sponsor **Joel Kretz (HHC) Hall of Fame** initial inductee; Co-Sponsors in order of sponsorship; **House Natural Resources Committee Chair Mike Chapman**, **HHC Legislator of the Year Debra Lekanoff**, **Tom Dent**, **HHC Legislator of the Year Jacquelin Maycumber**, **Larry Springer (from King County)**, **House Natural Resources Committee Vice Chair Melanie Morgan (an African American legislator from Pierce County whose district encompasses South Tacoma, East Lakewood, Springbrook, Parkland, Spanaway, and West Fredrickson)**, and **Carolyn Eslick**.

(Continued on Adjacent Page 15)

Legislative Report Continued

This bill has support from King and Pierce Counties, suburban and rural support, Eastern and Western Washington support. Five sponsors are from Western Washington, which is darn impressive for a wolf bill.

This bill has the sponsorship of the House Natural Resources Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and three sitting members. It only needs one more vote to get out of committee and will go to Executive Session on February 17, 2023 at 10:30 AM. This bill will fly through Natural Resources, and with the right push we can easily pass it through the state house.

This is where hardball needs to be played. In the Senate Natural Resources Committee, we passed a bill like this before. We can do it again. Once we get past that hurdle, we can clear the state senate.

This would be a huge win for the hunting community. In looking at these two bills, I ask you, where does opportunity knock?

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News for the Flock

Ross Barkhurst — Put his Knowledge, Experience on the 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**.

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

News for the Flock

2022 Eelgrass Legislation Review

by Ross Barkhurst



The “Nemah Flats” as it appeared in early May of 2015 was typically covered with eelgrass that provided shelter and feed for fish, birds, and other wildlife.

I have been following the **Kelp Forest and Eelgrass Meadow Conservation Initiative, Second Substitute Senate Bill 5619**, [linked [here](#)] which was signed into law by **Governor Jay Inslee** on March 30, 2022. Its goal is to “conserve and restore at least 10,000 acres of native kelp forests and eelgrass meadows by 2040.”

The **WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** was given the lead in attaining this goal. I attended the virtual statewide workshop on January 31, 2023. It was to lay out **DNR’s** 40-year plan. Over 100 people attended. An official list of public and tribal uses in **Puget Sound** and **Outer Coast** estuaries was given. It was “facilitated” by contractors **Triangle Associates** or some such, hired by **DNR**.

You may not be shocked to hear that hunting was **NOT** on the list. Also I noted that the “conserve **and** restore” language actually in the bill, in their vernacular keeps morphing into “conserve **or** restore.”

Some also want to leave out ***Zostera japonica* (i.e., duckgrass)**, which is specifically addressed in the previously published **WBERT Report** and its references (linked [here](#)), which are very key for waterfowl, and even aids in the recovery of ***Zostera marina*** where it used to exist. Two in-person workshops will be held in 2023 -- **Outer Coast** will be held on March 23, 2023 and more details – including a **Puget Sound** focused plan – will be announced later. I signed up to follow both. I feel the **WBERT Report** already has done much of **DNR’s** work for them in **Willapa Bay**. I will be doing my best to get this added.

At the end of this initial meeting, I asked who in **DNR** has the lead on this, so I can get a copy of the **WBERT Report** to them. They said “**Bridget**,” and then said, “no, not her.” Who then? After almost a year, no one in **DNR** clearly has the lead. My previous experience with surveys regarding the uses of estuaries is that outfits such as **Surfriders** – that contract out to do them – omit hunting. I will update this report when I get some answers.

In Summary: The good news is for the public attending, they were very enthusiastic about the conservation of estuarine habitat. The bad news is that public, non-tribal, recreation tends to be last on the list of considerations — **with waterfowl hunting being completely omitted**. This includes the absence of previous lists provided by **WDFW** in other venues. I do not believe in “animal rights.” I do believe in our human responsibilities and obligations as those in control of such key resources. An initial report on **DNR’s** progress is due to the **Washington Senate** on December 1, 2023.

I appreciate the opportunity to be a **WWA Board Member** and will keep membership informed thru this Newsletter.



The “Nemah Flats” as it appeared on July 25, 2015 — a time when significant growth should have been occurring, instead existed this “dead zone” — even though it was located approximately 3,500 yards from the nearest area approved for a 2015 herbicide spraying by the WA Department of Ecology!

News for the Flock

Moses Lake Chapter News

From: Bruce Feagan and Dick Price

Royal Lakes Project

There may finally be some headway made with the **WDFW Cultural Resources** people starting their survey the week of February 13th. **The Royal Lakes Project** is a waterfowl authorization project that was funded in the 2021-23 biennium.

Once the survey is complete and accepted, work can start on removing **Russian Olive** trees and moving dirt. Hopefully by the Spring 2024 we can start planting shrubs and grasses for nesting cover and upland wildlife.

FREE Trap Shoot – New Format

This year’s shoot will be on Saturday, May 27th, 2023, and it will have a different flavor. It will be a family event with the youth shooting for **FREE** as usual, and family members can purchase shells from the host for \$5 a box and shoot for **FREE** also!

As always **Tom O’Dell** will have a ton of free stuff for the kids, and **WWA-ML** will provide a lunch of hot dogs, chips, cookies, and water.

Watch for the flyer in the **WWA** March Newsletter!

Spokane Chapter News

Wenatchee Chapter News

Whatcom County Chapter News

Yakima Valley Chapter News

No News This Month



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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 S D
#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	#69 Jon McAninch P	#70 Colonel Thomas O'Dell

Congrats to the Most Recent Life Members

Jon McAninch (GH) and **Col Tom O'Dell (ML)** recently joined the Wall of **WWA Life Members**, above.

At its December 2022 meeting, the **WWA Board of Directors** unanimously voted to award **Jon McAninch** a **Platinum Level Life Membership** for his many years of support to **WWA** through his **Hunt-For-Two Raffle** at his **Cedarville Farms Hunt Club** located in **Oakville, WA**.

Since at least 2012, **Jon** had uniquely set up his drawing to financially benefit all **WWA** Chapters. After paying a nominal \$20 fee to cover the cost of printing raffle tickets, each chapter was the allowed to keep **ALL** proceeds from the raffle tickets they sold to their members for a chance at two, two-person waterfowl hunts at the Club.

In early years, **GH Chapter Chair, Kurt Snyder**, sweetened the pot by offering the winners of a choice of a quality hunt at the **Cedarville Farms Hunt Club**, or a sea duck hunt hosted by himself on the salt waters of **Thurston County**. Many a **WWA** member took their once-in-a-lifetime **Harlequin Duck** on one of these hunts hosted by **Kurt**. The raffles have averaged about \$2,000+/- annually spread across the various **WWA** chapters participating.

Col O'Dell took advantage of the **Life Membership Endowment Fund** established with a \$7,000 donation to **WWA** in May 2022 by **Life Member No. 1, Gary Talbert**. The Fund pays the first \$200 of any new **WWA Life Membership** at any level.

Col O'Dell has been an active **DU** and **Friends of the NRA** member for decades and is especially involved in Youth Shooting Events in **Eastern Washington**.

Support These Businesses That Support WWA

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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 **January 2023 Newsletter**.

WWA General Fund — \$1,882

Marc Bruno — \$50

WWA Habitat Fund — \$1,640

WWA Legal Fund — \$21,753.52

WWA Youth Fund — \$2,810

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.



King Eider

loran.navarro@yahoo.com

970-988-4717

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

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:

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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



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

Please Ship Prints to:

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2022 Signed & numbered print with matching stamp	\$	70.00
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Total Amount:	\$	185.00

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Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

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20 gauge autoloader, 28" barrel.
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Still looking for a shotgun for new duck hunter.
 Contact Bryan at 253-590-3301

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"

For Sale

AR-7 Rifle .22LR. Breaks down into its floatable stock. Extra all-steel barrel included. Members only.
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 Contact John at 425-785-3741
 (See Photos Below)



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 Contact Dan,
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News for the Flock

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.



Photograph of the Month

We're bringing back this monthly feature to the Newsletter.

Submit your photos and from them, one will be published every month.

(From June of 2011)

Mike Mathews and his two sons Luke and Ben enjoyed a successful hunt hosted by SW Chapter Member David O'Dell last fall. David's dog, Deuce, had a lot to do with providing the game to hand for this picture.

Photo by David O'Dell



News for the Flock

Selected (and Incomplete) Summary of 2022-2023 Late Season Goose AUTHORIZATION & HARVEST RECORD CARD REQUIRED TO HUNT SNOW GEESE

SPECIES	AREA	SEASON DATES (inclusive)	DAILY	POSSESSION
NOTE: (White Geese Are Snow & Ross' Geese)	Goose Mgmt Area 1	Late Season (White Geese Only) February 11—21, 2023 See Pamphlet for Details	20	60

During Feb. 11—21, 2023 specified
WDFW Lands are closed.

SPECIES	AREA	SEASON DATES (inclusive)	DAILY	POSSESSION
	Goose Mgmt. Area 2 <u>Coast</u>	Late Season (White & White-Fronted Geese) Late Season Canada Geese (Dusky Canada Geese Closed)	10 3	30 9
	(includes Pacific County and that portion of Grays Harbor County west of Highway 101).	All Late Season Goose Hunting Limited to: Saturdays, Sundays, & Wednesdays, ONLY February 11—22, 2023		

During Feb. 11—22, 2023 specified
National Wildlife Refuges and WDFW
Wildlife Areas are closed to all goose
Hunting in this Management Area

SPECIES	AREA	SEASON DATES (inclusive)	DAILY	POSSESSION
	Goose Mgmt. Area 2 <u>Inland</u>	Late Season (White & White-Fronted) Late Season Canada Geese (Dusky Canada Geese Closed)	10 3	30 9
	(includes Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties; and that portion of Grays Harbor County east of Highway 101).	All Late Season Goose Hunting Limited to: Saturdays, Sundays, & Wednesdays, ONLY February 11—March 8, 2023		

During Feb. 11—March 8, 2023 specified
National Wildlife Refuges and WDFW
Wildlife Areas are closed to all goose
Hunting in this Management Area

SPECIES	AREA	SEASON DATES (inclusive)	DAILY	POSSESSION
	Goose Mgmt Areas 3 & 5	All Late Season Goose Hunting <u>CLOSED</u>		

SPECIES	AREA	SEASON DATES (inclusive)	DAILY	POSSESSION
NOTE: (White Geese Are Snow & Ross' Geese)	Goose Mgmt Area 4	Late Season (White Geese Only) February 11—March 1, 2023 See Pamphlet for Details	20	60

EDITOR'S NOTE: CHECK THE COMPLETE 2022-2023 REGULATIONS LINKED [HERE](#)

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](#).



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Email Address: _____

Best Phone Contact: (_____) _____

Membership Type:

- Family (immediate family up to age 18) — \$ 35.00
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 - 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 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 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.

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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.