

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

501(c)(3) tax exempt

ESTABLISHED 1945

Volume 33, Issue 3

Find us @ www.washingtonwaterfowl.org & www.waduck.org

MARCH 16, 2024



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
Patrik Kowalski, Treasurer (206) 954-8116

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ross Barkhurst (GH) (360) 875-5080
Rick Billieu (NW) (360) 653-8571
Ken Boyer (SEA) (425) 830-5067
Bruce Burns (SW) (253) 961-8802
Bruce Feagan (ML) (206) 714-8020
Al O'Connor (LC) (360) 907-9244
Dick Price (ML) (509) 762-9027
Kurt Snyder (GH) (360) 485-9353
William Walker (WH) (360) 421-5052

CHAPTER CONTACTS

Grays Harbor Chapter

Chair Kurt Snyder (360) 485-9353

Kitsap Peninsula Chapter

Chair VACANT

Lower Columbia Chapter

Chair Michael Andreotti (360) 241-8742

Moses Lake Chapter

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

Northwest Chapter

Chair Rick Billieu (360) 653-8571

Seattle Chapter

Chair James Ono (425) 233-5936

Southwest Chapter

Chair Bruce Burns (253) 961-8802

Spokane Chapter

Chair John Rasmussen (509) 833-0163

Wenatchee Chapter

Chair Cameron Way (425) 941-7853

Whatcom Chapter

Chair Lyle Galloway (360) 201-1775

Yakima Valley Chapter

Chair Marcus Leuck (509) 899-7284

Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

For those who haven't heard the **WDFW** is in the three-year season-setting process. There is a deadline of March 25 for the comment period for the **WDFW** season-setting process. The website has posted the recommended changes for the upcoming season. If you want to comment on the regulations and seasons, be sure to get your comments in this week or next. You can learn more and comment by following the link [here](#).

This next month the **WWAG, Washington Waterfowl Advisory Group** will meet in **Ellensburg** to discuss all things waterfowl and we will surely talk about the status of duck populations and regulations. If you have input, send it to me and I will pass along comments to the group. My email is: hans1031@frontier.com

One bright spot is they're proposing introducing the harlequin season at a very small lottery harvest but it's a move in the right direction.

We had a great meeting at the **Seattle Chapter** this month. See **Seattle Chapter News** on **Pages 10-11** where we were able to build seven wood duck boxes and place them law weekend within the Snoqualmie Wildlife Ares. I was able to participate along with my son, **Jacob**.

My son **Dylan** also helped me with the project ahead of the meeting. It was pouring rain on the Saturday I started the project. **Dylan** saved the day by manning the table saw in our driveway under a canopy. We had a good time making the piles of box parts and sawdust.

I'm starting to see all the work parties being planned for this year, and it's exciting to see all the volunteers stepping up and going out and volunteering for the ducks. I read a fun email this week from a mentor that I had missed, because it landed in my spam folder. It was a story from a **WWA** volunteer mentor about a mentee who shot his first goose.

I loved hearing the stories from the past season and felt like I was right there hearing the excitement of hunting success. We're already seeing mentees signing up for next season, which is great! There are new faces because of our mentors, so thanks again for all those who helped by taking a mentee this past season.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

News for the Flock

2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

- Sun, Mar 17 NW Chapter Smith Island Cleanup working party. See NW Chapter News on [Page 13](#)
- Wed, Mar 20 **Mandatory Reporting Deadlines.** Don't forget to report your waterfowl harvest!! Sea Duck, Canada Goose, Snow Goose and Brant are due by **March 20, 2024**. You must report hunting activity on your harvest record cards to **WDFW**. See [Pg 13](#).
- Wed, Mar 27 **Seattle Chapter Meeting Public Shooting at 5 pm**; Meeting & Pizza at 7 pm in the **Chalet Building, Kenmore Gun Club**
- Apr 1-7 **Youth Only Statewide Turkey Season**
- Weds, Apr 3 **WWA Board Meeting Online Only — 7:00 pm.** All WWA Members welcome to attend. **Contact Corp Secretary, Bob Taylor**, for a **Zoom** online invitation. See [Page 1](#)
- Apr 15—May 31 **General Turkey Season Statewide**
- Sat, May 11 **Free Youth Trap Shoot, Quincy, WA** See Flyer on [Page 6](#)
- Sat, June 22 **State Sanctioned Duck Calling Contest at Howard Amon Park, Richland, WA**

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 2023-2024 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, 2024)
(Unclaimed Stamps will be destroyed in April)**

IN THIS EDITION

(Click on the Page Number[s] for Active [Links](#) to be immediately directed to the page of your choice)

- Pages [6](#) **Flyer — FREE Youth Trap Shoot**
- Pages [8](#) **Article — The Black Pheasant**
- Pages [14 & 15](#) **Legislative Report**
- Page [15](#) **Former Congresswoman running for Public Lands Commissioner**
- Page [16](#) **WDFW News — Hunter Ed**
- Page [17](#) **New WWA Life Member Thomas Pedreira -- Congrats!**
- Pages [18 & 19](#) **2023-24 WWA Duck Stamp & Print Order Form**
- Page [20](#) **Hunter's Table — Italian Style Wild Meatballs**
- Page [22](#) **WWA Classifieds**
- Page [23](#) **Photo of the Month**
- Page [24](#) **Spring Turkey Regs linked [here](#)**
- Page [25](#) **WWA Membership Application**

(President's Letter Continued from Page 1)

On a similar note, we should be out there spreading the word about the **WWA** this offseason and recruiting new members.

I had a chance at a local park this past week and had a guy take a picture of the **WWA logo** on my hoodie to get information about us. He wanted to find a place to take his sons hunting. It's that easy. We see a loss of members all the time, and we all need to help by spreading the word that we exist and that we offer something of value to the sportsmen and sportswomen. If you haven't renewed your membership, remember what we represent. Thanks to everyone's work for the resource.

For the Resource,

Paul McGovern

WWA President

News for the Flock

Moses Lake Chapter News

By Bruce Feagan

On March 6 members of the **Moses Lake Chapter** conducted a litter pick up at the **Blythe boat ramp** on the **Potholes Reservoir**.

Thanks to the Chapter members who participated: **Fritz Kiemle, Mark Olmstead, Tom O'Dell, Tom Castle, Jim Ross, Dan Brown, Greg Baltzell and Bruce Feagan.**



ML Chapter News Continued



Reminder — The Moses Lake Chapter now has some custom Russell 112 Trucker caps with the WWA Color Logo, and embroidered with Moses Lake Chapter. They're available now for \$25 each. Contact Bruce Feagan at 206-714-8020.



Midnight Valley Labradors

**AKC Registered Labrador Puppies
Excellent Breeding, Great Temperament,
Wonderful for the Family or in the Field.**

British Gun Dog Lines.

Field Trial Championships.

**Contact Debbie Page for pedigrees
at 360-710-4749, or**

midnightvalleylabradores@gmail.com

Check out our website at:

<https://midnightvalleylabs.com>



Quincy American Legion Gun Club

**14050 Road Q NW
Quincy, WA 98848**

Open to the Public

NRA Disabled Friendly

(509) 237-1166

<https://www.facebook.com/>

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

ML Chapter News Continued



During February and March 2024, WWA members **Tom O'Dell** and **Tom Castle** provided upland hunting training to approximately 15 youth from **Washingtons Central Basin** at **Miller Ranch** near **Sprague, Washington**. **O'Dell** and **Castle** provided the dogs, safety equipment, ammo, snacks and beverages.

The kids' parents purchased and arranged for the release of up to 200 pheasants over several outings so far this year; provided transportation; and assisted in oversight of the activities.

Also see the Flyer on **Page 6** regarding an upcoming **FREE** youth shoot at the **Quincy Gun Range** in May 2024.

From all of us at **WWA**, thank you for your commitment to the youth and future hunters of Washington.



ML Chapter News Continued

MAY 11TH, 2024
QUINCY, WA
14550 ROAD Q N.W.
QUINCY, WA. 98848

Free Youth Trap Shoot



From 10:00 to 2:00p.m.

There will be Free trap shooting for all youths 18 and under that process either a hunter safety card or a hunting license.

All shells and targets will be provided at no cost to the participants.

Youth shooters must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Hunting equipment give aways and free lunch. Youth shooters will receive assorted free merchandise.

Lunch of Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Beverages, Chips, and Cookies will be provided also at no cost.

Sponsored by:



Moses Lake



Have questions or for more information, contact either:
Dick Price: 509-762-9027 or Tom O'Dell: 509-764-8557
Dickhunts@hotmail.com Tmodell@hughes.net

News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By Doug Hargin

March 9th Ridgefield NWR Work Party

We met at the hunter check station on a blustery, rainy Saturday morning at 8 am. **Assistant Manager Eric Anderson** dropped off T-posts and plastic for the old cement pit blinds to keep critters and water out during the off season.

Regional USFW Maintenance Manger Chadd Smith was on hand to help, which was much appreciated. **Chapter President Michael Andreotti**, and members **Rick Scott (welcome home!)**, **Dave Mason**, **Dan Hafenbrack**, **Rich Hannan**, **Marlin Reinholdt**, **Bill Dose**, **Sean Mathews** and new member **Ulises Flores (Welcome Ulises!)**.

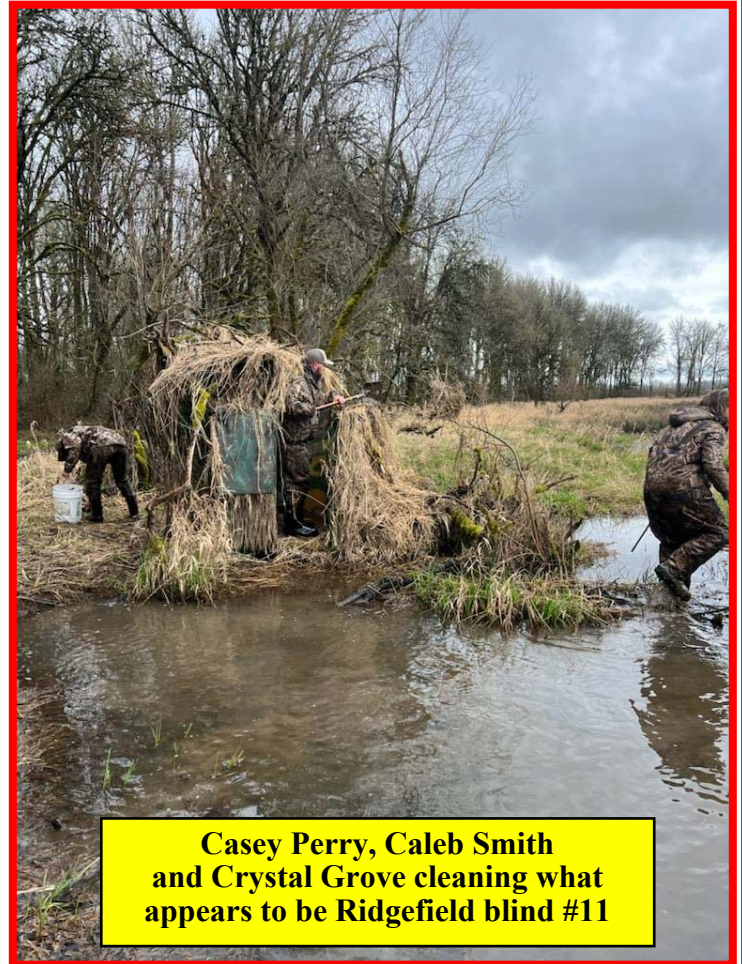
Sean Mathews is the **President of the Columbia River Chapter of Delta Waterfowl** and brought three **Delta** members to help — **Crystal Grove**, **Caleb Smith** and **Casey Perry**. All close-up and cleaning chores were accomplished. The general consensus was that this year's hunters had hauled a lot of their own trash and shell casings out during the season. Thanks everyone!

Arlan Hackett — R.I.P.

We are sad to report that one of our hardest working leaders, **Arlan Hackett** passed away Thursday morning at **Legacy Hospital**. **Arlan** was an avid and enthusiastic supporter of all things **WWA**. He had a knack for details and was always in the background keeping everyone on point to accomplish all the goals for our group. We have a lost a great friend and leader, and **Arlan** will be deeply missed. Our condolences go out to his son, **Mark** and family. Look for an *In Memoriam* story in the **WWA** April 2024 Newsletter.

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!



Casey Perry, Caleb Smith and Crystal Grove cleaning what appears to be Ridgefield blind #11

Vancouver Trap Club



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

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

LC Chapter News Continued

The Black Pheasant

By Al O'Connor
WWA Board Member

Editor's Note: Condensed Version

Sadie, my black pointing lab and I went down to **Vancouver Lake Release Site** to hunt pheasants on opening day of the 2023 general season. **Sadie** and I are about the same age in human years. Since one dog year equals seven human years and **Sadie** is just over 10.5 years old and I am 80.

We got to the site about 7:45 am, and I get us ready to hunt. I put **Sadie's** electric collar on and her protective orange three-quarter **Cordova** body vest which covers much of her front legs. There were a lot of hunters in the parking lot. We waited to see where the hunters were going and decided to go out into the open field adjacent to the main access road, since there were no hunters going that way. As soon as **Sadie** got out in the area where they had not mowed, she got on a hot scent. I got ready and she got up a black pheasant. I locked on to it and hit it. It was listing to the left, but managed to glide over the main access road and came down near the tree line. **Sadie** saw it going down and headed across the road.

As soon as I got across the road, I saw there were a lot of blackberries in the area with only a small opening in the middle with short grass on the ground. A narrow path went through the blackberries to the opening. When I got to the opening, I was worried the black pheasant may have come down in the blackberries, and **Sadie** would not be able to retrieve it. I noticed **Sadie** was running along the southwest edge of the blackberries in the opening. When I came over to the blackberries, she came over in front of me and was really birdie. She stood up on her back legs and peered into the blackberries. She moved a few feet to her right and went into the blackberries several feet, then came back out, but did not have a pheasant in her mouth. She ran around the edge of the blackberries and occasionally stood up on her back legs, but never went into the blackberries again.

I did not send her into the blackberries because I wanted her to make that decision on her own. I thought maybe the black pheasant came out of the blackberries and had run down the path, so I went down the path with **Sadie**. She ran down the path and when off both sides of the path but never got birdie, so I was pretty sure the black pheasant had not gone down the path. We turned around and went back up the path, and I figured I was not going to get the black pheasant. Just as we got near the blackberries, where **Sadie** had been birdie earlier, she came on point, and I was hopeful that she was going to get the black pheasant after all. She crouched down on the ground in the low crawl mode looking into the blackberries. I was standing beside her, and I was also looking into the blackberries but couldn't see anything but blackberries, though obviously **Sadie** did. I could tell by her body language she was prepping for launch....

To read what **Sadie** did next and for the complete uncondensed story, go to the link [here](#).

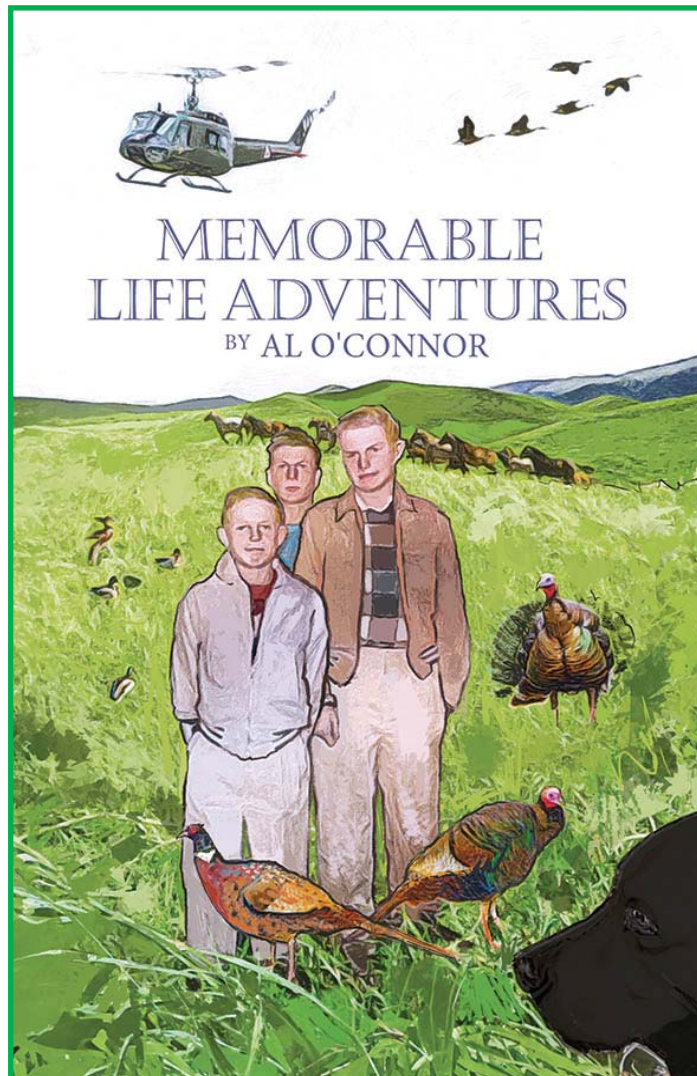


Experts say the black pheasants are melanistic mutant pheasants. The black color on pheasants is the production of excess pigmentation (melanistic) darkening the feathers. The dark pigmentation is also found in other animals from deer to wolves and can be partially to fully black. The dark pigmentation is found in breeding populations, but is generally a small percentage. The black panther is the most famous melanistic animal. Black mutant animals are hardy and live a life that is comparable to their unmuted brethren.

The Black Pheasant Continued

I have just had my book of short stories published — stories like *The Black Pheasant*, which I hope you read and enjoyed on the previous page. I am thinking maybe members might be interested in getting a copy of my book. A summary of the book is set forth below as well as how individuals may purchase a copy of the book. A copy of the front cover is displayed below. I will also sign the book for you, if you like.

“Memorable Life Adventures is a collection of autobiographical short stories that provide glimpses into the boyhood to the present life of **Al O’Connor**. A lover of the outdoors, he has a passion for fishing, hunting, and hiking from a young age. In addition, it is about a life well-lived where everyday happenings are viewed as adventures often filled with humor. Many journeys are planned, but often they veer from the path in unexpected ways that are even better than originally intended. Hopefully, **O’Connor’s** own stories will inspire others to reminisce about their own life in the spirit of adventure.” I appreciate your support.



Thank you for your interest in my book, *“Memorable Life Adventures”*. You may purchase a signed copy directly from me through Pay Pal at connors2@netzero.net for \$25, which includes shipping and handling. Please include your mailing address. If you prefer, you can mail a check for \$25 to:

Al O’Connor
15417 NE Parkinen Road
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

News for the Flock

Seattle Chapter News

By: James Ono

March Meeting

At our March meeting on Wednesday, March 27th, we will have a speaker from **Puget Sound Energy** presenting PSE's wildlife mitigation efforts. Shooting at the trap range at 5 pm with our meeting starting at 7 pm in the **Chalet**. We will also bring back a virtual option as requested by some members. Use the Zoom link [here](#) to join.

Duck Tasting

Our **2nd Annual Duck Tasting** will be at our April Meeting! Please bring any ducks you would like to donate to the March meeting or arrange to contact me before our April meeting. So far, we have **mallard, pintail, wigeon, ring-neck, long-tail, shoveler**, and a couple of other "mystery" species. Let me know if you have any other species you would be willing to contribute.

Fundraising Banquet

We are getting closer to nailing down a date and venue for our banquet. We are expecting the banquet to occur in mid-August in **Bothell**. Look for an official announcement in the coming month. If you would like to donate any items or help us secure donations, please reach out to James at ohnitsono2009@hotmail.com

Duck Boxes

Last month we constructed 8 boxes and the weekend of the March 9th, we serviced and replaced boxes at **Cherry Valley** and **Stillwater Wildlife Areas**. Thanks again to **Bob Hazelbrook** for his continued leadership of the program and to all our volunteers, **Emerson, Jacob, AJ, Jeff, Todd, Jeff, Trevor, Ryker, and Matt**. I will distribute the consolidated results of the 2023 nesting season success next month.

New Day and Location for Meetings

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

Unfortunately, this means we will no longer have the range to ourselves; we will be shooting with the public those nights beginning at 5 pm.

Following shooting we will move to the **CHALET** instead of the shotgun clubhouse for our monthly business meetings beginning at 7 pm.



Our newest member Emerson Palacios installing his first duck box



Trevor Morris installing a duck box

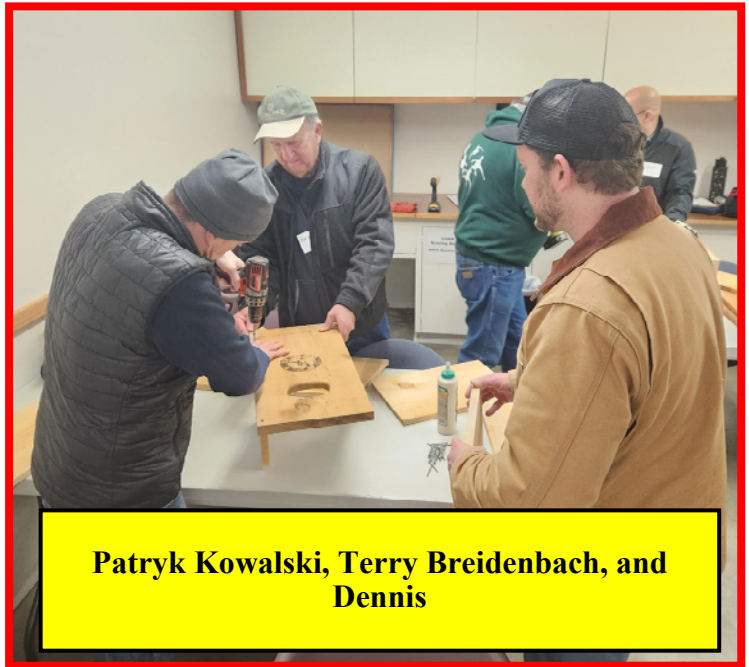


James Ono building a box while Ben Harrison watches

Seattle Chapter News Continued



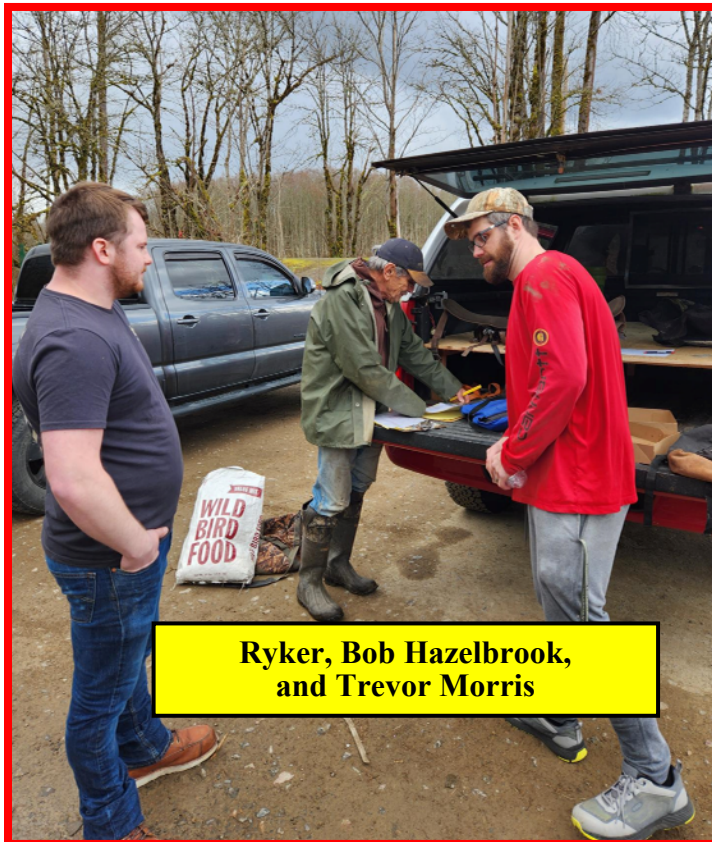
Noah and Emerson Palacios displaying their hard work



Patryk Kowalski, Terry Breidenbach, and Dennis



John Arrabito and Francisco Garcia (Frank)



Ryker, Bob Hazelbrook, and Trevor Morris

Kenmore Gun Club



1031—228th SW
[Bothell, WA 98021](#)
(425) 481-8686

[Wildlife Committee of WA](#)

News for the Flock

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

I don't have a lot to put out this month other than our working parties are on hold for the time being. There is a question of if we need **WDFW** certification to service our woodie boxes at the **Scatter Creek Wildlife Area**. So, until I hear back from the **Wildlife Area Manager**, that work party is on hold.

We cancelled our working party at the **Lagergren Ranch** due to the crappiest of weather and a sore back. Now the water there may be rising again, so it is also on hold.

I haven't received many replies from our volunteers, so if you would like to be put on this year's volunteer list, please let me know!

I hope you all had a fun and safe waterfowl season. In my view the duck numbers were down. We saw fewer mallards and widgeon. I'm not sure why, but hopefully they will have a better hatch this year, and if so, the numbers should rise.

Seeing less waterfowl makes the **WWA** conservation efforts even more important. Hopefully our state wildlife department will wake up and start addressing things like real conservation of eelgrass and support for the farms that are beneficial to the ducks and geese. I can dream, can't I?

Anyway, thanks to all that have renewed with the **WWA**. Your personal membership is most important to wildfowl conservation.

Now, on to the turkey season....

Thank you all for your continued support!

Kurt Snyder
Chairman,
Grays Harbor Chapter
kurtsnyder@outdrs.net

Southwest Chapter News

No Meeting This Month



Tacoma Sportsmen's Club

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

www.tacomassportsmensclub.com

Spokane Chapter News

Wenatchee Chapter News

Whatcom County Chapter News

Yakima Valley Chapter News

All Have No News This Month



Bill Moutaftsis

107 Calistoga St. W. • PO BOX 2110 • Orting, WA 98360
Ph. 360-893-7900 • Fx. 360-893-7902 • BigJs@bigjsoutdoorstore.com
www.bigjsoutdoorstore.com

Evergreen Sportsmen's Club



12736 Marksman St SW
Olympia, WA

Open to the Public

West Coast's Premier Shooting Facility

(360) 357-9080

<https://shootevergreen.com>

News for the Flock

Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

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 and around the blinds in the local wildlife areas.

Smith Island Clean Up and Tour

On Sunday, March 17th the chapter will be hosting our annual cleanup of **Smith Island**. This location has become an increasingly popular waterfowl hunting area. Boats will be meeting at the **Marysville Ebey Waterfront Boat Launch** at 9:30 am. Kayakers and walkers will meet at the **Smith Island Habitat and Wildlife Viewing Area** at 10 am. The goal is to pick up as much trash off the dike and water as possible. A **WWA-NW Chapter** Member will be on hand at the viewing area to answer questions and manage the dike clean up. **WDFW** will provide for trash haul out.

Tom Elliott tom.Elliott.fish@gmail.com from **WWA NW Chapter** will coordinate boats at the **Marysville Boat Launch** and lead the water clean up off **Union Slough**.

Samish Unit Cleanup

In April (date is tbd) we will hold a cleanup at the **Samish Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area**. The unit should be dried out enough to accomplish the cleanup. We'll focus on the 12 Blinds on the unit. We will also assess blind conditions for future maintenance.

Mandatory Reporting Deadlines

Don't forget to report your waterfowl harvest!!
Sea Duck, SW Canada Goose, Snow Goose and Brant
due by March 20, 2024.

You must report hunting activity on your harvest record cards to WDFW using 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.

Membership Renewal and Next Meeting

If you have not renewed your membership you can do so online at www.waduck.org or you can also renew at the next chapter meeting.

The **Northwest Chapter** meets on the second Wednesday each month. Our next meeting will be held on April 10th, at the **Twin Cities Sportsmens Club**. Trap shooting starts at 6:00 pm, and the business portion starts at 7 pm. Raffle at the end of each meeting. See you there and bring a friend.

Support your passion –get involved

[Rick Billieu,](mailto:rgbillieu@frontier.com)

rgbillieu@frontier.com

<https://www.facebook.com/waducks.org>



TAXIDERMIST

FACEBOOK 

- BIRDS
SPECIALIZING
IN WATERFOWL
- MAMMALS
- TANNED SKINS/ RUGS
- SKULLS/ ANTLERS

**Whidbey Island
TAXIDERMY**
1685 CARLTON WAY
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON
98277

SHOP 360.675.9008
CELL 360.672.5100

WWW.WHIDBEYISLANDTAXIDERM.COM



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

www.tcsportsmanclub.org

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 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)**.

Session Wrap-Up

*“Either you will control your government,
or government will control you.”*

-- Ronald Reagan

I don't want to talk about the end of this session how the **Hunters Heritage Council (HHC)** killed every anti-hunting bill in the history of existence, and that streak continued, which is true. I do want to talk about something much more important. We went on the offensive and got two pro-hunting bills passed this session — passed by wide majorities!

We were always playing on the defensive side of the ball, but for the first time in a very long time, we went on the offensive and won. Our last major offensive victory in the WA Legislature was the cougar pilot program, years ago.

Now the animal-rights groups have to worry about killing our legislation and putting time and money into it. The question you may ask is why wasn't this done before? The answer is an easy one. The opportunity wasn't there before. The mood in the Legislature didn't allow us to flex our muscles. Two very big factors I believe played into this. I think the tribes were very angry, and this was the main reason, and secondly, the **WDFW** proposed **Conservation Policy C-700X** was just so bad, and this was a reaction to it. The Department's non-management of predators caused a backlash that could not be ignored. The preservation policies caused a rebellion in the Legislature. I will go over the two bills.

Substitute House Bill 2424 (linked [here](#)) whose prime sponsor was **Hunters Hall of Fame** initial inductee, and **HHC “Legislator of the Year” Joel Kretz**. The bill specifies the following:

- **WDFW**, upon approval of a plan of engagement by the **Commission**, shall engage with the **Colville Tribes** on a government-to-government basis to update the 1998 cooperative fish and wildlife management agreement and identify potential updates to management practices and recommended modifications. **WDFW** must submit agreed-upon recommendations for approval to the **Commission** identifying updates or modifications to existing management strategies, wildlife protection and preservation activities, problem wildlife, and management of gray wolves and other endangered species. After approval by the **Colville Tribes** and the **Commission**, **WDFW** must report to the Legislature on updates and modifications to the 1998 cooperative fish and wildlife agreement.

The Colville's don't play games with wildlife management or predator management. This bill will force WDFW to be more aggressive in predator control in the North Half, which is a start. We need to start somewhere killing more bears, cougars, wolves, coyotes, and bobcats. **SHB2424** is the engine for that start, and it passed the state senate 49 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent, and 0 excused. It passed the state house 93 yeas, 3 nays, 0 absent, 1 excused, so huge margins in both chambers. An outstanding bill that we got over the finish line.

The second bill that passed dealt with avian predation. **Substitute House Bill 2293** was also prime sponsored by a **HHC Hall of Fame Member** and **“Legislator of the Year,” JT Wilcox**. The bill states the following:

The **Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)** must convene an **Avian Salmon Predation Work Group** (Work Group). The **Work Group** is required to identify all avian species that predate on juvenile salmon at a population level, determine whether those species are adversely impacting the recovery of any threatened or endangered salmon species, and identify remedies. The **Work Group** is required to report to the Legislature and the **DFW** by June 30, 2025. The **Work Group** expires on July 1, 2026.

(Continued on page 15)

Legislative News Continued

The **Work Group** must consist of:

- five members from federally recognized Indian tribes with fishing rights in Washington;
- one member each from the: **DFW; United States Fish and Wildlife Service; United States Army Corps of Engineers; National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Puget Sound Partnership;**
- two members each representing: recreational fishers; commercial fishers; and one member each representing: a salmon conservation organization; and an avian conservation organization.

Notice that the **anti's** only get two seats at the table and the Tribes get five. Again, the Tribes don't play games with predators. They have already written a lot of scientific papers on the effects of avian predation and the damage they do to salmonid smolts. The Tribes have already gotten a rule through **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)** to kill more double-breasted cormorants because of the damage they do to smolts. In the long run, we waterfowl hunters may see a benefit because of all this. This bill passed **UNANIMOUSLY** through both chambers!

The **Colville Nation** is killing wolves on the North half of the state of **Washington** all the way to the **Canadian** border. The tribes are our best allies on predator control.

This is a short time to celebrate the defeat the defeat of **Conservation Policy C-700x**, pat ourselves on the back, and prepare us for the next battle, for we know the **animal-rights (A-R)** groups won't give up. The **HHC** will be in the legislative arena ready to fight the animal-rights groups.

Supportive Legislators Leaving

On a sadder note, we lose four great friends in the Legislature, three due to retirement. **We lost three HHC Hall of Fame members:** State Senator **Lynda Wilson**, initial inductee Representative **Joel Kretz**, and Representative **JT Wilcox**; all very good friends of mine.

We also lose **HHC "Legislator of the Year" Jacquelin Maycumber**, who is running for Congress to replace the retiring **Cathy McMorris Rodgers**. **Jacquelin** has been a great friend and will do wonders for us in Washington, DC.

Thank you **ALL** for all of your years of service in the Legislature.



Former Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler has a New Goal

By Mark Pidgeon
HHC President

Honorary WWA Silver Lifetime Member Jaime Herrera Beutler announced on October 11th that she is running for **Washington Public Lands Commissioner** in 2024 as a **Republican!**

Herrera Beutler, represented **Washington's 3rd Congressional District** from 2011 to 2023,

The **Public Lands Commissioner** position is one of the most important positions to the hunting Community. Through the **Department of Natural Resources**, the **Commissioner of Public Lands** manages nearly 6 million acres of public lands and enforces laws related to:

- Logging practices;
- Reforestation requirements'
- Extraction of natural resources, and
- Oversees the **DNR's** wildfire protection and suppression programs, according to the state's website.

Running against her is Public Enemy Number One to the hunting community in Democrat **Kevin VanDeWege**, a **Humane Society of the US (HSUS)** "**Legislator of the Year**" multiple times; former Democratic **47th District State Senator Mona Das**, and Democratic **King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove**. All three are terrible for the hunting community, but **VanDeWege, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee** will come out on top for the Democrats.

This is a tremendous news as former **Congresswoman Herrera-Beutler** can win this race!

Herrera Beutler has already been endorsed by the **Hunters Heritage Council (HHC)**.

WDFW News



Complete Hunter Education to Prepare for Spring Turkey Season

OLYMPIA — **The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)** urges new, prospective hunters to complete hunter education now before upcoming turkey hunting seasons. Youth turkey season opens April 1, and the general spring turkey season opens April 15.

Students can choose to take a traditional course or a hybrid course.

The WDFW traditional course is a multi-session instructor-led training with an average of 15 hours of instruction. The traditional course is recommended for students under age 12 and any student seeking a valuable classroom experience.

WDFW's hybrid course consists of a self-paced online class followed by a field skills evaluation. In the hybrid course, students take a quiz on the online class content and receive hands-on training and evaluation by certified instructors during the field evaluation. The hybrid

course is appropriate for all students who can comprehend and retain online course content.

Prospective hunters can register for either a traditional or hybrid hunter education course by visiting **WDFW's Hunter Education Webpage** linked [here](#). On this webpage, hunters can also watch short videos that reinforce safety practices. These videos can be valuable to new and experienced hunters alike.

Per Washington state law, all hunters born after January 1, 1972 must complete a hunter education course in order to buy a hunting license. A hunter education deferral is available for hunters 10 years of age and older who want to try hunting with an eligible licensed hunter before completing a hunter education course themselves.

"Hunter education courses cover firearm and hunting safety, basic wildlife conservation, ethics, and more," said **David Whipple, WDFW Hunter Education Section Manager**. "They are one of the primary methods the Department uses to help hunters stay safe and ensure they are familiar with rules that protect public safety and maintain healthy wildlife populations."

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renew Online at www.waduck.org

If you have not received your membership card or decal. Please contact **Mark**. As well, if you have questions or changes to your address please contact **Mark Pidgeon** at marpwwa@gmail.com or call 425-221-3986.

P-Platinum Level — \$5,000; G-Gold Level — \$2,000; S-Silver Level — \$1,000; B-Bronze Level — \$500

H-Honorary Member; D-Deceased

WWA Life Members

#1 Gary Talbert P D	#2 Paul Bunn S	#3 Austin Addicoat S	#4 Rone Brewer S	#5 Fritz Kiemle S
#6 Jim Cortines S	#7 Neco Villella S	#8 Roger Bennett S	#9 Bruce Feagan S	#10 Larry Gordon S D
#11 Rich Greenshields S	#12 Mike Lovelace S	#13 Larry Voeks D	#14 Jack Westerfield S	#15 Bud Hufnagel S
#16 John Arrabito S	#17 Jenny Lutz P	#18 Mike Lutz P	#19 Reserved on Time Payments	#20 Brett Stark S
#21 Earl Mikkelson S	#22 Honorable 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
#71 Kenneth Shields	#72 Diana Shields	#73 Thomas Pedreira		

History of WWA Life Membership Levels WWA Logo'd Duck Call.

At its establishment of the **Life Membership Program** in 2010, **WWA** initially established two levels of **Life Membership** – Regular at \$500 (with the emolument of a **WWA logo'd belt buckle**); and Sustaining at \$750 (with the emolument of a **WWA embroidered Life Member Jacket**).

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**

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**.

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

News for the Flock

2023 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print

Washington Waterfowl Association is pleased to present the 2023-24
Washington State Migratory Bird Stamp
and
Limited Edition Print

Artist John N. Harris



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

2023 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print Order Form

Please send me:

Quantity _____ 2023 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 _____

2023 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

News for the Flock

The Hunter's Table

By Nick Brown

Italian Style Wild Duck Meatballs

I have always had an affinity for **Italian-American** cuisine, my grandmother always cooked similar meals. As a professional chef with a complicated schedule, I tend to gravitate towards recipes that I can prepare ahead of time/ freeze, and have a meal ready to go shortly after a long day of work. The heartiness of spaghetti and meatballs is perfect for me, often spending more time cooking for others to eat than doing the eating myself. I find this recipe holds up well to being frozen and reheated in a sauce very well. So fire up some old *Sopranos episodes* and enjoy!

Ingredients

1 ½ lbs ground duck (80/20 mix with pork fat)
1 cup bread crumbs
2 eggs (beaten)
2 Tbsp Italian seasoning
½ yellow onion (minced)
4 cloves garlic (minced)
¼ Cup water
¼ Cup grated parmesan
Fresh parsley
Salt and Pepper



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350;
2. Combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix thoroughly until mixture becomes smooth and tacky. Be sure not to overmix or the texture of the meatballs will become dense;
3. Wet hands and form meatballs to desired size and place on a well greased oven tray spaced 2 inches apart;
4. Roast in oven at 350 for 15 minutes. Check doneness with a thermometer. We are looking for 145-150. If not done add more time in 5 minute increments.
5. Change oven to broil setting and allow meatballs to caramelize on the outside for roughly 5 minutes. Once caramelized, the meatballs should have an internal temperature of 165.
6. Serve in red sauce with your choice of spaghetti or Italian bread



If you would like to share your favorite dish, please send your recipes and photos to **James Ono** at: ohnoitsono2009@hotmail.com or **Francisco Garcia** at: fkarcia@hotmail.com

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 four (4) primary dedicated funds established by the **WWA** since publication of the **February 2024 Newsletter**.

WWA General Fund — \$1,927

WWA Habitat Fund — \$1,640

WWA Legal Fund — \$21,753.52

WWA Youth Fund — \$2,810

You can contribute in so many ways to the **WWA**, from locally in your Chapter, to statewide, helping the **WWA** carry on! Many donations are tax deductible.

TWIN RIVERS BIRD TAXIDERMISTRY

Basic quotes for the mount are set. The customer is tasked with deciding a habitat and pose for their bird and a final quote can be decided once the habitat scene is narrowed down. Bases are entirely custom, and the cost is also custom, by quote only!

Regular prices for the bird mount only (**without a base**) are:

- Duck mount is \$400.
- Seaducks & Mergansers are \$450.
- Goose mount is \$550; Larger geese are \$800
- One pheasant mount is \$380.
- One chukar mount is \$350.

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.



Works in Progress - How Many Can you ID

loran.navarro@yahoo.com

970-988-4717

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

Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

For Sale

Purebred lab puppies for sale \$800 they come socialized, dewormed, 1st round vaccinations, and crate / potty training started. Both parents AKC and trained gun dogs.

Additional content:

Sale price: **\$800 w/ \$200** deposit to reserve a puppy. We have 2 yellow males 3 black males, and 2 black females available.

Contact Jordan

junelson89@gmail.com

(206) 637-3174

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



For Sale: Mosin-Nagant 91/30, 7.62x54r, original sling, safe queen, no rust, smooth bolt, very good condition. **\$400 OBO**
Open to trades.
Call or text Emerson (602) 670-4196

For Sale: 18 Dave Smith Honker decoys with individual bags as well as six slotted bags. **\$1,400.00**

Contact Abel

509-786-9196

AbelCortina@gmail.com

For Sale: 6 foam-filled Greenhead Gear drake Bufflehead decoys. Includes Avery carrying bag. Rigged for long lines. 4 foot clear monofilament lead lines. 40 feet of braided nylon long line with anchors and plastic winding spool. **\$120.**

Contact Art 206-755-1441

art.kendall@wavecble.com



In Memoriam

If you have someone you would like to honor in this column, please contact newsletter editor Frank Garcia (fkgarcia@hotmail.com) 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.

Photo of the Month



Closing a season to adventurous hunting, cold weather snaps, wet pants, story telling, and a whole lot of missed shots...until next time Mother Nature...

Photo by Frank Garcia

Thanks for Your Support

TREASURER's REPORT

At its MARCH 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.

Summary of 2023-24 Washington Spring Turkey Season Regs 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 7 pm 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 6 pm, the **Twin City Sportsmen's Club**, 26933 64th Avenue NW in Stanwood.
- Peninsula Chapter — VACANT**
- Seattle Chapter** meets the 4th Monday of the month (Jan – Oct) at 7 pm, **Kenmore Shotgun Range**, 1031 – 228th Street SW, Bothell.
- Southwest Chapter** meets on the last Tuesday of the month (Feb – Sept) at 6 pm, 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 6 pm, at the **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.