

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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October 19, 2005

GENERAL MEETING – Wednesday, October 26th, 2005, 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, October 24th, 2005, for Dinner Reservations. Program will be a “Swap Meet” of hunting/fishing gear, with a % of the proceeds going to **WWA**.

OFFICERS

Seattle Parent Chapter

Pat Shearer, President , (206) 579-4483
 Gary Webster, VP , (425) 783-9994
 Bob Hermann, Sec (425) 821-4386
 John Arrabito, Treas. (425) 774-8291

L.C. Chapter

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
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 Howard Hicks (253) 847-6274
 Leon Kollman, (206) 365-9807
 Earl Mikkelson (253) 862-4509
 Wes Underwood, (425) 672-3464
 Larry Voeks, (425) 334-2135



9792 Edmonds Way
 Suite 161
 Edmonds, WA 98020



Letter From the President

Greetings to all members and friends of the **WWA!**

The 2005-06 hunting campaign is now in full swing with the opening of duck and deer seasons throughout the State. If you got out for the opening weekend, I hope you had good luck and a great time. From what I've read on line and heard from friends, results from across Washington were uniformly good. Lots of birds, good weather, and more than a few limits reported. I had to miss this one due to a previous commitment, but I'll make up for it shortly. If I can continue the trend from my dove and quail openers, it should be lots o' shooting, and lots o' fun.

Thanks for Your Financial Support

Now that the '05 **Fund Raising Banquet** is in the books, I just wanted to take a moment to say "**GREAT JOB EVERYONE!**" This goes out to not just the hard working group of members that hustled for 5 months or more to pull it all together, but to all those who attended this year's event and made it such a success. Without your generosity, all the effort put out for the banquet would have gone for not. But even in these times of high gas prices and creeping inflation, **WWA** members and guests

(Continued on Page 4)

TREASURERS REPORT:	
(as of September 30, 2005)	
Cash	\$ 60.00
Checking	\$ 11,407.49
Savings	\$.11
Market Savings	\$ 10.00
R Hickok Fund	\$ 1,296.09
C.D.'s	\$27,222.74
TOTALS	\$ 39,986.43
<hr/>	
LC Checking	\$ 10,361.77
NW Checking	\$ 3,009.54
NW Savings	\$ 297.87
SW Checking	\$ 1,735.24
WH Checking	\$ 300.00

EVENTS CALENDAR

(See Page One for Other Contact Phone Numbers)

- Wed., Oct., 26th** **October General Meeting,**
7 p.m. at **Kenmore Gun Club.**
The meeting will feature a
members' "**SWAP MEET**" to
buy/sell/barter/trade your no-
longer-used hunting/fishing
gear with a portion of the
proceeds going to **WWA.**
- Wed., Oct., 26th** **Ducks Unlimited (DU)** is
hosting a public meeting on
Wiley Slough and Leque
Island at 7:00 p.m. at the
Viking Grange in Sylvana.
- Thurs., Oct., 27th** **SW Chapter Meeting.** 7 p.m.
at **Sumner Sportsmen's Club**
Contact **Jim Cortines.**
(See story on Page 3)
- Thurs., Oct., 27th** **Lower Columbia Chapter**
Meeting. NEW LOCATION
7 p.m. at **WDFW Region 5**
Headquarters, 2108 Grand
Blvd., Vancouver, WA. Contact
Gene Teel or Doug Hargin.
(See Story on page 5.)
- Tues., Nov., 1st** **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, Nov., 3rd** **November Board of Directors**
6:30 p.m. at **Denney's** in
Canyon Park Shopping Ctr.
SW Corner of Exit #26, I-405.
- Tues., Nov., 8th** **NW Chapter Meeting**
Conway Fire Hall, 7 p.m.
Contact **Dave Engel** to confirm
- Sat., Sept 30, 2006** Not too early to get the **2006**
Annual Fund Raising Banquet
on your calendar.

Advice for Waterfowlers Re: Avian Flu Virus

Most waterfowling communities are aware of the media reports regarding the H5N1 strain of the avian influenza virus (HPAI H5N1) that has spread throughout much of Southeastern Asia. Although the virus has primarily affected domestic poultry operations, it is receiving great attention within the medical community because it has caused more than 50 human deaths in Asia since the winter of 2003-2004.

Although there have been recent reports that the virus has caused deaths in wild migratory birds in a few isolated locations in Asia, there is no evidence yet that wild birds have transmitted HPAI H5N1 to humans, nor that migratory birds have been responsible for dispersing the virus in Asia.



However, with the possibility that wild birds could become vectors for the new HPAI H5N1 virus, and because some waterfowl migrate between Alaska and Asia, the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&W)** and **U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Wildlife Health Center** are diligently monitoring migratory birds in Alaska in conjunction with state and university support.

No Evidence of Transmission So Far

To date, thousands of waterfowl and shorebird samples from Alaska have been analyzed, and no evidence of the virus has been discovered. Thus, with respect to this year's hunting season, federal authorities have stated that "it is unlikely that H5N1 will be carried by birds migrating from Asia to North America this fall or winter."

(Continued on Page 4)



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Whatcom County Chapter News

By Brad Otto

It is finally that time of year again where we can get back out in the marsh and enjoy those wet and cold mornings that we all love. It is also that time of year when the **Whatcom Chapter** volunteers to help **WDFW** with the local swan issues. The call has already come for a staff of volunteers to help with mortality retrievals, telemetry tracking along with a variety of other needs. There will be a weekly schedule of tasks to complete, so if you have an extra day or two to get involved please call and get on the schedule.

There is tentatively a telemetry training session scheduled for Saturday, October 29th. (time and location yet to be determined). So if you are interested in helping the resource in a direct "hands on" way, please give **Rodney Vander-sypen** a call at 360-332-2293

A big thank you goes to **Mike Vandeyhey** and **Ken Miller** for helping with the blind maintenance work party on Saturday Oct.1st. We were able to get the blinds ready for the opener down on the **Marrietta/Slater Unit** and also got to take a tour of the recent restoration work from this past summer. It was quite apparent that our local waterfowl population enjoyed the upgrades also.

The unit is really starting to grow up and different channeling has taken place, so if it has been awhile since you have been down there, do yourself the favor and go check it out in the daylight before trying to navigate it in the dark. It may save you some time on those dark foggy mornings and maybe help keep your hat from floating away when you find one of those deep channels.

This past week the corn was harvested and 10 row strips were left for the birds, approximately 10 acres worth. Should produce some decent hunting again!

Our next Whatcom Chapter meeting will be on November 1st. at 7pm at the **Lake Tennant Interpretive Center** in Ferndale. Come on up early and enjoy an afternoon hunt on one of the 3 blinds located on the lake, and then stay for the meeting. The topic this month will be focused on the swan volunteer needs and schedule.

Northwest Chapter News

No Report this month, gone hunting!!!

Southwest Chapter News

By Jim Cortines

This month's Southwest Chapter meeting will be held Thursday, October 27th. Shooting will start at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. For dinner reservations, contact **Howard Hicks** at (253) 847-6274 or me at (253) 833-7102 by Oct. 25th.

Thanks for Your Support of Our Fundraising

I want thank those **SW Chapter** members who supported the **WWA Fund Raising Banquet** with their attendance this past month. It appears, according to our accounting folks, that the **WWA** set a record with the gross going over \$19,000! When the dust settles, we should net over \$13,000!! The banquet date for 2006 is set so put it on your calendar now(!)September 30, 2006.

I also want to thank the banquet committee members for their efforts in making this year's banquet a success. They are: **John Arrabito, Bruce Feagan, Larry Gordon, Doug Graef, Bob Hermann, Leon Kollman, Pat Shearer, Dan Stearns, and Larry Voeks.** Further thanks are due **Chris Taylor** who was responsible for many of the donations. Lastly, many thanks to the ladies who worked the banquet including **Nancy Kollman, Barbara Graef, Debra Dunn, Tina Patton, and Eric Simm's daughter.**

On another note; **SW Chapter** member **Larry Neether** earned the title of "**Big Spenda**". No doubt, **Larry** will have several 'new' friends calling him when he books the dates for his guided sea duck and coyote hunts this winter!

Upcoming Events

The new **WWA** banners are in for the **SW, NW & Whatcom Chapters**and they look GREAT! The **SW Chapter** will soon be putting up a 4'x 8' sign, very similar to the banners at the **Sumner Sportsman's Association** near the trap range walkway this month.

Our Guest Speaker for October will be **WDFW's Don Kraege** (just returned from his annual goose hunting trip to Saskatchewan). **Don**, a biologist by training, is **WDFW's Waterfowl Section Manager.** Members, you don't want to miss his presentation!

(Continued on Page 4)

(President's Letter Continued from Page 1)

still opened their wallets wide to support our work for the waterfowl and waterfowlers of Washington.

Special Thanks to the Banquet Committee

Special thanks to **Jim Cortines** in his first at-bat as Chairman of the Banquet Committee. **Jim** really took the ball and ran with it by soliciting dozens of new contributors for the live and silent auctions. Through his dogged efforts, **Jim** got many of these contributors to provide items for little or no charge, and also some very unusual items as well. I believe there was literally a kitchen sink in the bucket raffles somewhere. Thanks again to **Jim**, and to his Banquet Committee, in alphabetical order, **John Arrabito, Bruce Feagan, Larry Gordon, Doug Graef, Rich Greenshields, Bob Hermann, Leon Kollman, Dan Stearns and Larry Voeks** for making this year's banquet a record setting event.

Swap Meet for Your Used Hunting/Fishing Gear

This month's general meeting will feature a members' "**SWAP MEET**" with a portion of the proceeds going to **WWA**. So clean out your closets of all the gear you no longer use and the camo'd hunting clothing that no longer fits, and turn it into cash at the October meeting.

Other Upcoming Events

As it's now October, this is the last newsletter and the last general meeting of 2005. We'll still stay in touch by email, and you'll be getting a flyer in the mail reminding you about the upcoming Christmas dinner. So, while we'll be out of sight, don't let the **WWA** be out of mind. Even during hunting season, we'll be working hard for the waterfowlers of Washington.

In the upcoming months we'll making plans for the upcoming legislative session; getting ready for the Sportsman's Shows; gearing up for next spring's habitat projects; and whatever else that comes up between trips to the local duck blind.

I hope to get some trips in this season with fellow members, so maybe our paths will cross in the field or at a boat launch at 4 am.

For the Resource,

Pat Shearer

(SW Chapter News Continued from Page 3)

Oye! Oye!! This is your last reminder. The **SW Chapter** member who brings in the most new members into our Chapter this year will take home **Jack Westerfield's** donated hand-carved teal decoy. Contest ends December 31st.

In closing, special thanks to those **WWA** members who made time to either e-mail the **WDFW Commission** or make the pilgrimage to Olympia on the Oct., 8th & 9th for the hearing regarding the Skagit Headquarters & Leque Island issues.

Bring your scattergun, your calls and a Friend!
Make the October Meeting!

**(Flu Advice for Waterfowlers from Page 2)**

While HPAI H5N1 is not a current threat to waterfowl hunters in North America, hunters still need to heed the standard precautions offered by the **USGS National Wildlife Health Center** for protecting themselves against other diseases for which there is always a low probability of transmission when handling harvested animals:

1. Do not handle birds that are obviously sick or birds found dead.
2. Keep your game birds cool, clean and dry.
3. Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning your birds.
4. Use rubber gloves when cleaning game.
5. Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after dressing birds.
6. Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterwards; use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10 percent chlorine bleach solution; and
7. Cook game meat thoroughly (155-165 degrees F) to kill disease organisms and parasites.

WWA & WDFW News Briefs ...

Hunter Ed Classes Still Available

If you or your child is still in need of completing a Hunter Education Course, there is still an opportunity available in Eastern Washington. Sponsored by the **Richland Rod & Gun Club**, the next class is scheduled for November 7, 2005. Registration can be made at the sporting goods counter at **Grigg's Shopping Center**, 801 W Columbia St. in Pasco, WA. Classes (limited to the first 32 signups) will be held at the Griggs Store. Call Griggs at (509) 547-0566 for more info.

Turkey Group & Forest Service Join Efforts

The third Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the **National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf)** and the **US Forest Service (USFS)** since 1986 extends their partnership for joint planning on habitat projects and wild turkey restoration on US Forest Service lands to the year 2010. The **USFS** is responsible for managing some 192 million acres in 44 states.



Financial Facts About Hunters & Hunting

According to the **National Shooting Sports Foundation**, surveys show nearly 80 percent of Americans support hunting, although less than 10 percent actually participate. These 18.5 million hunters contribute more than \$30 billion annually to the U.S. economy and support more than 986,000 jobs. They are the primary financiers (more than \$1.5 billion per year) of conservation programs nationwide that benefit all Americans.

NRA the Latest to Put Pressure on FEMA

Under pressure from **National Rifle Assn.**, the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** is "reconsidering" a ban on the possession of firearms in the trailer parks providing homes for hundreds of families left homeless by hurricane Katrina. As the experience in New Orleans showed, there is a demonstrable need to protect life and family after a disaster. Yet, according to an October 12th AP article, **FEMA** has had a general policy for several years to prohibit guns at such parks anywhere in the country.

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By Doug Hargin

We have wrapped up the **North Shillapoo Wildlife Area** work in anticipation of the hunting season. We have reseeded 95% of the areas where blackberry removal has occurred with a grass and clover mixture. We repaired and camouflaged several existing blinds.

Lower Columbia members helped prepare the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** for opening day. We opened, cleaned, repaired and camo'd blinds. **Larry Mains** set out the directional signage. The **Ridgefield NWR** looks the best it has in years. The staff has done a tremendous amount of mowing and all the blinds appear to have ample water.

Thanks to all the members who were able to volunteer for the projects. We know that your time is a precious commodity, especially during the days, weeks, and month prior to the season!

Eastern Washington News

By Dick Price

The planting project for "moist soil management" in the **Quality Hunt Area** in the **Desert Habitat Management Area (HMA)** has gone really well. There are several thousand ducks currently feeding on the crops we planted.

Thanks to the members that came over and worked on the fence to keep the cows out of the project. It was very worthwhile.

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Ron Ozment, Chairman, (At Large), Cathlamet, WA. Term expires December 2006.

The former Wahkiakum County Commissioner is a dairy producer and cattle breeder who owns and operates a 200-acre farm north of Cathlamet.

Fred Shiosaki, 80, Vice Chairman, (E. WA), Spokane, WA. Term expires December 2010.

Retired. Former member and chairman (7 years) of the Washington Ecological Commission. WDFW biology describes him as a member of Trout Unlimited and the Disabled American Veterans.

Dr. Kenneth Chew, 71, (W. WA), Seattle, WA. Term expires December 2010.

Retired associate dean of the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences and as director of the Western Regional Aquaculture Center at the University of Washington. He holds a Ph.D. in fisheries and is known internationally for his scientific contributions to shellfish biology and marine ecology.

Jerry Gutzwiler, (E.WA), of Wenatchee, WA. Term expires December 2008. An environmental project manager for The Weyerhaeuser Company. He is an active hunter and fisherman, with membership in the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Mule Deer Association, & the Wenatchee Sportsman's Assn.

Charles Perry, (E.WA), of Moses Lake. Term expires December 2006. An expert in grazing and rangeland management, Perry is currently a rehabilitation and sustainability consultant in Central Washington. He is also an avid hunter and member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Will Roehl, (W. WA), Bellingham, WA. Term expires December 2008.

Attorney in private practice. Owner of a brokerage business which facilitates the import/export of chemicals, petroleum, fish, and forest products. Knowledgeable in the area of commercial fishing.

Shirley Solomon, (At Large), of Fir Island, Skagit County, WA. Term expires December 2008. Described as an experienced manager of environmental and land use projects, she is currently employed as a project director with Long Live the Kings, a Seattle-based non-profit organization focused on wild salmon restoration, and leads the Skagit Watershed Council.

Miranda Wecker, (W. WA) of Naselle, WA. Term expires December 2006. An avid hiker, paddler and fisher, Wecker, an attorney, is a marine program manager for the University of Washington's Olympic Natural Resources Center, and works as an independent consultant to non-profit groups.

Vacant (at Large Position) Term expires December 2010.

Under state law, the Commission, appointed by the Governor, must include three members from west of the Cascade Mountains, three members from east of the Cascade Mountains and three "at-large" members who may reside anywhere in the state. No two Commission members may reside in the same county (RCW 77.04.030).