

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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March 14, 2006

GENERAL MEETING – Wednesday, March 22nd, 2006 KENMORE GUN RANGES, 1031 — 228TH SW, BOTHELL. Open for trap shooting and sporting clays all afternoon. Dinner at 7:00 PM. Business meeting and program to follow. Please call **Mel Monro at 425-377-8831 by Monday, Mar., 20th for Dinner Reservations.** A representative of the **National Wild Turkey Federation** will offer tips & pointers on spring turkey hunting.

OFFICERS

Seattle Parent Chapter

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 Gary Webster, VP , (425) 783-9994
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 John Arrabito, Treas. (425) 774-8291

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Chair Gene Teel, (360) 263-1863

N.W. Chapter

Chair Dave Engel, (360) 629-6787

S.W. Chapter

Chair Jim Cortines (253) 833-7102

Whatcom Chapter

Chair Randy Johnson (360) 366-2253

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

SEATTLE:

Jim Cortines (425) 833-7102
 Bruce Feagan (425) 481-8936
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 Wes Underwood, (425) 672-3464
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TREASURERS REPORT:

(as of February 28, 2006)

Cash	\$ 145.00
Checking	\$ 10,641.62
Savings	\$.11
R Hickok Fund	\$ 1,298.26
C.D.'s	\$27,222.74
TOTALS	\$ 39,307.63
LC Checking	\$ 12,981.52
NW Checking	\$ 2,548.54
NW Savings	\$ 298.37
SW Checking	\$ 3,481.39
WH Checking	\$ 486.00



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Letter From the President

Greetings to all members and friends of the **WWA!** March is in full swing, and with it comes one of the busiest times of year. The last gasps of winter are fading, leaving many with homes and gardens in need of repair and maintenance. Melting ice and warming temperatures beckon others to break out the fishing gear for the first bites of the year. The parents among us know that March will bring a chance to get reacquainted with those sideline bleachers. I have it on good authority that they have not gotten any more comfortable over the winter.

Request for a Personal Favor

With all of you going a mile a minute this month, I'd consider it a large personal favor if you'd take a few moments very soon to say "**Thank You**" to a good friend of **WWA**. **State Senator Bob Oke** has served the interests of the hunting and fishing community in Washington state throughout his 16 years in the State Legislature with his efforts trying to find solutions to the multiple and complex problems associated with natural resources issues. Prior to that he served his country for 26 years in the U.S. Navy.

In 2002, **Senator Oke** was instrumental in the creation of the **Waterfowl Advisory Group (WAG)**.

(Continued on page 4)

EVENTS CALENDAR

(See Page One for Contact Phone Numbers)

- Wed., Mar., 22nd** **March General Meeting,**
7 p.m. at **Kenmore Gun Club.**
Program will feature spring turkey hunting tips from a member of the **National Wild Turkey Federation.**
- Thurs., Mar., 23rd** **Lower Columbia Chapter Meeting.** 7 p.m. at **WDFW Region 5 Headquarters,** 2108 Grand Blvd., Vancouver, WA. Contact **Gene Teel or Doug Hargin.** (See Story on page 5.)
- Thurs., Mar., 23rd** **SW Chapter Meeting.** 7 p.m. at **Sumner Sportsmen's Club**
Contact **Jim Cortines.**
(See story on Page 3)
- Friday — Sunday** **Wings Over WA Bird Festival**
Mar., 24th — 26th **(formerly WA Brant Festival)**
Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine, WA (See Whatcom Co News)
- Tues., April 4th** **Whatcom Chapter Meeting**
7 pm in **Ferndale** at the **Tenant Lake Interpretive Center**
Contact **Randy Johnson or Brad Otto** (See story on Pg 3)
- Thurs, April 6th** **April Board of Directors**
6:30 p.m. at **Denney's** in Canyon Park Shopping Ctr. SW Corner of Exit #26, I-405.
- Thurs., April 13th** **NW Chapter Meeting, 7 p.m.**
*****NOTICE***** **NEW LOCATION, Twin City Sportsman's Club, Stanwood; Trap Shooting** starts at 6 p.m.
Contact **Dave Engel.** See Pg. 5.
- Sat., April 15th** **Opening of Spring Turkey Hunting Season**
- Sun., July 16th** **WWA Family Picnic**
Sumner Sportsman's Club

2006 WA Legislative Report

Stiff Penalty for Lead Shot Passes

By Joe Waldron

The Washington Legislature adjourned its 2006 regular session one day early shutting down on March 9th. From a gun owner's perspective this was pretty much a do-nothing legislature – not a bad thing when the “other side” controls all three steps in the process.

The two gun-related bills that passed the legislature, ESHB 2951 (retired police officer concealed carry certification) and **SHB 2958** (a mandatory \$1,000 penalty, revocation of hunting license, & loss of small game hunting privileges for 2 years, for illegal use of toxic—lead—shot), are both expected to be signed by the Governor. A third good pro-gun bill, that would have opened our state's CPL reciprocity a bit more passed the House with 95 “aye” votes, only to die in the **Senate Judiciary Committee.**

Strange Proceedings in Committee

Ah, the **Senate Judiciary Committee!** This was the year that public notice of a hearing on SB 5343 (gun show “loophole”) was delayed, while **Washington Ceasefire** got the word at least two days in advance of the public notice. Then the live (and archived) audio coverage of the hearing was **“lost due to a technical glitch,”** — a rare occurrence with quality **TV Washington** coverage. This is the same hearing where a **Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC)** representative revealed that closing the alleged gun show loophole wasn't enough — that they wanted to prohibit ALL private transfers of firearms. **WASPC** also acknowledged at this hearing that they had no hard evidence that gun shows were a source of criminals' guns.

Knowing the votes were not there to pass the bill out of committee, it wasn't scheduled for a committee vote – until pro-gun Democrat **Senator Jim Hargrove** was unable to attend. Then committee chair **Senator Adam Kline** called the bill up for an unscheduled vote. The bill still failed, with rural Democrat **Senator Marilyn Rasmussen** siding with the four Republicans on the committee to kill the bill on a 5-3 vote.

(Continued On Page 6)

Whatcom County Chapter News

By Brad Otto

The **Whatcom Chapter** will be participating in the 4th Annual **Wings Over Washington Birding Festival** the weekend of March 24th — 26th, staffing of our **WWA Booth** and full waterfowl display at the **Semiahmoo Resort**, in Blaine, as well as conducting on-water tours of **Lake Terrell** on Saturday, March 25th. Originally known as the **Washington Brant Festival**, this year's festival takes on a new look and a new name focusing on the thousands of brant geese and other shorebirds that visit these pristine waters on their annual migration. Many events are family oriented and free of charge and include bird viewing stations, seminars and exhibits, live raptor displays, walking field trips of **Semiahmoo Spit** and **Blaine's Marine Park**. The festival highlights include a banquet with live and silent auctions at **Semiahmoo Resort** on Saturday evening. Banquet tickets are \$30/single or \$60/couple and can be purchased at the **Pacific Building Center in Blaine** (360) 322.5335).

Of special interest is the Friday evening welcome and complimentary wine social. **Sean Boyd** of the **Canadian Wildlife Service** will give a brief presentation on the **High Arctic Brant Telemetry Project**, showing the procedures involved in implanting radios and banding brant on **Melville Island** in the **Canadian Arctic**.

Northwest Chapter News

By Rone Brewer

Our first meeting at the **Twin Cities Sportmen's Club** in **Stanwood** went well. Saw some past members return and renew their memberships. We expect attendance to increase as the longer days and better weather make it more attractive for members to come out and shoot some trap. Come join us Thursday, April 13th. Shooting starts at 6:00 p.m.

Penn Cove Update

Well, after a total of 9 or 10 meetings (including the first big public one) over a year, I think we finally have reached consensus on safety at the **Penn Cove** meetings. I think it is safe to say the **Penn Cove** residents now understand that:

(Continued on Page 6)

Southwest Chapter News

By Jim Cortines

This month's meeting of the **Southwest Chapter** will be held at the **Sumner Sportsmen's Club** on Thursday, March 23rd. We hope to get our pre-meeting shooting program started in April, so wipe down the old scattergun with another ocat of Otter's 'til then. Dinner will be served at 6:30 with our meeting starting at 7:00.

DIRECTIONS to the **Sumner Sportsman's Club** — From Hwy 167 N or S, take Hwy 410 E about 1.5 miles to the **Sumner-Orting Highway**, (Exit 162). Turn right and go south on Hwy 162 for 1.5 miles to 96th St E. Turn left at the Alderton Store. The Club is ½ mile east on the left.

Many thanks to **Jack Westerfield** for his presentation on decoy painting. Those in attendance found out that it doesn't have to be a long and laborious effort when one combines Rustoleum spray paint and Jack's dry brushing methods. Further, Jack passed on some good pointers for those decoys that have sprung a leak or have a few 'shot' rattling around in them. There's just over 200 days before the general '06 season is upon us. Your early preparation will make for a more enjoyable season.

Perhaps one of the most enjoyable elements of the February meeting was the inclusion of **Conner Hughes, Cole Hodges**, and our special guest, **Stephen Hansen** — all of whom are 8 years and younger and waterfowlers in the makin'! **Stephen** was the lucky winner of the South Bend Spinning Outfit drawing from The Puyallup Sportsman's Show and he was thrilled to finally receive his prize. Also in attendance were new members **Mike Bell** and **Kile Jones** with his Mother, **Carmen**. Welcome to all.

Work Party Reports

This past month, **SW Chapter** work parties accomplished opening and/or refurbishing of Wood Duck nesting boxes in the **Auburn, Puyallup-Orting, Scatter Creek, Lake Kapowsin, & Chehalis (Elma)** areas. Many thanks go out to **Jack Westerfield, Wayne Walsh, Larry Neether, Kile Jones, Tom Irwin, Eric Hughes, Bob Graham** and **Eric Cortines** for executing **Jack's** plan as scheduled.

(Continued on Page 6)

(President's Letter continued from Pg 1)

Modeled after the **Game Management Act**, the **WAG** has provided the state's waterfowlers direct input in the setting of policy and goals for the **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)** relating to waterfowl management and waterfowl hunting.

Senator Oke is currently battling a major resurgence of his blood plasma cell cancer, which was first diagnosed in May of 2004 and recently diagnosed as terminal. His attitude continues to be strong and he acknowledges that this strength comes from his strong religious beliefs. **Senator Oke** started the 2005 Legislative session in a wheel chair, using a walker, then a cane, and finally walking on his own he accomplished his goal — he finished the session! He told the Governor that if he recovers from this latest round of cancer, he wants to serve on the **WA Fish and Wildlife Commission**. Wouldn't that be great!!!

His wife, **Judy** has asked that you — the people and organizations that **Bob** has worked so hard for over so many years — let **Bob** know that you appreciate his many efforts on your behalf. To accomplish this **Judy** maintains a website. She notes that she and **Bob** both visit the website daily and draw great strength from those who have visited and left messages to read or simply signed the guestbook to say thanks.

Please take the time to let the **Senator** know that he and **Judy** are in your thoughts and prayers, and that he is appreciated for all of his efforts on behalf of the hunters and fishers of Washington. The website is:

<http://www.thestatus.com> Click on the Visit a Patient Page. Type in **Oke** in the Patient ID Box. Type in **care-suppose** in the Password Box and then click on Visit. We also will try to get a link up on the **WWA** website.

If you don't have access to the internet, you can send a card to **Senator Bob Oke**,
c/o the VA Hospital,
Marrow Transplant Unit
1660 South Columbian Way
Seattle, WA 98108

For the Resource,

Pat Shearer

Work Party Schedule

(See Page One for Contact Phone Numbers)

- Sat., & Sun Mar., 25th — 26th** **E WA — Duck Nest Tube**
Placement of New Tubes.
Meet at **Leo Pfeifer's**
"Home Place," Royal City,
Contact **Pat Shearer**.
- Sat., March 25th** **Whatcom Chapter —**
Waterfowl tours of **Lake Tenant** in conjunction with
The 4th Annual **Wings Over WA Birding Festival**
Contact **Brad Otto**
(360) 371-8185.
- Sat., April 29th** **Southwest Chapter —**
Wood Duck Nest Box egg
count and refurbishing at
Scatter Creek & Chehalis
Contact **Jim Cortines**.
- Sat., May 6th** **Southwest Chapter —**
Wood Duck Nest Box egg
count and refurbishing at
Auburn & Puyallup.
Contact **Jim Cortines**.
- Sat., May 6th** **E WA — Annual Duck & Goose Nest Count** on
Moses Lake. **BBQ** at the
waterfront home of **Robin & Susan Hickok** after.
This is a great outing for
families and children
Contact **Robin** at (509)
765-3541.



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WWA News Briefs ...

2006 Membership Dues are Due!!!

Second Call — It's that time of year again to pay your annual membership dues, at the following rates:

- Family memberships \$25
- Individual membership \$20
- Seniors (over 65) \$10
- Juniors (under 18) \$10

Elections at March General Meeting

Per **WWA By-Laws**, nominations will be reopened at the March meeting, followed immediately by the actual elections for the office of President of **WWA** and to determine four (4) Board of Directors positions.



Thanks to a change in the by-laws in 2000, members may vote by mail, provided their absentee ballot is post-marked by March 22, 2006.

To cast an Absentee Ballot, seal your ballot in an unmarked envelope and place that envelope in a second envelope that identifies the sender by name. **Only those members whose dues are paid prior to March 22, 2006 are eligible to vote.** Use the ballot provided

Parent Chapter Absentee Ballot

President

- _____
- _____
- _____

**Board of Directors: (Vote For No More than 4)
(In Alphabetical Order)**

- Larry Gordon
- Bob Graham
- Rich Greenshields
- Jim Kline
- Leon Kollman
- Ken Ploeger
- _____
- _____
- _____

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By Doug Hargin

As the chill and snow of winter returns in March we really appreciate the great weather we enjoyed for our clean up work party on the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** River S Unit Hunt Area on Saturday, February 25th. We picked up garbage and shell casings around the blinds. Our members also sealed up the pit blinds with plastic provided by **Multi Fab**. A big THANKS to everyone for turning out and working hard to complete the clean up!

Update on Steigerwald NWR

We received the final draft of the **Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)** for the **Steigerwald NWR** near Camas. The **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** is holding out for the purchase of more property adjacent to the refuge before they will allow hunting. **USFWS** says they want 300 yard buffers between Highway 14 the dike trail before they allow any hunting. We appreciate that they at least are considering hunting, but would like to see it become a reality. With all the land acquired in the last 10 years to the **Ridgefield NWR Complex** and the population growth in Southwest Washington, it is imperative that more hunting opportunities are offered in our refuge system.

Update on Shillapoo Wildlife Area

As spring unfolds we will be meeting with **Brian Calkins** with the **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)** to chart our next round of habitat and blind improvements on the **Shillapoo Wildlife Area**.



Larry Gordon
Kathy Gordon
Owners

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(SW Chapter News Continued from Pg 3)

About 15 **SW Chapter** members descended on **Rapjohn Lake** in Pierce County on March 11th for a litter pickup project. This turnout was in response to "**anti's**" in the immediate area who had accused hunters of not only littering, but also drug and alcohol use in the boat launch area. **SW Chapter** members **Allen Hodges** and **Howard Hicks** brought this corrective action to fruition. Thanks go out to **Howard** for rewarding attendees with burgers, brats, & sodas.

We Want More New Members

Our Membership Drive for '06 is on! At the February meeting the goal of tripling Chapter membership from its current base number by the October meeting was set. Each existing member who brings a new member to the **SW Chapter** roster will get a special raffle ticket going into a drawing to be held at the October meeting, for a prize valued at \$300. If every current member brings in 2 or more new members....we are there!

(NW Chapter News Continued from Pg 3)

(1) hunting is safe, and (2) there is very little to no documented evidence of a hunting incident in **Penn Cove**, so no one is going to be able to force a "safety" related hunting restriction.

With input from **Allen Hodges** of the **SW Chapter**, I will be drafting a proposed county ordinance that reads something like this:

"It is unlawful to discharge firearms on **Penn Cove** where there is a reasonable likelihood that humans, domestic animals, or property will be jeopardized. The provisions of the above shall not apply to the following:

- A. Ranges of regularly constituted shooting Clubs;
- B. Firearms which are legally discharged as defined in RCW 9A.16 (self defense); and
- C. Firearms discharged for farm slaughter activities."

I will be sending this proposed ordinance to the residents' representative for review and hopefully their approval; then on to the **WDFW** representative; and finally to the **Island County Commissioners** for implementation.

(WA Legislative Report from Page 2)

The **Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence** just published their annual state-by-state "report card," grading states on their restrictions on law-abiding gun owners. Washington received a D+. (I guess we're going to have to try harder to get an F.) **Washington Ceasefire** put out a press release in conjunction with the "report card," where **Ceasefire Executive Director Natalie Reber** called for "mandatory background checks on ALL gun purchases." The next time they tell you they only want to close the "gun show loophole," remind them of their leader's words.

Gun show legislation is only the next step in their quest to restrict ALL gun transfers in the state. **Ceasefire** also proved once again their ignorance and ineptitude, referring to SB 5343 as Senate Bill 157. They can't even get bill numbers straight, but they want to tell you what guns you can own, how to buy them, how to store them, etc!

Mid-Term Elections Critical for Gun Owners

In eight months voters will once again have an opportunity to give their legislators a "report card" by returning them to office or "throwing the bums out." It goes without saying the outcome of November's election (and September's primary election) will have a major impact on your right to keep and bear arms with 24 of 49 State Senate seats and all 98 State House seats up for grabs. Several state legislators are retiring this year, leaving open seats that could go either way.

The two major state political parties will hold their conventions in Yakima this year, the Republicans on May 26-27 (the Memorial Day weekend), the Democrats a week later. It will be interesting to see how each party addresses the gun issue in their platform.

Candidate filing is in late July, followed by a six-week primary campaign, followed by a hectic six week general election period. (A bill passed by the legislature this year moves the primary up a month, to the third Tuesday in August, but this doesn't take effect until 2007.) Candidates will be looking for support – cash donations and grassroots grunt-work such as stuffing envelopes, making and posting yard signs, etc. **Grassroots volunteers – can make all the difference in local legislative elections. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. GET ENGAGED AND INVOLVED!!!**

Southwest Chapter Member Wins 2005 National Open Retriever Championship

From the Retriever Journal, February/March 2006

This past November, **SW Chapter** member **Jim Gonia** handled **FC-AFC Clubmead's Road Warrior, BLM** who is owned and trained by **Frank Kashevarof** of Woodinville to the **National Open Retriever Championship** while competing in Cheraw, South Carolina.

The competition, which was held over six (6) days in mostly brisk, blustery weather conditions, saw a field of 88 dogs trimmed to just 15 by the final day.

The challenging series of retrieves put to the dogs and handlers each day included triple retrieves ranging from 75 to 285 yards over field and water. (Yes, 285 yards!)

When the smoke had cleared, the winner of this year's National Open was announced: **No. 44, FC-AFC Clubmead's Road Warrior**, otherwise know as **Chopper**, and handled by professional **Jim Gonia**. **Chopper**, a three-year-old black Lab, was not only the crowd favorite but also claimed his place in history as one of the youngest dogs in history to ever win the National Open.

In the long history of the National, **Chopper** fell one place behind the youngest dog of all time. That dog was **1948 NFC Brignall's Gringo**, handled to the win at age two by none other than **Jim's father, Roy Gonia** – like father, like son." [Now you know where the "**Roy Gonia**" dog whistle comes from].

Jim, who has done some of **Chopper's** training, was quick to give credit to owner, **Frank Kashevarof**, who trains **Chopper** virtually every day of the year. **Jim** also stated that **Chopper** has a knack for doing the tough tests and getting the job done.

Well done, **Jim**.

Welcome to New WWA Members

WWA's participation in the Puyallup and Evergreen (Monroe) Sportsman's Shows resulted in many new members interested in joining our waterfowl conservation efforts. **WELCOME TO:**

From the Puyallup Show (in alphabetical order)

Wake Barney of Tacoma; **Mike Bell** of Bonney Lake; **Erick Coit & Family** from Spanaway; **Mike Dunkin** of Snohomish; **Dave Engstrom** from Gig Harbor; **Mel Hampson** of Lakewood; **Mike Haney** of Puyallup; **Jordan Lybeck** of Enumclaw; **Eric Marcoux & Family** of Silverdale; **Roy Rodrick, Jr., & Family** of Spanaway; **David Ruegger & Family** of Tacoma; **Jeff Steele** and **Donald Taylor**, both of Olympia; and **Mark Thomas** of Port Angeles;

From the Evergreen Show (in alphabetical order)

Mike Bishop of Snohomish; **Brian Calvin** of Lake Stevens; **Bob Decker** of Duvall; **Don Duehn** of Mill Creek; **Tony Godejohn** of Kent; **Michael Grace** of Mount Vernon; **Timothy Hicks** of Oak Harbor; **Tony Lindemann**; **Ryan McEwen** of Everett; **Bill Miller** and **John Miller**, both of Bothell; **Edward O'Leary** of Monroe; **Gary Ottman** of Lynnwood; **Paul Sokolis** of Arlington; **Paul St. Sauver** of Bothell; **Rocky Trumble** of Granite Falls; and **Jeff Williams** of Goldbar

Recent New Members for the NW Chapter

John Hall of Sedro Woolley; **Kurt Malizio** of Mount Vernon; and **Joseph Summers** of Oak Harbor;

Recent New Members for Whatcom Chapter

Ronald Bock of Ferndale; **Lyle Galloway**, **Doug Isakson & Family**, and **Robert Neher**, all of Bellingham; and **David Vinke & Family** of Ferndale;

New Members of the New Moses Lake Chapter

Malcolm "Bernie" Epstein of Ephrata; **Richard Finger**, **David & Mark Helms**, **Mark Hickok**, and **Terry Stewart**, all of Moses Lake.

[**Editor's Note**] As with all lists, I am sure I missed someone (or many). Let **John Arrabito** know so I can correct this in the April Newsletter.