

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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MARCH 15, 2023



P.O. Box 40182
Bellevue, WA 98015

Letter from the President



CORPORATE OFFICERS

Paul McGovern, President (425) 361-5050
Mark Pidgeon, VP (425) 221-3986
Bob Taylor, Secretary (360) 798-5342
John Arrabito, Treasurer (425) 894-4080

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CHAPTER CONTACTS

Grays Harbor Chapter
Chair Kurt Snyder (360) 485-9353

Kitsap Peninsula Chapter
Chair **VACANT**

Lower Columbia Chapter
NEW Chair Michael Andreotti (360) 241-8742

Moses Lake Chapter
Chair Bruce Feagan (206) 714-8020
Proj. Coord. Dick Price (509) 762-9027

Northwest Chapter
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Seattle Chapter
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Southwest Chapter
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NEW Chair John Rasmussen (509) 833-0163

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Chair Lyle Galloway (360) 201-1775

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Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

I've talked to a few members regarding the waterfowl season setting process and the proposed regulations for 2023-24. There is a lively group of **WWA** members that are advocating for more birds.

Let the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) know how you feel!

Toward this end I would like to encourage all **WWA** members to use their voices and let the **WDFW** know how we see the state of waterfowl management and waterfowl hunting within Washington state. As invested conservationists we should have the loudest voice in the discussion to influence decisions. Please see the active link on **Page 17** and submit your comments to the **WDFW** by the **March 27th deadline!**

More on Conservation Issues

Regarding conservation work, recently I had the opportunity to attend two chapter meetings this month — the **Northwest** and the **Grays Harbor** chapters. They both have upcoming work parties planned, and **hands-on** conservation is happening. This is the season for all of us avid outdoorsmen (and women) to get out and volunteer our efforts to promote healthy populations of waterfowl and habitat statewide.

Also a Need for Keyboard Warriors

WWA also has another need on another conservation front — to find volunteers to support our social *media efforts* and promote our Association with greater visibility. We are looking volunteers with experience with both **Instagram** and **Facebook** functionality to drive more page visits and awareness of the **WWA**.

Congrats to our Hunting Mentors and Mentees

Lastly, **Pages 11 thru 13** has some pictures of our mentoring program success with a write up of their past hunting season. Thanks to all those that participated.

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

Sat, Mar 18	LC Chapter Cleanup of Ridgefield NWR. See Page 8 for specifics.
Sat, Mar 18	Delta Waterfowl Columbia River Chapter Fund Raising Event St. Helens, OR. See Flyer on Page 9
Sat & Sun Mar 18 & 19	GH Chapter Work Parties at the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. See Page 6 for more info
Weds, Mar 22	Seattle Chapter Meeting Kenmore Gun Club Program — Our Annual Swap Meet
Sat, Mar 25	NW Chapter Work Party Cleanup of the Samish Unit. See Page 4
Tues, Mar 28	SW Chapter Meeting Tacoma Sportsmen's Club New Location — Main Lodge
Thurs, Mar 30	Lower Columbia Chapter Meeting Vancouver Trap and Gun Club
Sat, Apr 1	Enumclaw DU Banquet, at Enumclaw Pete's Pool
Sat, Apr 1	Pheasants Forever Banquet, at Tacoma Sportmen's Club
Weds, April 5	WWA Board Meeting Online Only — 7:00 pm. All WWA Members welcome to attend. Contact Corp Secretary, Bob Taylor, for a WebEx Online invitation. See Page 1
Thurs, April 6	Grays Harbor Chapter Meeting Evergreen Sportsmen's Club
Weds, April 11	Whatcom County Chapter Meeting Ferndale Public Library
Weds, April 12	NW Chapter Meeting Twin Cities Sportsmens Club
Thurs, April 20	Moses Lake Chapter Quarterly Meet MarDon Resort at Potholes
Sat, May 20	Puget Sound Decoy Carving Contest sponsored by WA Brant Foundation Maiben Park, Burlington, WA See story at Page 5

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Last Chance!

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 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

Seattle Chapter News

By Nick Brown

Swap Meet at March 22nd Meeting

Our upcoming chapter meeting will be a good one. We will be hosting our annual chapter swap meet in the Chalet after shooting clays on **Wednesday, March 22nd**.

Shooting begins at 5 pm and a brief meeting follows. Lets declutter our garages and shops, feel free to bring decoys, firearms, waders, fishing equipment and all things outdoors. We ask that 10% of proceeds go back to the chapter. We will be having our usual pizza order. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Penn State Study on Avian Flu in Dogs

I also wanted to inform our chapter membership of a unique study going on from **Penn State**. This is a case study on **Avian Influenza** in dogs. As part of the scientific process blood samples are required. Retired veterinarian, **Adam Black**, will be collecting samples in our area on **Saturday, March 25th** at 9:30 am at **Pat Murphy's Dog Training Grounds** (15930 US-2 Snohomish, WA for **GPS** purposes), for all those wishing to participate in the study. If you are interested in having your dog tested but cannot make the provided date, feel free to reach out to **Dr. Black** via email at:

dogsandavianflu@gmail.com



Report on February Work Parties

Quick Recap from last month, on February 25th and 26th. Chapter members, **James Ono, Ben Harrison, Ryker Travis, Janelle Morris, Jeff Burn, and Matt Reat**, lead by **Bob Hazelbrook** took to the **Snoqualmie Valley Wildlife Area** to install and rehab wood duck nesting boxes at both the **Cherry Valley** and **Stillwater** units. **Bob** has been overseeing the Chapter's wood duck nest box work in the valley for at least the last decade. THANKS for your longstanding leadership, **Bob!** And THANK YOU to ALL the volunteers!

New Day and Location for Meetings

The Seattle Chapter has decided to meet the **4TH 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.

Following shooting which begins at 5 pm, we will move to the **CHALET** (instead of the shotgun clubhouse) for our business meeting and dinner, at 7 p.m. Our monthly meetings will be held there for the foreseeable future.

(L to R) **Ryker Travis, Bob Hazelbrook, Trevor Morris, Janelle Morris, Ben Harrison, Jeff Burn.**

The **Seattle Chapter** will continue its efforts in the valley again when we survey the production of the boxes. These parties are a great way to get our "hands-on, boots on the ground" in local conservation efforts. In addition to these particular work parties, I want to personally thank all who volunteer to make these work parties possible.

Finally, just a reminder — If you get a chance please support those businesses that supported our Banquet last October. See **Flyer** on **Page 27**.

News for the Flock

Northwest Chapter News

Mandatory Reporting Deadlines

By: Rick Billieu

Hands-On Conservation Efforts

The off-season doldrums present an opportunity to get involved in some hands-on wildlife conservation. Earlier this year chapter members built several new **Wood Duck Nest Boxes** for deployment in the region. Members have installed new boxes and completed maintenance of the 50+ boxes making the duck homes a cleaner place to nest.

Numerous Wood Duck Nest Boxes in **Snohomish, Skagit and King counties** received the royal treatment. The locations of many of these boxes are unique and present some of that adventure we're always looking for when installing or maintaining the boxes.

A HUGH THANKS to our many members for the time they put forth for this conservation effort. If you would like to volunteer for in the future, please contact me.

Skagit Wildlife Area — Cleanup and Blind Maintenance

Now that we have cleaned and stored all of our hunting stuff, it's time to cleanup some of the public lands we hunt on. Shells and general trash at blinds in the local wildlife areas.

Samish Unit Cleanup – Saturday March 25th

We will meet at the **Samish Unit** parking lot at 10:00 am. We'll focus on the 12 Blinds on the unit. Hip boots or calf high (**Muck Boots**) are necessary.

Trash Bags and haul out provided by **WDFW**. We will also assess the conditions of the blinds in the **Unit** for future maintenance. Maps with the locations of blinds will be available for now (and as an information source for next year's hunting season for those who haven't hunted here before).

Bring the family — Kids have a blast at these events. I'll bring the donuts. Grab your boots and lend a hand!

Don't forget to report your waterfowl harvest!! **Sea Duck, SW Canada Goose, Snow Goose and Brant** harvest cards are due back to **WDFW** by **March 20, 2023**. These reports of your hunting activity for these species are mandatory. You can use the online reporting system at: fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/, or by mailing the cards to:

**WDFW Wildlife Program
Waterfowl Section
PO Box 43141
Olympia, WA 98504.**

Reports need to be postmarked by the reporting deadlines even if you did not harvest any birds.



Bradley Tormey getting an assist from JJ Ciesielski servicing a Nest Box at Lake Sixteen



(Upper Right)

One unhatched and several hatched eggs at Summer Lake

(Right)

JJ Ciesielski servicing another Wood Duck Nest Box at Lake Sixteen



NW Chapter News Continued

Washington Brant Foundation Decoy Carving Competition

When: Saturday, May 20th

Where: Maiben Park in Burlington, WA

The Decoy carving festival and contest the "Puget Sound Open" is an opportunity for you to show off your carving skills or just have fun enjoying the decoys on display, vendors, raffles, silent and live auctions.

The carving competition features entries from across the U.S. Carving contest classes include, **Brant Division, Open working decoys, WA State DU Carving Contest, Novice/Youth** and a mini decoy swap. For more information on registration or the festival use this active link:

<http://www.wabrant.org/>



The Northwest Chapter meets on the second Wednesday each month. Our next meeting will be held on April 12th, at the **Twin Cities Sportsmens Club (linked below in their Ad)** starting at 7 pm. Raffle at the end of each meeting. See you there and bring a friend.

Support your passion — Get Involved

Rick Billieu
rgbillieu@frontier.com

(Bottom Left) One of Andrew Wyman's successful Wood Duck Nest Boxes at Summer Lake.

(Bottom Right) JJ Ciesielski and Bradley Tormey explore an active Beaver hut at Ebey Island.



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News for the Flock

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

Work Parties March 18th -19th and 25th

The **Grays Harbor Chapter** is soliciting for volunteers for our upcoming work parties on successive weekends, **March 18 and 19**, and **Saturday, March 25th** at the **Scatter Creek Wildlife Area** linked [here](#).

If you have never volunteered for the **WWA** now would be a great time for it. I have broken down the work parties into three days to give all our members a chance to help out. Kids are **MORE** than welcome! THIS is one of the things that the **WWA** was created for. **Hands on Conservation!!**

The Work: We will be replacing up to six of our nine wood duck nesting boxes at the **Wildlife Area**. Some of them have been producing wood ducks for 15 years now and are showing it! Also, we will be installing a new box at a new spot on the creek. Access is much easier now than the "**before fire**" days.

The Place; The **Scatter Creek Wildlife Area** south tract is located at the intersection of **Guava St SW** and **180th Ave SW, Rochester WA 98579**. **Google** maps shows it quite well. If you need directions, please let me know, and I will get you there!

The Time: We will meet in the parking lot at 8:00 am, all three days.

Equipment Needed: I will be providing all the necessary tools and hardware, but if you have a favorite battery-operated drill/driver feel free to bring it. You will also probably want to bring calf-high boots, work pants and some rain gear. We normally have to trudge through a bit of thick brush and shallow mud puddles so dress accordingly. Waders other than hip boots would be a bit of overkill.

These boxes have produced countless broods of wood duck. They have been the most productive that I have ever seen. Even when the honeybees have used them. The flying squirrels have made a home of two boxes in the past. Pretty cool!!

One more thing is that if you are unable to work on a weekend, we can accommodate those that can put in some time on a weekday. I just need a few days' notice.

So please **RSVP** to let me know which day you can contribute, and I'll get a new volunteer list started!!

March 2nd Meeting Report

Our chapter had a *very* good meeting on the 2nd of March. The meeting was attended by three guests, **Kelly Riordan**, new **WDFW Region 3 Hunting Coordinator**; **Paul McGovern** our **WWA President**; and **John Arrabito**, long-time **WWA-Corp Treasurer**. We also had some pretty good attendance from some of our own Chapter members.

It's my opinion that **Kelly Riordan** will make a great hunting coordinator for us. He is a hunter and feels much the same way we do about all things hunting. We gave him an earful of information — maybe too much — and probably much of which he already knew. He explained what a hunting coordinator's job is, and what he has been doing. **Kelly** also writes a blog that can be viewed at "**MyWDFW**." That is how I found out about him. We hope to have a good partnership with him.

Thank you all for your support,

Kurt Snyder

kurtsnyder@outdrs.net



Dick Jensen on the last day of the extended goose season from the Hilton "High-Rise" Blind over Cedarville Pond, Cedarville Farms Hunt Club!

News for the Flock

Moses Lake Chapter News

From: Bruce Feagan and Dick Price

FREE Trap Shoot – New Family 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. See Flyer on **Page 10**.

Pheasant’s Forever (PF) Habitat Work Party

Though not waterfowl related, the local area **PF Chapter** will be doing a habit project on the weekend of April 1st and 2nd in **Revere, Whitman County**, for those looking for **Master Hunter Program** credits.

The project will consist of planting about 500 shrubs and trees to restore habitat that cover that was lost to the **Wagner Fire** this past summer. The fire burned most of the **Revere Wildlife Area**.

If interested in volunteering, please register on the **WDFW** volunteer website linked [here](#). Those who sign up will be later contacted by **PF Reps** with specifics of the work parties.

Chapter Quarterly Meeting on April 20th

Just a brief reminder that we’ll be holding our **Quarterly Chapter Meeting** on **Thursday, April 20th** at the usual location at **Potholes Reservoir**. Tim and specifics will be provided in the **April WWA Newsletter**.

Southwest Chapter News

By Bruce Burns

We had to cancel our February 28th Chapter Meeting as I didn’t quite recover as fast as I had planned from my February 14th knee replacement surgery.

Meanwhile hopefully we’re back on schedule for a March 28th meeting at the **Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club**. Agenda will include continued planning for the scheduled August 5th **Washington State Duck Calling Contest** to be hosted in Orting, WA.

See Flyer on **Page 14**.

Spokane Chapter News

Wenatchee Chapter News

Whatcom County Chapter News

Yakima Valley Chapter News

No News This Month



Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club

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

**Quincy American Legion
Gun Club**

14050 Road Q NW
Quincy, WA 98848

Open to the Public

Disabled Friendly Facility

(509) 237-1166 <https://www.facebook.com/QuincyWaAmericanLegionGunClub>



PACIFIC CALLS

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Suite 20
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
<https://pacificcustomcalls.com/> (509) 315-4764

News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By Doug Hargin

Next Chapter Meeting on March 30th

Due to the heavy snow event last month right before our meeting date, we cancelled the event. We hope to see you on **Thursday, the 30th of March** at our next regular Chapter meeting at the **Vancouver Trap Club**.

Ridgefield NWR Close Down and Clean Up

We will clean up the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge** on **Saturday, March 18th**. Meet at the hunting check station at 8:00 am. Please bring gloves, waders, square-end shovel and 5-gallon buckets and join us for the fun!

Member Spotlight — Michael Andreotti

This month we would like to introduce you to our new **Chapter Chairman, Michael Andreotti**. He and friend **David Weston** first joined our group in February of 2012! Since then, he has been a dependable, hard working member as well as **Chapter Vice-Chair** the last five years.

Always Looking For Your Input!

We need your input for the newsletter. Hunting stories, unusual experiences, recipes and/or photos. Where do you hunt? Did you have a good hunt or memorable event? New tech help and gear, advice and ideas you can share, experiences hunting other venues. Whatever would interest you to read about in this newsletter. Submit them to dlhargin@msn.com. Thank you!

Support Our Friends at Delta Waterfowl

If you're in the mood for some banquet action supporting waterfowl conservation, join our **Delta Waterfowl** friends at their event March 18th in **St Helens, OR**. See **Flyer** on Adjacent **Page 9**.



Michael Andreotti and the Banded Drake Gadwall who Made his Season

The hunt was on the **Columbia River**, and it was one of the first hunts of the year for my buddy and me. A pair of birds came in at first light (a hen with this drake) — out of the shadows, surprising us. They got through the decoys to our right side, and I was the only one with a shot. I was able to get both of them (not normal for me), killing the drake and knocking down the hen.

I paddled out after the hen; got her; then grabbed the drake on my way in. We didn't look at the birds too closely other than confirming the **gadwall** species and continued on with our hunt.

However by the end of the day we only had 6 birds between us — disappointing after starting out with a double. It was also disappointing considering the success we had been enjoying over the past couple of seasons. As we were picking up our gear, my buddy noticed the band. I thought he was pulling my leg as it is a joke he has made before. I didn't believe him until he showed it to me. **It was the first banded bird I have ever harvested!**

It made the day and in retrospect made our relatively poor season. The drake gadwall was hatched in 2021 and banded on 8/11/2021 new **Newell, California** in **Modoc County**, according to the **USGS** data.

Vancouver Trap Club



11100 NE 76th Street
Vancouver, WA 98662
(360) 892-5005

[Vancouver Trap and Gun Club](http://www.vancouvertrapandgunclub.com)

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



FAMILY FUN SHOOT

MAY 27TH
10:00AM TO 3:00PM

Quincy Gun Club

American Legion Quincy Gun Club 14550 Road Q N.W., Quincy, WA 98848



Youth Shooters

Shooters under 18 years need to have a valid hunters safety card or hunting license and **MUST** be accompanied by an Adult. Ammunition & targets will be provided at no charge to those under 18. Youth shooters will receive an assortment of **FREE** merchandise & Prizes.



Shooting for Everyone

Targets provided free for all participants. Trap ammunition available for \$5 a box (1/2 Price). There will be instructors available to teach you the amazing sport of trap shooting. Come out for a great family event with lots of prizes, giveaways, and tons of Fun.



Lunch Provided

Lunch of Hot Dogs, Chips, Cookies, & Water will be provided at no cost. (Donations Accepted)

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN US PLEASE RSVP TO:

Dick Price: dickhunt@hotmail.com

WWW.Columbiabasinpf0849.org or Facebook

Tom Odell tmodell@hughes.net 509-764-8557 / 206-465-6943



WWA Mentorship Program

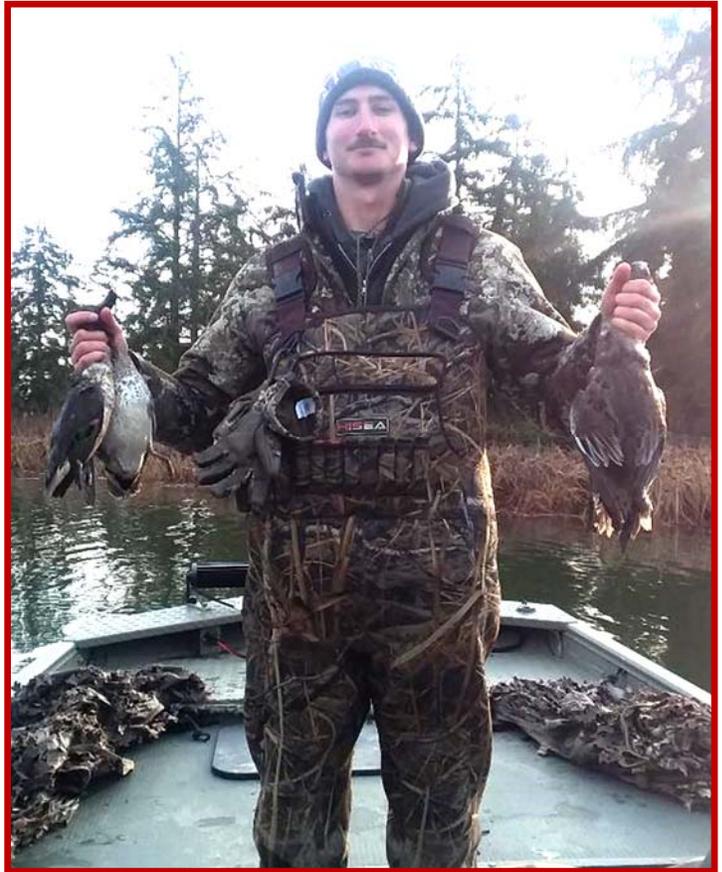


Mentoring Report — 2022-2023 Season

By Paul McGovern
WWA Mentorship Program Chair

The third season of the **WWA Hunt Mentorship Program** is in the books and was successful in getting Mentee hunters out in the marshes this past waterfowl season from **Spokane to Joint Base Lewis McCord (JBLM)** and all places in between. Pictured above are wife and husband, **Regan and Will Halterman**, of Tacoma. There's another photo with **Regan** that made **Photo of the Month**. Use this [link](#) to jump there now. (Continued on Page 12)

WWA Mentorship Program Continued



Mentee Will Halterman obviously picked up some waterfowling knowledge in a hurry. He is currently in training at the State's Law Enforcement Academy as a future, new Game Warden.

Mentee Mason Crowell was one of three Mentees of NW Chapter Chairman, Rick Billieu. Thanks Rick, for going above and beyond!

Thanks for all the guys that volunteered to get the new Mentee waterfowlers out in the duck blinds this past season. I broke my rule and went out hunting with a Mentee this year. After I took out a **Mentee, Will Halterman**, he went out and hunted with his wife **Regan** towards the end of the season. His skills really took off, and they out hunted me from the next field over!!! I guess I shouldn't have told him all my secrets.

Ironically a Game warden came out and checked our licenses and guns. Ironic because **Will** is currently at the **Law Enforcement Training Academy** studying to become a Game Warden! They chatted "shop talk" for what seemed like an hour while birds buzzed overhead. I was happy for **Will** to network in the field, and thought to myself I get enough chances to shoot birds. I tease him, that in the photo above, he already has the stern look of a Game Warden down pat! lol

(Continued on Page 13)



Dave Bergeron, one of two Mentees of NW Chapter member Tobin Rippo

WWA Mentorship Program Continued



(Above)

Mentee Joe Bedenis is shown hiking out of McNary National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in December 2022 with a full brace.

He was mentored by Sean Williams of the Seattle Chapter.

(Right)

Mentee & Spokane Chapter member Ryan Lenhart shown here in late October at Potholes Reservoir with his first two harvested ducks!

Moses Lake Chapter Chairman and professional guide, Bruce Feagan, mentored Ryan and said “boating safety, blind building, decoy set up, etc.” were topics of the day.

In early November Ryan got up a 3 am; drove two hours on icy roads; and in 27 degrees; under clear skies; and winds up to 16 mph he joined Bruce and ML Chapter member Eric Cortines to take 17 ducks among them. “Ryan shot a box-plus of shells. I think he has caught the fever,” said Bruce!

The photos really show how important it is for us to teach our next crop of conservationists. Great job everyone in getting out and teaching some new members.

A huge **THANKS** to all of the Mentors who took Mentees out hunting this past season and passed along our waterfowling traditions!



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

My fellow Waterfowlers... the Time to Take Action is Now!

By John Otto
WWA Life Member

Hello, I am John Otto, WWA Life Member, and I am asking for your help. As many of you know, last year the **WDFW** made the decision to close the hunting of the **Harlequin** duck state wide. While this decision was met with wide disapproval, there is no denying that something needed to be done.

One fact that is reoccurring, Sea ducking in Washington state comes in waves of popularity. Recently, thanks to many factors such as social media, the increase in guide activity, and the new rise in "collecting" all the North American waterfowl species, the **Harlequin** harvest had exceeded a rate that put them at risk. Something needed to be done. I will say it is my opinion, and the opinion of many others, that closing the season and taking away the opportunity and the option completely was simply not necessary. More on that later in this article. Simply stated, harvest must be managed, and can be managed... something our **WDFW** owes us as constituents.

My history with the **Harlequin** duck is a long and storied one. When my brother **Jason Otto** and I were young, in the late 70's, our Dad (also **John Otto**) would take us fishing in the **Puget Sound** for the elusive **King Salmon**. On those trips we used to bring our duck books and bird watch all the **Sea Ducks** we would encounter. We vowed one day we would hunt those ducks, and that's exactly what we did.

I'll never forget our first **Harlequins**. It was the last day of the 1995 hunting season — in a year where the total bird limit was 5 (the last year before the streak of "liberal" seasons have taken over). There were of course no regulations on any of the **Sea Ducks**, and as far as we knew, we were the

only ones crazy enough to set decoys in 30 feet of water and anchor out in the middle of the salts.

Around mid-day a lone drake came to **Jason's** side of the rig, and he let a shot ring out. We knew **Harlequin** were around and had seen many trying to nail them down, but it was still disbelief we actually decoyed one! The bird of course dove on impact, and after 10 minutes of chase we cleaned up the first ever **Otto Harlequin**. Wouldn't you know it, it was **double-banded**. Something that eventually tied us to the biologists doing the study and ultimately getting involved in their management. I too would score

(Continued on Page 16)



John, a hobby taxidermist, spent a weekend making this Harlequin duck trophy for his hunting partner, Sean Carr, from the Eastside. He and John spent a week on Adak Island in Alaska in December of 2021. This island is the last piece of land in the Aleutian chain of islands — the next stop being mainland Russia! It is wild and extremely remote and has a robust population of Harlequin.

Personally, John hasn't harvested a Harlequin in Washington in several years but made the decision along with Sean to each take their four-legally-allowed Alaskan birds.

These were not Sean's first Harlequin. Back in 2016 John had hosted his friend for his first, right here in our beautiful state. To this day it's one of Sean's favorite hunting memories, and frankly one of John's as well.

Having the option to take such a special trophy bird locally is just one of many reasons why we are so fortunate to live and hunt here in this great state.

On that trip to Adak Island both Sean and John rekindled that passion while sitting on a rock beach hundreds of miles from any civilization. Just like all of you, I don't want to lose that option here in Washington.

Time to Take Action Continued

my first harvest with 30 minutes left of the season, I doubled on a pair that I mounted the very next day. We were hooked.

Before the internet the couple of us that were out there hunting **Harlequin** would meet at boat launches. We were very aware at the time that this was a resource that could not afford to be "**pounded**" like a **Mallard**. We started to self-regulate our harvests to one bird a day, way before there was any regulation. Rarely we would bump into someone trying to give it a shot, and we would kindly ask them to do the same, and showing what a great waterfowling community we do really have here in **Washington** — everyone we encountered would comply to our request. Then the internet. Over night everyone wanted to try **Sea Ducking**, and it was clear more needed to be done to regulate the harvest. **Jason** and myself, and a couple of other concerned Waterfowlers, joined a charge and showed up to the **WDFW** meetings to pleaded our case for a "**one-per-season**" limit. This would give it the trophy bird status it deserves, and also control the harvest.

WDFW took it a step further than we asked and created the **Sea Duck Harvest Card**, and in my eyes exceeded expectations on tracking and controlling harvest.

At the time our little group took some heat from our fellow hunters, but we truly believe we saved **Harlequin** hunting in **Washington state**. It was too easy at the time to simply close it.

Again, something needed to be done. I still have the **VHS** tape my wife, **Toni**, recorded from the close circuit TV broadcast from those meetings where I gave my testimony. I said two things on tape that would ultimately come true:

- One, I guessed that if we were to track harvest, my prediction was around 125 birds a year. We felt we had a pulse on what was happening on the salt. To my astonishment, when the first report came out from the **Harvest Cards** the total was just that, 125 **Harlequin**. I was kind of lucky there, but this spoke to the fact we as involved hunters knew what was going on; and
- Second, I stated that even at that time I was not really hunting **Harlequin** anymore. I wanted the option to take my newborn son **Jack** for his first **Washington Harlequin** someday, my complete motivation to even be there. Ten years later, on the 2015 **Youth Hunt**, **Jack** did just that. His first duck of his young life was a **Washington Harlequin**. This opportunity and option created one of the greatest moments of my life.

"Harlequin harvest can be managed, and with extreme precision."

It is my opinion, and I know many of you share this same feeling, that closing the **Harlequin** season in **Washington** was extreme... and unnecessary when there are other options that can be explored. Clearly the objective of the closure was fear of the increasing harvest. A very valid concern. **Harlequin** harvest can be managed, and with extreme precision. Not to downplay **Sea Duck** hunting, but the reality is it's not for everyone. It's expensive; it's hard work; and it takes time to figure it all out. **Harlequins** make up a **TINY** portion of **Washington** state harvest and hunts, so tiny some might say...why should I care?

Others may say, well, I took my **Harlequin** so I just don't care anymore. I will go back to what I said earlier, this opportunity needs to stay open, so everyone has the **OPTION** to take advantage of this incredible resource. How many folks would miss out on what may be one of their greatest waterfowling moments literally of their life?

How Do We Manage This Harvest?

While there are many ways to skin a cat, we don't need to look any further than the great state of **Alaska**. Most folks have not heard of the **Emperor goose**, or of the tremendous story of a long term 30 year closure. Recently, a huge win took place for waterfowlers. **Alaska** re-opened the **Emperor goose** season! It required close supervision and tight management of which the state made the decision to undertake.

The season is broken into two categories, **Restrictive or Liberal**. They allow 500 or 1000 tags based on the birds' annual counts, which fit into those two categories for **residents**. The tags are distributed by a **draw lottery system**. Based on the amount of residents that actually apply, **most residents are able to get their tag**. Now the fun part. **The state of Alaska sets aside 25 tags for non-residents**.

Each year many hunters from around the **US** apply — me included — and hope to be drawn. You **MUST** first purchase an **Alaska** non-res license, and you then you can pre-pay for up to six applications (\$5 each) for one tag to be in the non-resident draw. The complete rules are linked [here](#). This process is a great money maker for **Alaska** that

(Continued on Page 17)

Time to Take Action Continued

gets put right back into the resource. Something along this nature can and should be done in Washington for the **Harlequin**. In my opinion, the tags should be geared to **residents first**, and a draw for out-of-towners would create excitement and additional funds if done right. I say copy what works!

The amount of tags can be set precisely to the responsible harvest goals set for the season.

While my **Harlequin** hunting days in **Washington** are more than likely over, and have been for quite a long time, I still feel very passionate about having the opportunity, and the **OPTION** to pursue this most noble duck.

Much like many of you, I get more satisfaction taking someone for their first **Harlequin**. Through the years **Jason** and I have been very fortunate to have been able to share that, and would like the option to continue.

I would ask that each of you please take the time to add your comments to the survey in the link provided below. The **WDFW** is taking public comment until March 27th. The time is now to speak your mind and give your opinion. Once an opportunity is closed in our **Hunting Community** — regardless of what state you live in — it is very difficult to get that opportunity re-opened.

You may not have any plans to hunt **Sea Ducks**, or even **Harlequin** for that matter, but why take away the option for yourself and others to do so? The survey can be found here at this active link:

<https://publicinput.com/hunting-seasons-2023#6>

Below are the seven questions of the survey so you can prepare your remarks before submitting them online.

1. Adjust season dates relative to 2023-2024 calendar dates;
2. Maintain the “liberal regulatory alternative” as prescribed by the **Western Mallard Adaptive Harvest Management Protocol (AHM)** for season length and bag-limit for ducks (107 days, up to 7 duck bag-limit, including no more than 2 female mallards);
3. Maintain one-pintail per day bag-limit and associated possession limit per the **USFWS Northern Pintail Harvest Strategy**;
4. Maintain two-scaup per day bag-limit and associated possession limits, while maintaining an 86-day season length per the optimal regulatory alternative described in **AHM Protocol**;
5. Adjust season dates for white geese in **Goose Management Area 4** to three season segments including: select days during Oct. 14-22, 2023, Nov. 10, 2023 – Jan. 28, 2024, and everyday Feb. 17 - Mar. 3, 2024;
6. Evaluate sea duck harvest estimates in relation to the most recent **Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program (PSAMP)** aerial survey results for consistency with the **WDFW** sea duck management strategies of less than 5% of the winter index; and
7. The **Brant** goose season in **Skagit County** will start closed as the most recent 3-year winter index is below 3,000 **Brant**.

I want to thank the many people of the **WWA** for their many years of commitment to the **Waterfowling community** here in **Washington!** It is through your hard work, blood, sweat and tears that we are all able to enjoy sitting in the blind year after year in our beautiful state.

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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)**.

WWA readers are getting it first. I am making my first comments in our newsletter on Woody Myers. I wouldn't comment to the media. I remember him from Game Management Advisory Council (GMAC).

*It was the best of times,
It was the worst of times,
It was the age of wisdom,
It was the age of foolishness,
It was the epoch of belief,
It was the epoch of incredulity,
It was the season of Light,
It was the season of Darkness,
It was the spring of hope,
It was the winter of despair,*

-- A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens

The *Tale of Two Cities* quote pretty much sums up our two new **Fish and Wildlife Commissioners, Steve Parker and Woodrow "Woody" Myers, Jr.**, and the reappointment of **Barbara Baker**.

We already know everything we need to know about **Commissioner Baker**. Her reappointment reassures us that the radical animal-rights (**A-R**) majority on the Commission will stay intact. She is the "mother hen" of the less experienced **A-R Commissioners Lorna Smith, Melanie Rowland, Tim Regan, and John Lehmkuhl**. She guides and nurtures these Commissioners along. It was a forgone conclusion that she would be reappointed, and there was no way in Heaven or earth that it could have been stopped, as much as I would have liked it.

Commissioner Baker was a staunch opponent of the spring bear season and supported closing spring bear

entirely. Whatever the issue, you can count that she was on the **A-R** groups' side on the hunting side of things.

A Look at the Two New Commission Appointments

Steve Parker will be an excellent Commissioner. He has to be. He is replacing a Commissioner who was the "*Rock of Gibraltar*" for the hunting community in **Kim Thorburn**. Whenever we needed **Kim**, she was there for us. **Kim** was one of the two votes that voted to keep coyote contests. **Kim** was our best vote on the Commission.

Rich Landers, one of the best and most respected pro-hunting outdoor writers, said this about **Kim Thorburn**:

I found her to be the most interesting commissioner I've ever observed, and Landers said it was "a shame if not a crime that Kim Thorburn was not reappointed."

"In my opinion, she's one of the best commissioners the state has ever had in terms of her commitment, open mindedness, knowledge of wildlife and willingness to learn more than what she already knows," he said. "A staunch Audubon birdwatcher who supports and defends managed hunting and fishing – a real privilege to have her aboard."

Steve Parker spent 37 years as a biologist for the **Yakama Nation**. He is an extremely educated man that has done an incredible amount of research, and he is a man in the *Don Mclsaac* mold. He will be with **WWA** on the issues that we care about. He has done deep research on avian predation on smolts. The **HHC** wrote a letter in support of **Steve Parker**. Here is my press quote on **Steve Parker**:

"News of his appointment had the Hunters Heritage Council 'overjoyed.'

"We wrote a letter in support of Mr. Parker, and we think that he will make an outstanding Commissioner," said Mark Pidgeon, president of the group that represents a number of hunting, fishing, and trapping organizations. "His scientific and educational background are second to none and will serve well on the Commission, plus his knowledge of tribal matters will be a great asset on the Commission. I can't think of a better choice than Steven Parker. His depth of knowledge will go a long way in making him a Commissioner we will all be proud of."

(Continued on Page 19)

Legislative Report Continued

Woodrow “Woody” Myers. Everybody calls him **Woody**, so I will for the rest of this article. **Woody** replaces an excellent man on the **Commission — Don McIsaac —** who will be very hard to replace. **Don** was an absolutely outstanding **Commissioner**, who was very supportive of the hunting community, and based all his decisions on the best available science. **Don** will be missed.

Woody spent his career working for the **WDFW**. He lives in **Spokane County** and retired from the **Department** after 40 years as an ungulate research biologist, and he is a hunter. Although I was inundated with press questions regarding the new **Commissioners**, I refused to give an opinion about **Woody** to the media.

So here it is! You heard it here first. I am making a public comment and analysis on newly-appointed **Commissioner Woody Myers** based on my 47 years of experience; based on serving the number of **WDFW Citizen Advisory Committees** that I serve on; and based on my research.

It will be painful for me to say, but **Myers** will not be a friend to the hunting community when it comes to predator issues. I have sat in too many **Game Management Advisory Council (GMAC)** meetings and heard **Woody** say “there is no problem with the NE WA whitetail herd,” or “we have no problem with predators.” He has spouted the **WDFW-Company-Rich Beausoleil-line** too many times for me to have hope.

Finally, to **Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation (WWC)**. A reporter asked me if this will change anything about our lawsuit against the Governor for stacking the Commission with animal-rights **(A-R)** Commissioners in violation of **RCW 77.04.040** linked [here](#)? I told him at best case — we would still be at status quo, and still be in a five to four minority, — **BEST** case. Yes, we are still suing!

NEWS FLASH — Your Guns Substitute House Bill 1240 (SHB 1240) Passes State House at Deadline

By Mark Pidgeon

The Democrat-led Washington State House on Wednesday, March 9, 2023, approved an **incorrectly-named assault weapons ban**. We as gun owners have long known that **AR** doesn’t stand for “**assault rifle**,” but instead for **Armalite**, or the original manufacturer of the **AR** platform. Lawmakers passed the measure on a largely party-line 55-42 vote. From the actual bill report, not from a media story:

Restrictions on semiautomatic assault rifles include:

“No dealer may deliver a semiautomatic assault rifle to the purchaser until:

- 1) the purchaser provides proof they have completed a recognized firearm safety training program within the last five years;
- 2) the dealer is notified by the chief of police or sheriff that the purchaser is eligible to possess a firearm and the purchase is approved; and
- 3) 10 business days have elapsed since the purchase application or, in the case of a transfer, 10 business days have elapsed from the date a background check was initiated.

- The purchaser of a semiautomatic assault rifle must be personally known to the dealer or present clear evidence of his/her identity.
- Subject to various exceptions, a person under 21 years of age may not purchase a semi-automatic assault rifle, and no person may sell or transfer a semiautomatic assault rifle to a person under 21 years of age.”

Summary of Substitute Bill: The manufacture, importation, distribution, sale, or offer for sale of any assault weapon is prohibited. **The term “assault weapon” is defined to include various kinds of firearms, including:**

- semiautomatic rifles with an overall length of less than 30 inches; semiautomatic centerfire rifles that have the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and have one or more additional features listed in the bill;
- semiautomatic centerfire rifles with a fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds;
- semiautomatic pistols that have the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and have one or more additional features listed in the bill;
- **semiautomatic shotguns** that have one or more additional features listed in the bill;

Editor’s Note: See listing of those additional shotgun features on **Page 20**.

Continued on Page 20)

Legislative Report Continued

- specific firearm models **[62 of them]** identified in the bill; and conversion kits and parts that can be used to assemble an assault weapon or convert a firearm into an assault weapon, if the parts are in the possession of or under the control of the same person.
- The term "assault weapon" **excludes** antique firearms, firearms that have been made permanently inoperable, and firearms that are manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action. The restrictions on assault weapons are **subject to several exceptions**: Licensed firearms manufacturers are authorized to manufacture,

import, distribute, offer for sale, and sell assault weapons **for the purpose of sale to the armed forces of the United States or Washington, or to any law enforcement agencies** for law enforcement purposes, **or to a person who does not reside in Washington.**

- Licensed firearms dealers are authorized to import, distribute, offer for sale, and sell... assault weapons that were acquired from an individual legally authorized to possess or transfer the weapon, for the purpose of selling or transferring the weapon to a person who does not reside in Washington.
- Any person may acquire possession of an assault weapon by operation of law upon the death of the weapon's former owner, if that former owner was in legal possession of the weapon and the person who acquires possession can establish such provenance.

This is a terrible bill! This bill moves on to the Senate Law and Justice Committee. **This bill has never moved this far before and is a real threat. This bill has to be stopped at all costs.**

Prohibited Shotgun Features

- A. A folding or telescoping stock;
- B. A grip that is independent or detached from the stock that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon. The addition of a fin attaching the grip to the stock does not exempt the grip if it otherwise resembles the grip found on a pistol;
- C. A thumbhole stock;
- D. A forward pistol, vertical, angled, or other grip designed for use by the nonfiring hand to improve control;
- E. A fixed magazine in excess of seven rounds; or
- F. A revolving cylinder shotgun.

Editor's Note #2: For a complete listing of the 62 specific firearms prohibited by SHB 1240 , and/or to view the entire Bill, it is linked [here](#).



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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](#).

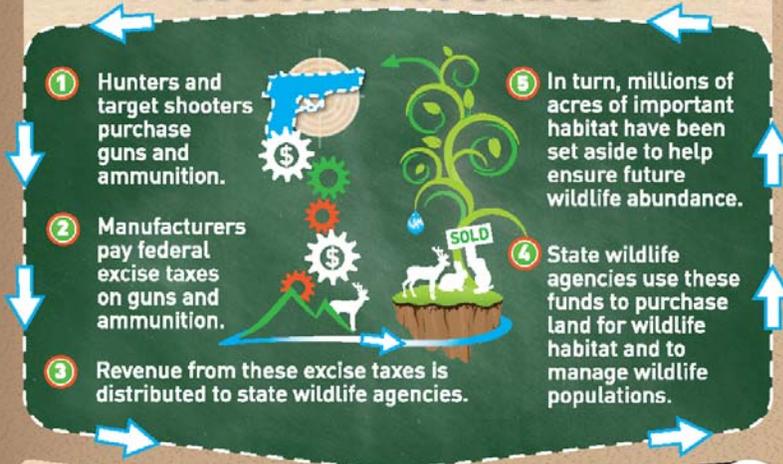
Click on **Fish and Wildlife Commission**, then follow the prompts. When it asks for the Applicant’s email address, **Ross** has given his consent to use his email at: rp.barkhurst@hotmail.com

Editor’s Note: Yes, you are correct — there are more ducks seen in this harvest picture than one person’s daily bag limits! The original photo was of **Ross** and a friend, who doesn’t need publishing in this promotion.

News for the Flock

HOW WILDLIFE IS THRIVING BECAUSE OF GUNS & HUNTING

HOW IT WORKS



This System Has Provided **MORE THAN \$15 Billion** For Conservation So Far

Where the Money Goes

Buy, develop, maintain and operate wildlife management areas

Research projects focused on wildlife conservation

Hunter safety and education programs

Construction and maintenance of public target shooting ranges

Quick History

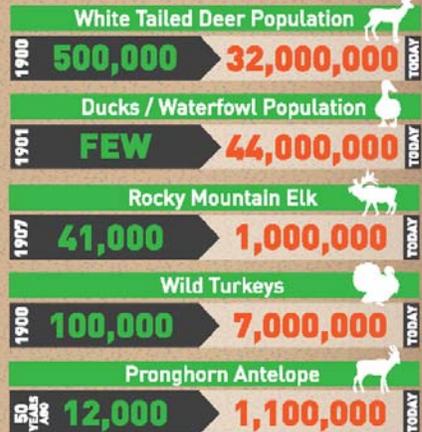
Early 1900s
As many wildlife species are dwindling in numbers or disappearing, firearms industry steps forward and asks Congress to redirect excise tax on sale of guns and ammo to help fund wildlife conservation.

1937
Congress passes and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act into law.

1938 to today:
Revenue from this act has purchased millions of acres of prime habitat that is maintained by state wildlife agencies. These lands, where game and non-game species flourish, are purchased with sportsmen's dollars but used by all Americans.

Since the late 1930s, hunters, target shooters and the firearms industry have been the nation's **LARGEST** contributors to **conservation**, paying for programs that benefit America's wildlife and all who love the outdoors.

THEN & NOW



OTHER WAYS SPORTSMEN CONTRIBUTE

Excise taxes combined with revenue from hunting and fishing license sales fund the majority of state wildlife agency budgets.

\$81 Million CONTRIBUTED ANNUALLY

Duck stamp proceeds are used by the government to buy or lease wetland habitat for ducks, geese and hundreds of non-game birds and animals.

SOME HEROES OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION MODEL IN THE WORLD ARE:



News for the Flock

The Hunter's Table

From *Smokin and Grillin with AB*
Taste Tested by Kurt Snyder

Goose White Chili

After cooking feel free to add more of the ingredients to taste. You can substitute *Chick Peas* for half of the *Great Northern Beans*. You can personalize this dish by altering any or all of the ingredients. This recipe screams to be served over egg noodles or white rice. Duck meat or domestic poultry can also be used. You can also add more mesa flour to the chili during the simmer.

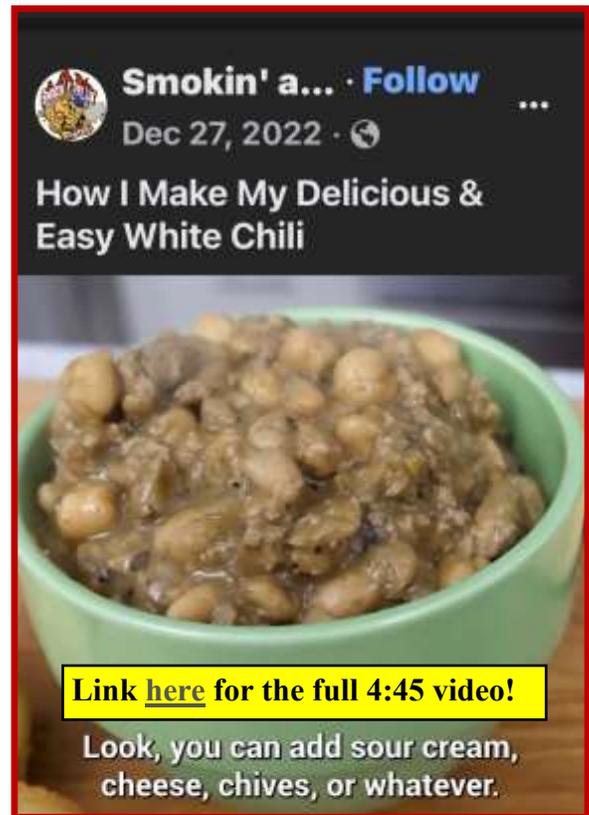
Ingredients

- 1 pound **goose meat**, coarsely chopped **with silver skin and fat removed**. Coarsely **ground** will work too.
- 1 medium sized **onion**, half chopped finely and half chopped coarsely.
- Two 15-ounce cans of **Great Northern Beans**, drained.
- 8 ounces canned **chopped green chilies** fluid included. (two, 4-ounce cans).
- 1.5 cups **chicken broth**.
- 1 TBSP **olive oil**.
- 4 **garlic cloves**, chopped fine or pressed.
- 2 **medium jalapenos**, roasted and chopped. Burned, loose skin and **seeds removed**.
- 1/4 cup **mesa flour**.
- 1 TSP **ground cumin**
- 1 TSP **Paprika**
- 1 TSP **Oregano**
- ½ TSP **Ground Cayenne Pepper**
- 1/4 tsp Kosher Salt
- 1/2 tsp Black pepper
- Crema, sour cream, grated cheese and chopped onions for topping.

Directions

1. In a small bowl add the cumin, paprika, oregano, cayenne pepper salt and pepper and mix well.
2. In a large bowl, coat the meat with the mesa flour;
3. Then in a one-gallon pan fry the meat in the olive oil until well browned on medium high.
4. You can season the meat before frying with a bit of the mixed seasoning.
5. Remove meat from pan.
6. Add to pan the finely chopped onion and jalapenos.

7. Add a bit more of olive oil if needed.
8. Cook on medium until sweated.
9. Deglaze the mixture with all the chicken broth.
10. Bring to a boil.
11. Reduce heat and add the meat and rest of the ingredients except the coarsely chopped onion.
12. Simmer with lid on for 45 minutes.
13. After 45 minutes at simmer add the coarsely chopped onion.
14. Add salt and /or black pepper to taste.
15. Then put lid on and simmer for an hour or until mixture thickens and the meat is tender, stirring occasionally.
16. You can transfer the chili to a crockpot and cook for up to three hours on low.
17. Serve hot and top with any or all of the onions, crema, grated cheese and sour cream.



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H-Honorary Member; D-Deceased

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#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 G	#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

Thanks for Life Member Upgrade

Since the publishing of the **WWA February 2023 Newsletter**, Grays Harbor Chapter member **Tim Koehler, #59**, upgraded his **Silver Life Membership to Gold!** Tim then turned around and donated the duck/goose hunt back to **WWA** to use for a **Youth Drawing**, plus donated another \$250 to the **WWA Youth Fund**. **THANK YOU Tim**, for your continuing financial support of **WWA**.

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** — at the request of **then-Gold Life Member, Gary Talbert** — voted unanimously to create a **new Platinum Life Membership** at the \$5,000 level. **Gary**, then immediately donated of \$7,000 to **WWA** to establish a **Life Membership Endowment Fund**.

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 _____

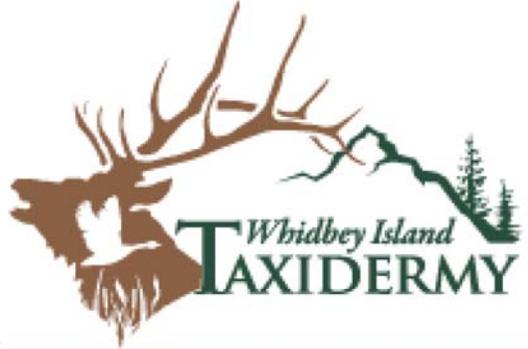
Email Address _____ Phone _____

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

Support These Businesses That Support WWA

Seattle Chapter Banquet Sponsors and Donors



Wing Beat Outfitters, LLC

www.wingbeatoutfitters.com
 509-793-6216
wingbeatoutfitters@gmail.com

BOOKING GOOSE HUNTS NOW FOR THE 2023/2024 SEASON!

Instagram, Facebook, TikTok icons

GUN DOG SUPPLY
 "We train our dogs with the products we sell."
 1-800-624-6378

FE

FRY ENTERPRISES, LLC

Dive Bomb INDUSTRIES

BLUE SKIES DRONES

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 **February 2023 Newsletter**.

WWA General Fund — \$1,882

WWA Habitat Fund — \$1,640

WWA Legal Fund — \$21,753.52

WWA Youth Fund — \$3,060

Tim Koehler — \$250

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.



Preening Ring Bill

loran.navarro@yahoo.com

970-988-4717

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

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.

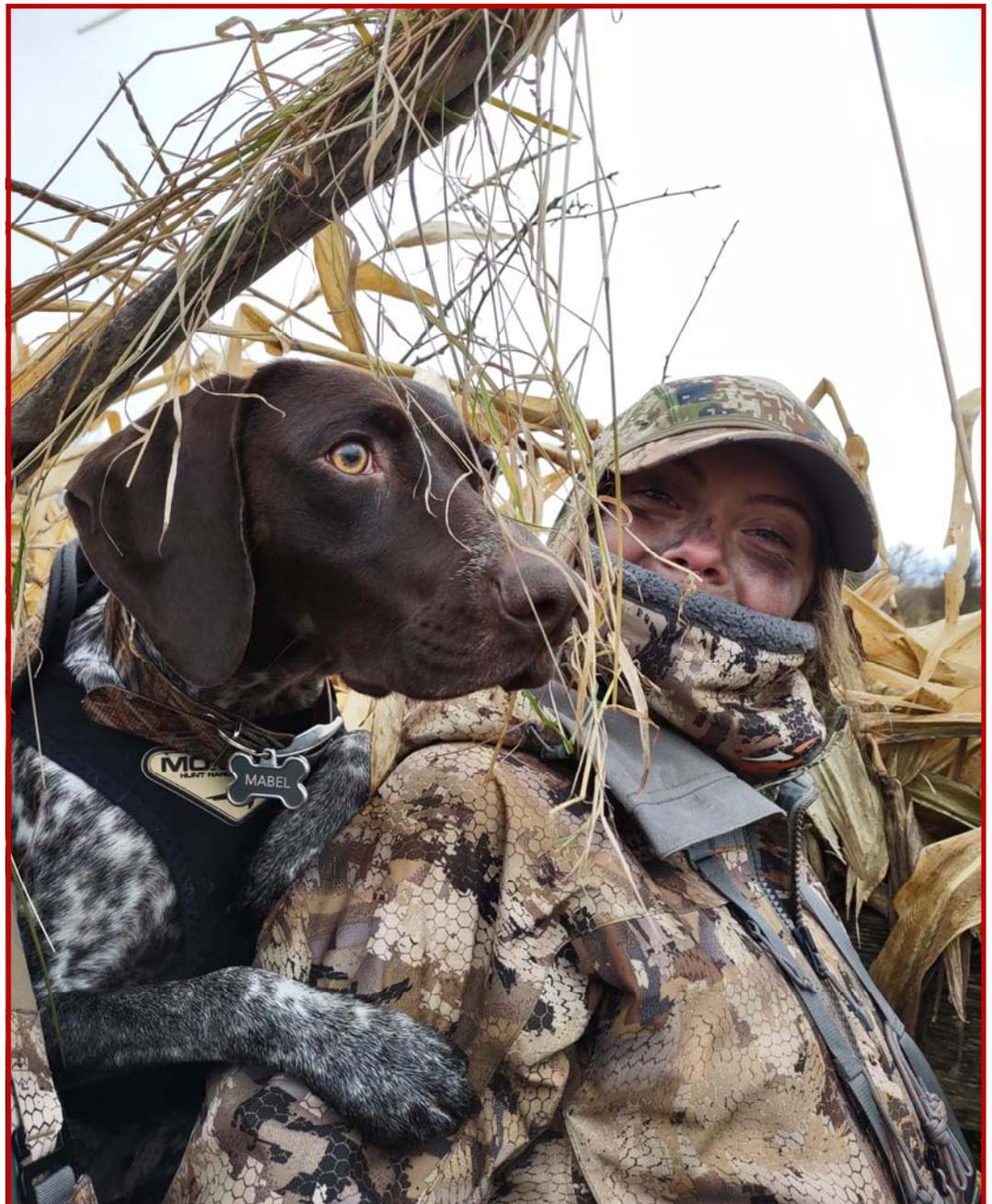


Photograph of the Month

Ladies Only

Mabel,
the 2-year-old GSP pup
of
Heather McGovern
intensely keeps lookout
for incoming birds
for
Mentee,
Regan Halterman
on a WWA Mentored
hunt this past season!

Photo by:
Paul McGovern



Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

Wanted



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

For Sale

Only two females of a Lab litter of 9 left. One Fox Red in color the other is Yellow. They will make great hunters and family members. Full AKC and health taken care of by my Dvm son.

Will be ready
 March 27th
 in Prosser, WA

Contact Steve
 at 509-303-9003



AR-7 Rifle .22LR. Breaks down into its floatable stock. Extra all-steel barrel included. Members only. Lots of fun to shoot. Great for kids!
 \$200.00 firm

Contact John at 425-785-3741

(See Photos Below)



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



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 4th Wednesday of the month (Jan – Oct) at **Kenmore Shotgun Range**, 1031 – 228th Street SW, Bothell.
- Southwest Chapter** meets on the last Tuesday of the month (Feb – Sept) at the **Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club**, 16409 Canyon Road E., Puyallup.
- Spokane Chapter** — Dates and Places TBD.
- Tri Cities Chapter — 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.