

# Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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ESTABLISHED 1945

Volume 34, Issue 5

Find us @ [www.washingtonwaterfowl.org](http://www.washingtonwaterfowl.org) & [www.waduck.org](http://www.waduck.org)

MAY 15, 2024



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## Letter from the President



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### Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

I'm enjoying this off season watching my new trail cam on one of my wood duck boxes. There has been constant movement since the first day I set up the camera. I saw the Drake wood duck more than the hen which was a surprise.

This past weekend I volunteered on a **Prairie Grouse Project** held by the WDFW. **Bob Talyor** from the **Columbia chapter** and **Ben Harrison** from the **Seattle Chapter** joined me as we all travelled to the **Swanson Lake Wildlife** area north of **Odessa**. Prairie grouse such as sharptails are protected in Washington due to their low populations. They were releasing some birds from B.C. to augment the loss of the Washington native birds. We learned more about habitat and visited some very nice country. **Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>**, we planted 700 trees for winter habitat along with the help of 30 + volunteers from various groups including **Pheasants Forever** and the **Audubon Society**.

Remember to plan ahead for the **Seattle/ NW Joint Banquet** and save the date **Aug 17th**. Just go ahead and get started by going to the **WWA** website and buy your tickets.

Lastly, I just made another photo book from this last hunting season. I had a coupon for unlimited pages. I relived the long season starting **September 15, 2023** and ending at the end of **January 2024**. I counted about 12 people that I hunted with this year and probably missed a few in that. Lots of laughs and good times. One photo in particular, looks like I was hearing a funny joke by **Matt Reat**. When I looked again, I saw that for some reason I was holding two guns. I probably told him I'll just hold his gun since he couldn't hit any roosters anyways!! LOL!!!

Please remember to renew your membership and recruit some new members this offseason.

For the Resource,

*Paul McGovern*

**WWA President**

### Mission Statement

To Preserve, Protect and Promote Waterfowl, Waterfowl Habitat, & Waterfowl Hunting in Washington state

## News for the Flock

### 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

April 15—May 31	General Turkey Season Statewide
Saturday, May 18th	Washington Brant Festival Decoy Carving Competition in Burlington, WA
Wednesday, May 29	Seattle Chapter meeting
Friday, May 31	Last day for Wild Turkey Season
Wednesday, June 5	WWA Board Meeting: All members; Contact WWA-Corp Treasurer Bob Taylor ( <a href="#">See Page 1</a> ) for an invitation to this online virtual meeting.
Thursday, June 6	Gray Harbor meeting, Evergreens Sportsmen's Club, Olympia, WA
Tuesday, June 11	Whatcom County Chapter meeting
Wednesday, June 12	Northwest Chapter meeting, Twin Cities Sportsmen's Club
Sunday, June 16	Father's Day
Saturday, June 22	State Sanctioned Duck calling Contest at Columbia Park in Richland, WA
Tuesday, June 25	SW Chapter meeting
Saturday, August 17	Northwest and Seattle Chapter Banquet

### *Chapters with no updates:*

***Kitsap Chapter***  
***Spokane Chapter***  
***SW Chapter***  
***Wenatchee Chapter***  
***Whatcom Chapter***  
***Yakima Valley Chapter***

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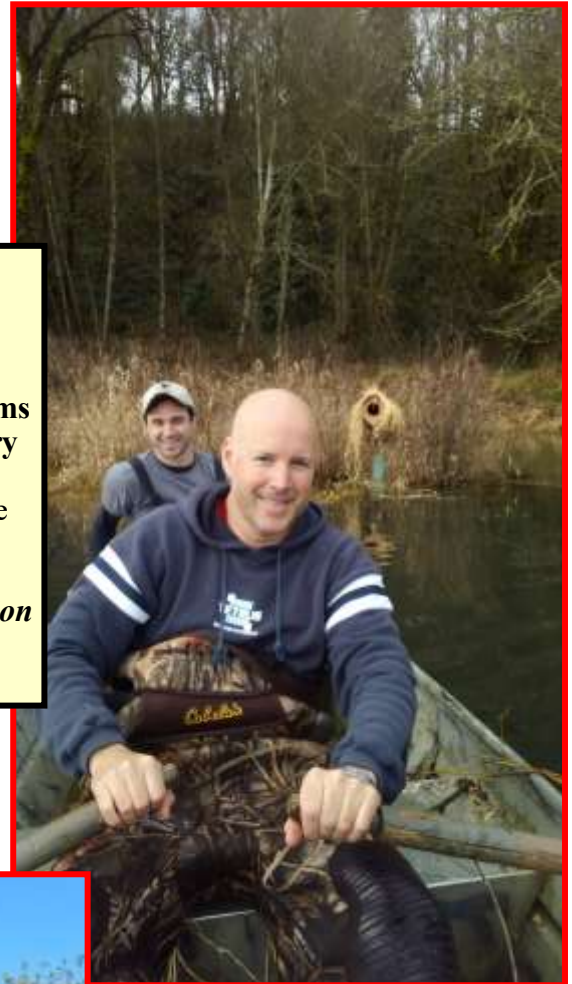


## Meet the Latest WWA Volunteers

### Grays Harbor Chapter:

“Here are Grays Harbor Chapter members **Eric Beitz** and **Brandon DeHart** servicing one of our much needed goose platforms and installing a new henhouse at **Cedarville Farms Properties** in **Thurston County**. This was back in **February 2018** and the henhouse has not been used to date. We are utilizing a more traditional type of henhouse now. The goose platforms were a total success!

*We could not function as a conservation organization without volunteers like Eric and Brandon. “*



**NW Chapter: Justin Bien, Sonya Bien, Joe Molitor, Mark Bien, Matt Browder and Pearl the retriever**

## News for the Flock

### Grays Harbor Chapter

By: Kurt Snyder

Hi all,

Our Chapter business is a bit slow right now, so I think it would be cool to have a Chapter trap shoot next month instead of a business meeting! Jeremy at the **Evergreen Sportsman's Club** said, he would fix us up on one of the trap houses. If you are interested you will need some target loads and your shotgun. I plan to use the gun that I hunt with. If anyone needs a gun, I have an extra! Please RSVP to me so I can anticipate how many shooters we will have. Let's DO this! **June 6th, 2024** at the **Evergreen Sportsmen's Club**, 7:pm sharp!

Our goose nest platforms have almost all succeeded with another five broods of new hatches! I can only guess at how many geese we are responsible for propagating. The platforms give the geese a safe place to nest naturally. Geese like a high spot so they can see all around so to defend off any predators that are brave enough to take on an angry goose and gander. This has been just one part of our chapters nesting program. The other is our wood duck nest program. Again, I can only guess at how many woodies and mergansers we have hatched. Not to mention the squirrels and honey bees we have helped. They like the boxes too and we welcome them.

Many thanks go to **Jon McAninch**, owner of **Cedarville Farms**. Jon has always welcomed us to use his property for a successful nesting program!

Again, thanks to all of you for being a **WWA** member and your continued support!

#### Kurt Snyder

Chairman, Grays Harbor Chapter



**Evergreen Sportsmen's Club**

12736 Marksman St SW  
Olympia, WA

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**West Coast's Premier Shooting Facility**

(360) 357-9080      <https://shootevergreen.com>



**Grays Harbor Chapter: Eric Beitz and Brandon DeHar servicing Goose platforms at Cedarville Farms**

## News for the Flock

### Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

#### May Chapter Meeting

Our guest speaker at the May chapter meeting was **WWA** member **Colin Ching**. **Colin** is the owner and professional trainer at **Cascade Retrievers in Monroe, WA**. A 63 acre retriever training facility that specializes in retrievers, gun dog training, **UKC/AKC** retriever hunt tests and supports other clubs use of the facilities including sighthound Lure Trials.

**Colin's** topics included buying a pup to train and hunt with, including determining the right dog for your particular type of hunting, health evaluations prior to purchasing a pup and communications with breeders. He spoke about the different types of training, self taught, online or in person to suit an individuals needs and the level of training necessary to be an effective hunt dog. **Colin** discussed several training tactics that he uses as a trainer including the progression through the training process. He also spoke about details of the gun dog training program through advanced training for the retriever.

**Colin** fielded a host of questions by the members. **Thanks Colin for attending and sharing your knowledge with the members!**

<https://www.cascaderetrievers.com>

I'm seeing plenty of waterfowl in the **Northern Counties**. It's good to see these Migrating or resident Birds in the area during the mid year months. The **WDFW** has started their annual grain farming on several **WDFW Managed Wildlife Areas** in our area. These food sources support both nesting production and migrating waterfowl. Each year hundreds of acres are planted supporting winter forage for migratory birds. **WDFW** lands grain farming is funded through the **Washington State Migratory Bird Stamp Program**.

#### **Cleanup time at the Samish Unit**

A sunny morning at our annual cleanup of the **Skagit Wildlife Areas Samish Unit!** After a hearty breakfast cooked by **Matt Browder, NW Chapter volunteers** swept through all areas of the unit including the 14 Blinds, collecting plenty of trash, shells (spent and un-spent), wads, beer cans, bottles, gloves, shirts, old decoys and you name it discarded by waterfowl hunters. Most of the trash was around the blinds or around the ponds. Every time **WDFW** tills these fields, it brings up more shells and wads to harvest. Drainage of the unit by **WDFW** personnel was well under way so access to all areas and a through cleanup was made easy. We did an assessment of the blind conditions, finding most to be in very good condition. We'll be back prior to the next season to brush them up.

A special Thank You to these volunteers for their outstanding level of effort supporting this yearly cleanup effort!:

*Joe Molitor, Matt Browder and Pearl the retriever, Mark, Sonya and Justin Bien.*

Photos of them can be seen on the next page and [page 3](#)



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#### **Membership Renewal and Next Meeting**

If you have not renewed your membership you can do so online at [www.waduck.org](http://www.waduck.org) or you can also renewal at the next chapter meeting.

The **Northwest Chapter** meets on the second Wednesday each month. Our next meeting will be held at the **Twin Cities Sportsmens Club on June 12, 2024**. 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.

**Rick Billieu,**

[rgbillieu@frontier.com](mailto:rgbillieu@frontier.com)

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

## NW Chapter News Continued



**Matt Browder** cooking the crew's breakfast. It's bacon, eggs, hash browns, and pancakes. It's what's for breakfast!

**Sonya Bien, Matt Browder, Mark Bien, Joe Molitor and Justin Bien.** Is breakfast ready!



**Matt Browder and Joe Molitor,** finding plenty of shells, wads, you name it, we found it.

# Seattle, NW Chapter Joint Banquet



## **WASHINGTON WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION SEATTLE AND NORTHWEST CHAPTER BANQUET**

**Saturday Aug 17th 5pm**

**Bothell Rental Hall**

**24323 Bothell Everett Hwy, Bothell WA 98012**

**Single Ticket—\$50  
Youth 12 & Under—**

**Support local Waterfowl Conservation**

- Gun Raffles**
- General Raffles**
- Live Auction**
- Silent Auction**

**Smoked Salmon—Pulled Pork  
Smoked Chicken—Mac and Cheese  
Baked Beans—Cornbread  
Salad—Beer—Wine**



**Scan or Click here  
to purchase tickets and pre-  
view raffle and auction**

## News for the Flock

### Seattle Chapter News

By James Ono

#### May Meeting

Our May meeting will be on **Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup>**. The program is still TBD, so we may end up just having a business meeting.

Use the Zoom link below to join:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84779283113?pwd=C0Af62KJ95i3I2jmkzVu0ub5Uxa80l.1>

We will also be bringing back a virtual option as requested by some members.

#### Banquet

We are making good progress on securing donations, but we have a long way to go. If you have any suggestion, donations, or would like to help, please reach out to me.

#### Duck Tasting Result

Last month we did our duck tasting. The rankings got a little mixed up, but we had a great time and some surprising results. I personally like the *Shoveler* the best, which I was not expecting. For each of the species there was a lot of variation between people in how high they ranked them. The Long tail duck was very split, where either you *loved* or you *hated* it.



#### 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.



WA Brant Foundation

**WASHINGTON BRANT FOUNDATION**

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER CELEBRATION

**2024  
Puget Sound  
Working  
Decoy  
Carving  
Competition**



**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

Maiben Park | 1011 Greenleaf Ave, Burlington, WA 98033

10:00am | Judging, Vendors, Silent Auction

11:30am | Results, Awards

12:00pm | Live Auction

\*Sponsor Raffle Scholarship Fund

**Competition Classes:**

Brant Class

Open Working Class

Youth/Novice

Special Mini Drake Canvasback

**For More Information:**

**WABrant.org | 501(c)3 | Kurt Benson (425) 231-6497**

## NW Chapter News Continued



### Washington Brant Festival Decoy Carving Competition

**When:** Saturday, May 18th

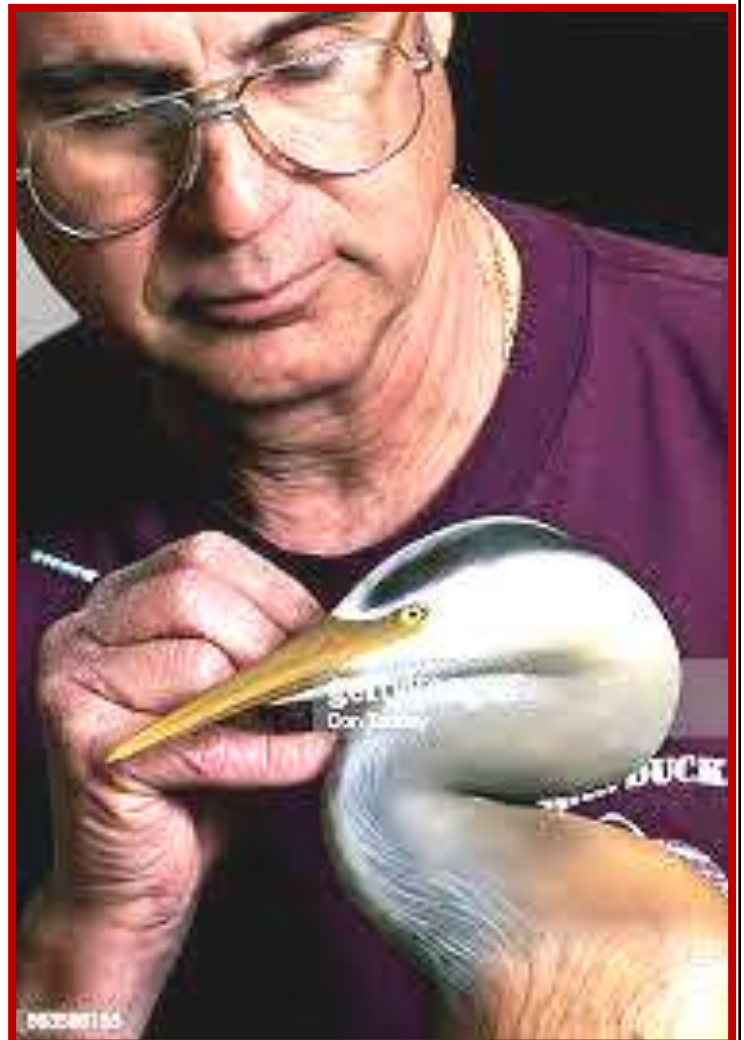
**Where:** Maiben Park, Burlington, WA.

Once again, the **Washington Brant Foundation** will host its annual **Decoy Carving Festival and Contest** known as the **"Puget Sound Open."** For local carvers, it's an opportunity to show off your carving skills. For the general public, it's more about just having a fun day enjoying the hand carved decoys of others on display — including some nationally known **Master Carvers**; shopping the decoy and wildfowl crafts vendors; and participating in the raffles, silent and live auctions.

The carving competition features entries from all across the country. Carving contest classes include, **Brant Division, Open Working Decoys, WA State Ducks Unlimited Carving Contest, a Novice/Youth** competition, and a mini decoy swap.

This year's special guest is **Master Carver, Del Herbert, of Chula Vista, CA.** Herbert, a life-long wood worker was encouraged by his wife, **Judy**, to start carving after she saw a wooden decoy at a craft show and wanted one for their mantel. He entered his first carving competition two years after completing his first piece and now spends upwards of 60 hours in his studio every week working at his craft, describing each carving as a "journey."

Since those humble beginnings, he has won the **World Championship for Decoy Carving**, not once but twice! His display rig of three (3) **Aleutian Canada Geese** is in the **Smithsonian** collection.



**In this excerpt from his 2020 book, Herbert — considered one of the worlds best shorebird carvers — says: "I find shorebirds to be some of the most fascinating creatures in our world. The more I learn about them, the more they intrigue me. With more than-200 species worldwide and approximately 70 indigenous to North America, they provide plenty of material for wildfowl carving."**

## WA Brant Foundation Continued

### *Help Carry On Vasily Baranyuk's Important Work*



### Conserving our Shared Resource



The Wrangel Island snow goose population is an important component of the Pacific Northwest ecosystem and a valuable resource for the hunting and viewing public. International cooperation on this population began back in 1974 (when the population was near extinction) and continued unabated through the Cold War, until 2022. The population survived in the past as a result of cooperative international efforts throughout its range and has been at healthy levels for the last decade.

Currently, all official communication between our countries has ceased. Because of this, no one monitored or surveyed the nesting area during the summer of 2023. I am a biologist who has devoted four decades studying Wrangel Island ecosystems, and in particular the snow goose population. I have been a private researcher for 10 years now and represent people-to-people diplomacy for this population shared by our countries.

I am organizing an expedition to the nesting area in 2024 and am appealing to all interested non-governmental organizations and individuals to sponsor this event. The results of the research will be published in local newspapers and presented by me in a series of public lectures during the winter of 2024-25.

Thank you for your support,  
Vasily Baranyuk  
March, 25 2024

Co-Sponsor: Washington Brant Foundation  
Further Info: Maynard Axelson 360-202-0415  
Support by check only, mailed to:  
Vasily Baranyuk, c/o Don Kraege  
3013 Lorne St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501-3462

## WA State Calling Contest

# Washington State 2024 Sanctioned Duck and Goose Calling Championships and Pacific Northwest Regional Open Duck and Goose Calling Championships



When: Saturday, June 22, 2024

Where: Howard Amon Park on the Beautiful Columbia River  
500 Amon Park Drive, Richland, WA 99352

7:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Competition Begins

Contests to be held and Registration Fees:

Open Duck --	\$50.00	Open Goose --	\$50.00
WA State Sanctioned Duck** --	\$50.00	Novice Duck --	\$40.00
Junior Duck --	\$25.00	Pee-Wee Duck --	<b>FREE</b>
2-Person Meat Duck	\$60.00/team	2-Person Goose --	\$60.00/team

**\*\*Winner of the WA State Sanctioned Duck Contest will receive \$1,000 from WWA to help offset travel expenses to attend the World Championships in Stuttgart, AR in Nov.**

*The Cool Desert Nights Classic Car Festival* will be held this same weekend at the Uptown Mall. There will be lots of hot / "kule" cars as well as some awesome food in The Park and at The Uptown.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy this *two-fer* event weekend.

Unfortunately, there is no overnight camping at The Park.

For more Information, contact Abel Cortina at [abelcortina@gmail.com](mailto:abelcortina@gmail.com)

# PNW Wild Turkey Season

In this edition, while waterfowl season is long over turkey Spring turkey season is in full swing. Here are some fun times during some turkey hunting photos from some of our **WWA** members and their families.

*Congrats to our New Turkey Hunters!*



**NW Chapter: Matt, Charlie and Kaylah Browder. Congrats!!**



**NW Chapter:** I brought my family out to eastern Washington for turkey this year. We were fortunate enough to get access on some private property and shot two birds opening morning. This was our son's first time coming with us on a turkey hunt. He had a blast and did a great job staying quiet in the blind. When the turkeys came in they started attacking our decoy. My son cracked and let out a chuckle but thankfully it didn't scare the birds away. I should also mention this was my wife's first turkey. It was a trip we won't soon forget.



**Seattle Chapter: Emerson Palacios on his first Turkey hunt in Washington. Congrats!!**



# PNW Wild Turkey Season



**Whatcom Chapter Board member: William Walker**

## 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)**.

## Mountain Lions, and Bears, and Wolves, Oh My

*"Freedom, the firstborn of science."  
--Thomas Jefferson*

Where are we when we have a radical majority of the **Fish & Wildlife Commission** that doesn't care about science? This majority only cares about an extreme animal-rights agenda and advancing their radical philosophy when it flies in the face of the best available science. On Commission issues that require science to be used, it doesn't matter which side had more people testify, an ad populum argument is a logical fallacy anyway, the best available science should be applied. The hunting community has been angry and we have been getting more people out to testify at the Commission meetings anyway, but it's the science that matters, and the science is with us.

Cougars are overpopulated in this state, yet the Commission adopted a petition ran by the most radical animal-rights groups to return cougar harvest levels to the 2018 levels using the nonsense of disgraced **Rob Wielgus** (I can't use science or biologist and **Wielgus** in the same sentence). His whole smoke and mirrors, hokey-pokey garbage says if you kill [insert predator name here], depredations/problems happen, so you should never kill predators. At best, **Wielgus** is correlation without causation, at worst, which is the truth, he is a radical, devoted worker for the animal-rights cause and cares only about advancing the radical animal-rights agenda. In my opinion, there has

been no person that has done more to damage wildlife in this state than **Rob Wielgus**. The Commission will be looking at another rule on cougars at the July Commission meeting that would further restrict or maybe even eliminate cougar hunting.

We all know about bears. The Commission voted to eliminate spring bear for one season, then they voted to eliminate spring bear forever. That move really drew the ire of Washington's hunters. The **WDFW** biologists made a presentation telling the Commission there were more than enough bears to support a spring bear season, yet the Commission rejected it. The radical majority cared more about ideology than the science or the law.

RCW 77.04.012 says, "*The commission shall attempt to maximize the public recreational game fishing and hunting opportunities of all citizens, including juvenile, disabled, and senior citizens,*"

so the Commission's vote was in violation of the law.

The science supported a spring bear hunt, so it was the Commission's duty to support it. When the Commission adopted the animal-rights cougar petition, they also adopted their bear petition which reduced fall bear take. We are so overpopulated by black bears, yet the Commission reduced the bear take. What will happen at the July Commission meeting is beyond me.

Four animal-rights groups have sued **USFWS** over their decision to delist wolves in the **Northern Rocky Mountain Recovery Zone**, which includes **Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Utah**. These groups are trying to get wolves relisted where Congress congressionally delisted them. The courts don't have the power to do this under the Constitution. Wildlife should not be managed by the courts, nor should it be managed by legislative chambers. It should be managed by wildlife agencies and science. The word is that this case may go as high as the **SCOTUS**. It has been filed in a district court in **Montana**.

We need predator control on all three species, but with wolves we face the courts, and with bears and cougars we face a hostile Commission. We still need to testify and protest when the time comes. We need to keep showing the Commission how angry the hunting community is. We did it before, we'll do it again!

## The News of Environmental Biology

### Scientists Sound Alarm Over Concerning Discovery In Louisiana Wetlands: 'A Problem Of Utmost ... Importance'

Story by Timothy McGill

Faster-than-expected sea level rise is drowning wetland grasses. Wetlands serve an important role as nature's buffer for [hurricanes](#) along our coastlines. Scientists monitoring Louisiana's coastal wetlands found the state's low-lying marshes are unable to keep pace with rising sea levels, making the state more vulnerable to future [storms](#).

#### What's happening?

Climatologists aren't surprised that sea levels are rising along coastlines in the United States, but they are alarmed by a [sudden spike](#) that has occurred over the past 13 years, the Washington Post explains. A rise in sea levels is a byproduct of a world that is connected to warming because of the effects of human activity.

Warmer water means [melting glaciers](#) and ice sheets. That melting, combined with the increased volume of water because of thermal expansion, has contributed to a global mean sea level rise of about [8-9 inches since 1880](#), the figure cited by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#).

The [2022 global sea level](#) was the highest annual average in the satellite record (from 1993 to the present). In 2023 a [NASA analysis](#) found a rise of 0.3 inches from 2022 to 2023. This is considered a relatively large increase and is attributed mainly to rising global temperatures and a strong [El Niño](#) that developed last year. The [sea level rise](#) in the south and southeast is outpacing other portions of the U.S. coastline.

A [new study in Nature Communications](#) warns Louisiana's wetlands can't keep pace with the rapid rise in sea level.

The researchers monitored 253 sites and found "87% of these sites are unable to keep up with rising water levels." Those wetlands serve as natural barriers that can help protect inland areas by dissipating energy from tropical storms and also diminishing the impact of small to moderate storm surges.

The study's authors [wrote](#): "Sea-level rise and its threat to low-elevation coastal zones ranks among the most severe consequences of [climate change](#) due to its expected role in driving human migration, along with its detrimental impact on coastal ecosystems that rank among the most valuable on the planet."

The authors further [pointed out](#) that the impacts are "a problem of utmost scientific and societal importance," according to the Washington Post.

#### What is being done?

[Many countries](#) around the world realize the importance of wetlands and are acting to protect and restore them.

[China](#) is using ["sponge cities"](#) that are designed to soak up more water by installing green areas to replace concrete and other surfaces that don't absorb rainfall as readily. The United Kingdom's [Great North Bog](#) covers nearly 3,000 square miles and stores more than 400 million tons of carbon, which might otherwise warm the planet.

#### How can I help?

[NOAA suggests](#) volunteering for clean-up projects [in your community](#) and helping spread the word about our vanishing wetlands. Choosing [native species](#) when planting, including plants native to wetlands where it is appropriate, can also help.

NOAA also recommends abiding by the "3 R's" rule of "reduce, reuse, and [recycle](#)." This includes [composting trash](#), [donating clothes](#) rather than throwing them in the garbage, and taking advantage of [reusable](#) bags and [water bottles](#).

For location of article click below:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/scientists-sound-alarm-over-concerning-discovery-in-louisiana-wetlands-a-problem-of-utmost-importance/ar-AA1nPP3Z?ocid=hpmsn&cvid=ab594e741c8b42449e97e85feb189e6f&ei=84>



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renew Online at [www.waduck.org](http://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](mailto: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

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#6 Jim Cortines S	#7 Neco Villella S	#8 Roger Bennett S	#9 Bruce Feagan S	#10 Larry Gordon S D
#11 Rich Greenshields S	#12 Mike Lovelace S	#13 Larry Voeks D	#14 Jack Westerfield S	#15 Bud Hufnagel S
#16 John Arrabito S	#17 Jenny Lutz P	#18 Mike Lutz P	#19 Reserved on Time Payments	#20 Brett Stark S
#21 Earl Mikkelson S	#22 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
<b>Total Amount:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>185.00</b>

Easier Yet  
Go To The Active Link Below  
<https://www.washingtonduckstamp.com/>  
To Place Your Order

## 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 **April 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 Taxidermy

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.



Geese, swans, cranes and large birds

## News for the Flock

### The (Vegan) Hunter's Table

#### *Caponata alla giudia (Eggplant Stew)*

*(Excerpted from Cooking alla Giudia by Benedetta Jasmine Guetta [Artisan Books]. Copyright © 2022.)*

**Sicily** has long gripped the imagination of writers and traveler's, setting the stage for epic moments in film and television. But many know **Sicily** best through its cuisine, shaped over more than 2,000 years of conquest by everyone from the **Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans**, to the **Normans, Arabs and Spaniards**. Left behind is a legacy of a flavorful, regional cuisine based primarily on grains, vegetables, legumes and fish brought to the modern world by Sicilian immigrants.

One of the more historically interesting dishes of Sicily is *caponata*, which is somewhere between a cooked **aubergine [eggplant, for you non-Italians]** salad and a stew that vaguely resembles *ratatouille*. As the aubergine simmers with tomatoes, celery, olives, capers, herbs and vinegar, it all turns into a savory, briny mix – one that tastes even better the next day.

#### Ingredients

3 aubergines [eggplants]  
 kosher salt  
 1½ onions  
 2 celery ribs  
 5 cherry tomatoes  
 ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil  
 2 garlic cloves, smashed  
 1 cup) chopped ripe tomatoes or canned diced tomatoes, with their liquid  
 2 tbsp mixed black and green olives, pitted  
 1 tbsp capers  
 ½ cup white wine vinegar  
 1 tbsp sugar  
 sunflower or peanut oil for deep-frying  
 freshly ground black pepper  
 5 basil leaves



#### Instructions

1. Cut the aubergines into ¾-inch (2 cm) cubes. Transfer to a colander, salt generously, weight them down with a plate, and let drain for 30 minutes in the kitchen sink.
2. Cut half onion into very thin slices. Cut the whole onion into chunks roughly the same size as the aubergine cubes. Cut the celery into chunks and cut the cherry tomatoes in half.
3. Pour the olive oil into a large non-stick skillet set over medium heat, add the sliced onion and garlic, and cook

for about 3 minutes, until the garlic is slightly browned. Add the celery, tomatoes (both cherry and chopped), olives, capers and the chopped onion to the pan and cook for 10 minutes, until the vegetables begin to soften. Add the vinegar and sugar and cook for another 10 minutes. Remove from the heat.

4. Remove the plate covering the aubergines and squeeze the aubergines in a colander to remove any liquid.
5. Pour 3cm (1 inch) of sunflower or peanut oil into a large saucepan and warm over medium heat until a deep-fry thermometer reads 180°C (350°F). You can test the oil by dropping a small piece of food, such as a slice of apple, into it. If it sizzles nicely but doesn't bubble up too wildly, the oil is ready. (An apple is said to help minimize the smell of the frying oil, so I generally go for that, but any bit of food will do for testing the heat.)
6. Add only as many aubergine cubes to the pan as will fit in a single layer without crowding and fry until golden, turning often. Remove the aubergine with a slotted spoon and spread out on a paper towel-lined plate to drain. Cook the remaining aubergine cubes in the same manner, adding more oil if needed.
7. Once the fried aubergine has drained, add it to the skillet of vegetables. Season with ½ tsp salt and pepper to taste, adding a bit of water if the vegetables look dry, and cook the *caponata* over medium heat, stirring frequently, for 5 minutes.
8. Stir in the basil leaves, remove from the heat, and let the *caponata* cool to room temperature before serving.



## Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

### For Sale

**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.

**Art Kendall. Cell: 206-755-1441**  
**Email: [Art.Kendall@wavecable.com](mailto:Art.Kendall@wavecable.com)**



**For sale:** 1 1/2 Dozen Dave Smith Honker decoys with individual bags as well as six slotted bags. \$1,400.00  
**Abel A. Cortina**  
**Cell: 509-786-9196 Email: [AbelCortina@gmail.com](mailto:AbelCortina@gmail.com)**

### **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.

**Click the link below to a reputable FB Site**  
**[“Youth Waterfowl Gear, Reviews, Swap and Sell”](#)**



**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**

## Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

### For Sale



For sale, 5hp Nissan with 12 hour run time. Accessories and support equipment. **\$750.00** and like new! Extra prop.

**Dan Stearns** LM#29  
 Cell: 425-286-7768 in Mill Creek  
 Email: [danstearns@hotmail.com](mailto:danstearns@hotmail.com)



Small wooden boat. Can be used for waterfowl and fishing. **\$300 obo** or trade

**Brett Stark**, cell: (206) 963-8800  
 Email: [NWDecoy@gmail.com](mailto:NWDecoy@gmail.com)  
 Olympia, WA



12' Aluminum Boat, trailer with a 1969 Johnson 6hp motor fresh paint on the boat, and full tank of gas. Has a light bar on the front. half a gallon of matching paint. Asking **\$2500 obo**

**Evan Bobola**: [Evenbobola@gmail.com](mailto:Evenbobola@gmail.com)  
 Cell: (989) 590-4733

## The Confluence by John Oliver

### The Confluence

My biggest fear in life is when I die, my wife will sell all my hunting gear for what I told her I paid for it. On the other hand, I warn all I care about to never buy anything used from me, because it is well used. As a second-generation **Lower Columbia River** duck hunter, the childhood memories of clear vertical grain fir floors of old duck shacks stained dark by plug tobacco, the sheer grace of handmade wooden estuary boats plying the dark morning waters and the cold heavy feel of smokeless powder double barrels are memories for passing the time while waiting for the shooting hour. My grandfather was lower river blue collar royalty and shared blinds with the likes of the Bay brothers and **Bergman**. Old grizzled men with hands and faces worn from the elements of commercial salmon fishing in **Bow Pickers**. As a child those men were my idols, mentors and role models that shaped my sporting life into an obsession and art all rolled into one. The evening stories of boats full of "Big December" Canvasbacks were my favorite and helped me realize it is about the hunt not the strap. As the old oil stove stoked down for the evening, the shacks straining against their poles in running tides and the still came over the estuary, every evening ended with the saying, "if the drake Can is King, the **Lower Columbia River** would be its castle". Today, nothing like the grace of a big, shouldered **Canvasbacks** appearing out of a **Lower Columbia River** fog bank will reignite those days of sharing boats and blinds with the **Rivermen** of the Lower Columbia.



As families merge, I hit the lottery. My father-in-law turned out to be a duck and goose guide from **Klamath Falls, Oregon** and a hunter like no other. A larger-than-life marine that survived the horrors of **Chosin Reservoir** and hardened by years of

walking a patrol beat in **Fresno California**, he was a bull of a man. Heralded as "*One Punch Down*" his colleagues at his funeral revered him as the "*man of men*". Though he was a true four-season sportsman, duck hunting consumed him. Let's just sum it up by saying he is the only person I know that had a **Ducks Unlimited** special addition painted Chevrolet Suburban. A person that exemplified action not words, **Bob** was a sponsor in perpetuity of all three DU organizations and would be the lead in any fund-raising auction war.

***He taught me first hand that hunters do more for wildlife than any other group of humans!***



He had lost his sons in tragic incidents and it was now my duty to carry on his hunting legacy. It was a calling to merge revered hunting equipment from the cold and wet side with the dry and freezing side of the **Cascades**.

Every year after he passed, we made the trek to **Klamath Falls** to spend Christmas with the love of his life. A farm girl from Indiana, **Lavonne** had her own astounding elegance and strength. The last year we spent Christmas with her, I did my annual pilgrimage hunt on **Agency Lake**. December in that region is almost void of hunters except those that chase the white fronted goose. Frozen landscape abounds and almost everything is locked up by ice. The only duck habitat that is left is the small open waters fed by springs and thermal vents. If you can find it, and get to it, any open water that time of year is loaded with Mallards! I pulled into the boat ramp access and placed five dollars in an actual coffee can!

*(Continue on page 23)*



## The Confluence by John Oliver

*(Continued from page 22)*

Those type of honor buckets don't exist anywhere else, so it was always a throw back to when life was simple.

The darkness was heavy with an unusual freezing fog as snow attempted to gather steam in the arid landscape. The homemade wooden **Broadbill** estuary boat of my grandfathers backed easily down the snow-covered ramp and into the spring fed river flowing steadily against the elements that want to so badly to stop it. A long and sleek craft that looks like it is flying through the water, even on the trailer. I quickly found out that a recent westside hunt left me with wet bunks that were frozen solid to the boat. This turned out to be the only flaw in the perfect hunt at *the confluence of a lake, river and family*.

Delayed for a time, the boat finally came free and floated with the grace of a swan upon the black waters. A famous boat builder on the east coast uses the slogan, "Aluminum is fine but wood boats have a soul". Once you hunt in a wooden boat, crafted by skilled hands and held together through trials of history itself, you will then understand the saying "nothing beats the ride of an old wooden boat". The old mercury struggled to run in the frigid temperature and once the heat of the aluminum head melted the water jackets, it finally found its rhythm. Cutting into the dry dark horizon with my old lab acting like a **Mack Truck** hood ornament and the even an older coxswain navigating by memory, we were something out of a **Herter's** catalog. Chunks of ice tested the Okume plywood bottom as we dodged hull killing trees and stumps down the desolate river. Without another sole around, it is times like this that make me as a human feel small and vulnerable. We are so sheltered by our ingenuity, to meet risk head on is to appreciate what we have accomplished as a species. In this case, as in others duck hunters face every season, if something was to happen, hypothermia would surely take its path before anyone could muster a rescue attempt. In many dark ways it would be an honorable end to a lifetime of hunting, I just pray my lab would be strong enough physically and break the dedication of its owner to swim to safety.

***"Aluminum is fine but wood boats  
have a soul"***

As the banks of the river fell to the lake, I found a brush

patch just big enough to slide the Broadbill into. Custom made Newman and Bennett decoys hit the water and a pair of priceless **Frank Bay Canvasback** wood decoys finished off the string. The bismuth shells slid easily into the worn breach of a Superposed and the **Yentzen** Caller broke the silence of a still morning. All worn and used pieces come together in a **Confluence of Lower Columbia and Klamath Basin hunting history**. As the snow began to fall on a breathless morning, a serenity fell about me as the perfect hunt began to take shape. Breaking the cork seal of an old Stanley and I huddled back under the dodger sewn from oiled canvas. The early days of hanging off every word of my mentors began to stream back. My hands now resembled those of Rivermen and a new age "selfie" of me and my old lab resemble those grizzled men I ounce hung upon every word they muttered. The peace was broken by whistling wings of big winter plumage Mallards as they piled into the barely painted decoys. Drake after Drake began to stack up on the Parker painted gunnels and the old lab shuttered ice as the water quickly froze upon his heavy coat after every retrieve. The lab was also on his last Christmas hunt and years of wisdom flowed through his movements as the salt stained leather strap was almost full of green. I wondered if the



lab thought that was his finest hunt also?

A light snow began to fall and one of the most peaceful moments in my hunting life developed like a polaroid. This was the perfect hunt, with the perfect dog, in a boat steeped in history and a cacophony of gear from "men of men" all came together. One more cup of **Folgers** and a quick warm up of arthritic hands from the vintage **Coleman** heater, set the stage for the crescendo. As if from above, garnered by two old men, one from the westside and one from the eastside, the King arrived in finest of courts fashion, adorned with a winter coat made for royalty.

*(Continue on page 24)*

## The Confluence by John Oliver

(Continued from page 23)

Just off the decoy spread, cutting through the falling snow, two mature drake Canvasbacks cruised in like *Maverick* and *Ice* looking for target acquisition. Sharing the air from each other's wings, their flight was flawless and in unison. Their heads were pointed flat and you could easily see the big white shoulders and stark crimson necks. The clean and bright white bodies had the stark black-end diver transition and romantic red eyes pierced forward. Locked up and committed, a perfect pair for a perfect day ended as their feet came down.

My mother-in-law passed away that year and I have never been back for a Christmas hunt since. My old lab got a few more retrieves in warmer waters and those priceless Frank Bay decoys now sit on a shelf in my den. Gone are some, but many still remains of a **Klamath** basin hunter and **Lower Columbia River** hunter's gear. The old leather straps and wooden boats are still effective as ever but the blue steel, canvas and worn decoys have been replaced. The dogs are young, and this hunter is now old. Hopefully, one day my trilogy will meet another free-flowing source to become an even greater river of history. Make it a point next season to put together a nostalgic hunt of your own and meet at the confluence of life.



**Washington Waterfowl  
Association**

### Always Looking For Your Input!

We would love to hear your long and short stories your for the newsletter. If you have your favorite **Instagram #hashtag** on a past or future hunting story's, 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 your interest is, please share them in this newsletter.

Please send your submission to your Chapter Chairman or me at:

[fkarcia@hotmail.com](mailto:fkarcia@hotmail.com)

Thank you!



# The Labrador Duck Urn

About a year ago I was attending the **Pheasant Forever** Banquet with **Bob Taylor**. I mentioned the decoy I was making at the time, and he asked me if I would make him a memorial urn for his dog, **Spirit**. **Spirit** is a Golden Retriever of incredible breeding and field capabilities passed away in 2021. Bob had kept the ashes from the cremation. I agreed to make the decoy and later asked which duck he wanted for the urn. He said a "Labrador" and I proceeded to find a pattern to start my work.

Later, I asked why a Labrador, and the answer was that there will never be another Spirit dog and there will never be a Labrador duck. The Labrador duck species has been extinct since the late 1800's. It took me some time to get the ashes from Bob and he sent me a large amount of ashes. I was only able to incorporate about half the weight as he wanted to hunt with the decoy. I had made a hollowed bird in the past but never with ashes inside. I found a way to enclose the cargo and make it stable and still floatable for hunting. After sorting all this out, I finally marine epoxied the body, sealed, and then finally painted the bird. I delivered the finished decoy to Bob in Eastern Washington this past weekend and he loved his new bird.

by Paul McGovern



# 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](http://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 Turkey Hunting Seasons 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month (Jan – Oct) at 7 pm, **Kenmore Shotgun Range**, 1031 – 228<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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.