

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

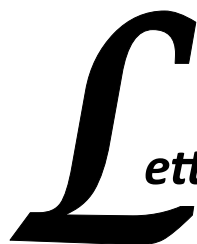
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Find us @ www.washingtonwaterfowl.org & www.waduck.org

October 15, 2018



P.O. Box 2131
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Letter from the President



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| | |
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As the excitement builds we are days away from the waterfowl opener in the state of Washington Saturday October 13. I know that by the time this comes out in our newsletter hunters will have had 3 days of hunting. Hopefully you have prepared all your gear for the season. Cleaned decoys, untangled line, replaced weights, checked waders for leaks, checked the boat motor, checked the trailer for tabs, running and stop lights, boat tabs, and do you have all the proper hunting licenses and stamps? If you hunt with a dog are they current on shots, etc. I hope you all have a safe and fun season. Take a kid out hunting. I know I will. Also when you hunt public or anywhere leave the area better than when you arrived. Take empty hulls, trash with you even if it not yours. Be an example of a true sportsman!

Now onto a different subject — The first Tuesday in November. November 6, 2018 is election day in Washington. There are many initiatives on the ballot, the most glaring is I-1639. This Initiative tears at the fabric of our rights as gun owners. The **WWA Board of Directors (BOD)** voted unanimously to oppose this Initiative. The Board also voted to align and support the **NRA's** position to vote NO on I-1639. Many of the local police departments are also against I-1639. **VOTE NO ON I-1639.**

If you want yard signs, go to a local gun dealer and ask if they have them. I live in Anacortes and found them at **Skagit Arms** in Burlington. The Board also elected to oppose the across-the-board 15% **WDFW** license fee increases for the 2019-2020 season.

Previously in my notes I stated that I will attend a meeting of each chapter. **Jim and Teresa Cortines of the SW Chapter and I, along with Seattle Chapter members, John Arrabito, James Ono and Cameron Way** attended the **Lower Columbia's Banquet** (Presidents Letter Continued on page 3)

**Vote No on
I-1639 on
November 6!
Be apart of
the voice
and cast
your vote!**

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

News for the Flock

2018 EVENTS CALENDAR

- Oct 20** Seattle Chapter Ben Welton Memorial Youth Hunt at the Willapa NWR. See Flyer on [pg 12](#).
- Oct 24** Seattle Chapter Meeting at the Kenmore Gun Club. FREE round of trap or 5-stand for ALL Members of ALL Chapters in attendance. Shooting all afternoon until at 6:30pm.
- Oct 30** Southwest Chapter Meeting at the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club at 6:30pm.
- Nov 3** Youth Hunt with Lower Columbia Chapter at the Ridgefield NWR.
- Nov 6** Washington State Election Day.
PLEASE VOTE!
- Nov 11** Veterans Hunt with Lower Columbia Chapter at the Ridgefield NWR.
- Nov 13** NW Chapter Meeting at the Conway Fire Station at 7pm.
- Dec 11** NW Chapter Meeting at the Conway Fire Station at 7pm.

2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

- Jan 23-27** Washington Sportmen's Show at the Washington State Fair Events Center in Puyallup, WA. [Learn more here.](#)
- Jan 8** NW Chapter Meeting at the Conway Fire Station at 7pm.
- Oct 24** Seattle Chapter Meeting at the Kenmore Gun Club.
- Feb 7** Grays Harbor Chapter Meeting

**Be an Active Member and
Attend one of these
GREAT Events!**



President's Letter Continued

On September 29, 2018. The LC put on a great banquet. Good food, good time was had by all. One down, eight (8) to go.

I will keep harping on this subject every month. **MEMBERSHIP. GETTING NEW MEMBERS.** When you take someone out hunting that is not a member, sell them on becoming a member. Have an application form with you (*see the last page of the newsletter for a current application*), get them to fill it out. If you can, get them to a chapter meeting. We need new members. Looking for a birthday or Christmas gift? Consider a membership as a present[s].

On that note I would like to welcome **Marcus Leuck** as our **new Chapter Chairman for the Yakima Chapter**. Have questions or ideas? Reach out to Marcus at: m.leuck68@gmail.com.

Are you a lifetime member? To all lifetime membership, sustaining lifetime members and sustain lifetime member installment who have not received your **WWA brass buckle or WWA lifetime jackets** please contact your chapter chairman or email me **Rick Holt** foxredlab12@gmail.com so that we may have everyone taken care of.

Lastly do your civic duty this coming month **VOTE**. Your vote and my vote all count. 1 leads to 2, 2 to 3 etc. Our votes add up. My belief is if you do not vote then you do not get to complain. You are part of the problem. Be part of the solution.

HAVE A SAFE AND FUN HUNTING SEASON



FOR THE
RESOURCE AND
OUR
INALIENABLE
RIGHTS,
Rick Holt
WWA President

WWA Board Unanimously Votes to Oppose Initiative 1639

By Bob Taylor, Secretary, WWA

The **WWA Board of Directors (BOD)** unanimously voted October 6th, to join the **Washington State Sheriffs Association, the Washington State Firearms Instructor Association, the Washington Council of Police & Sheriffs, the Columbian's Editorial Board, and the National Rifle Association (NRA)** in **opposing Initiative 1639 (I-1639)**. The chief reasons for opposing this Initiative are:

- o. Most members of the **Washington Waterfowl Association** are hunters and own at least one gun for water fowling. This Initiative negatively affects all Washington State gun owners and would impact our entire membership.
- o. The definition of assault weapon is way too broad even including .22's and any semi-automatic rifle no matter the caliber or magazine size.
- o. Only those 21 and over will be able to purchase such firearms and a 10 business day waiting period will be imposed.
- o. Requirements for weapon storage are so restrictive as to make them impractical for self and home defense.
- o. A \$25 fee will be imposed on any sale or even transfer of such firearms.
- o. Before a sale or transfer of such weapon is approved, the state will have the authority to examine any confidential medical records from any health care or mental health facility, a **Federal HIPAA** violation.
- o. If a gun is stolen and was not in an I-1639 approved safe (perhaps it was in a vehicle on a hunting trip?) the owner is the criminal!
- o. I-1639 creates a registry of gun owners. Historical experience in Britain, Australia, and other places shows that gun registration is the first step in gun confiscation.
- o. If this Initiative passes, thousands of law-abiding citizens will be inconvenienced while criminals will blithely ignore the Initiative as they do all laws., relating to guns and otherwise!

News for the Flock

Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

October means the general Hunting Season is upon us. Quality time with the kids, dad or good friends. Make an effort to take someone out with you that may not have the knowledge of where to go or how to hunt waterfowl. Donate your old equipment or decoys to someone just starting to waterfowl hunt. In the **Pacific Northwest** there are plenty of opportunities to get out in the field. I hope all of your hunting adventures go well this season. Be safe and don't forget to mention the **WWA** to the individuals you meet in the field.

NW Chapter Youth Hunts:

The **WWA Northwest Chapter** once again sponsored youth waterfowl hunts at two local gun clubs. This was another successful weekend thanks to our youth hunt coordinator **Rick Skiba**. Hunts were held at the **Edison Gun Club** and the **Swinomish Hunt Club**. We had a total of 22 youth hunters, 17

parents and grandparents attending. With 9 different blinds and over 180 decoys set out, the kids harvested 40 ducks and one goose. Plus, they did an excellent job of keeping the ammunition companies in business. The tides were not the best for waterfowling, but the weather was great for the young hunters. Truly a wonderful experience to see the excitement on a young hunter's face when they harvest their first duck.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- **Edison Gun Club** and the **Swinomish Hunt Club** for their generosity and hospitality.
- The "decoy crew" **Ron Broker, Rick Holt & Rick Billieu** for getting the 180 + decoys out in the mud at low tide.
- **Brendan Ballard and Matt Marusich** for volunteering to help guide and mentor the kids.
- **Rick Holt** for managing the **Swinomish** hunts and getting everyone to their assigned blinds.



News for the Flock

Skagit Wildlife Area Farmed Island Tour:

Saturday, October 6th the **NW Chapter** members and guests met up at the **Skagit Wildlife Area Headquarters** boat launch for our annual tour of the **Farmed Island** and surrounding waterways. We cruised in six (6) boats a short distance up the **Skagit River** and met **Curran Cosgrove** at the upper landing.

Curran and other **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)** employee's annually plant waterfowl foraging crops on the island. This year over 130 acres were planted providing a critical food source for waterfowl throughout the season. **Curran** guided the tour group from one end of the Island to the other providing information on the type of crops planted and pointing out hunt blind locations. We also cruised **Steamboat Slough**, the island backside out to **Skagit Bay**. Thanks to everyone who attended, those that brought their boats and to **Curran Cosgrove**. Be sure to check out the map of the island on the next page.

September Chapter Meeting:

Big Thank You! to member **Joel Meeteer** for his

generous donation of a dozen or more hunting jackets and pants to the attendees of the September Chapter Meeting.

Our guest speakers at the September chapter meeting were **Kyle Spragens, WDFW Waterfowl Section Manager** and **Belinda Rotton**, Manager for the Skagit Wildlife Areas.

Kyle shared information on the **Pacific Waterfowl** populations including dabbling ducks, Snow Geese and Brant. He also discussed Waterfowl hunter numbers, state waterfowl diversity, surveys, tracking and breeding population changes. **Kyle** fielded a host of questions from members including policies, issues and waterfowl studies.

Belinda shared the latest data on the **Skagit Wildlife Areas** including the **Farmed Island, Johnson/Debays** and **Samish Units** with details on the history, health of the units, current department activities and public usage. She also provided an update on the current **Leque Island Restoration Project** including design phases, schedules and construction. **Belinda** fielded numerous questions from the audience on a broad range of subjects affecting the wildlife area.

Thanks to both **Kyle** and **Belinda** for attending the chapter's meeting and their willingness to share

information with the membership.

(NW Chapter News is continued on the next page)



Photos from the Skagit Wildlife Area Farmed Island Tour with WDFW

Upper left: Steamboat Slough and Skagit Bay confluence

Upper right: Easy walking through fields of Barley

Lower left: Curran Cosgrove (WDFW) sharing crop planting info to the group.

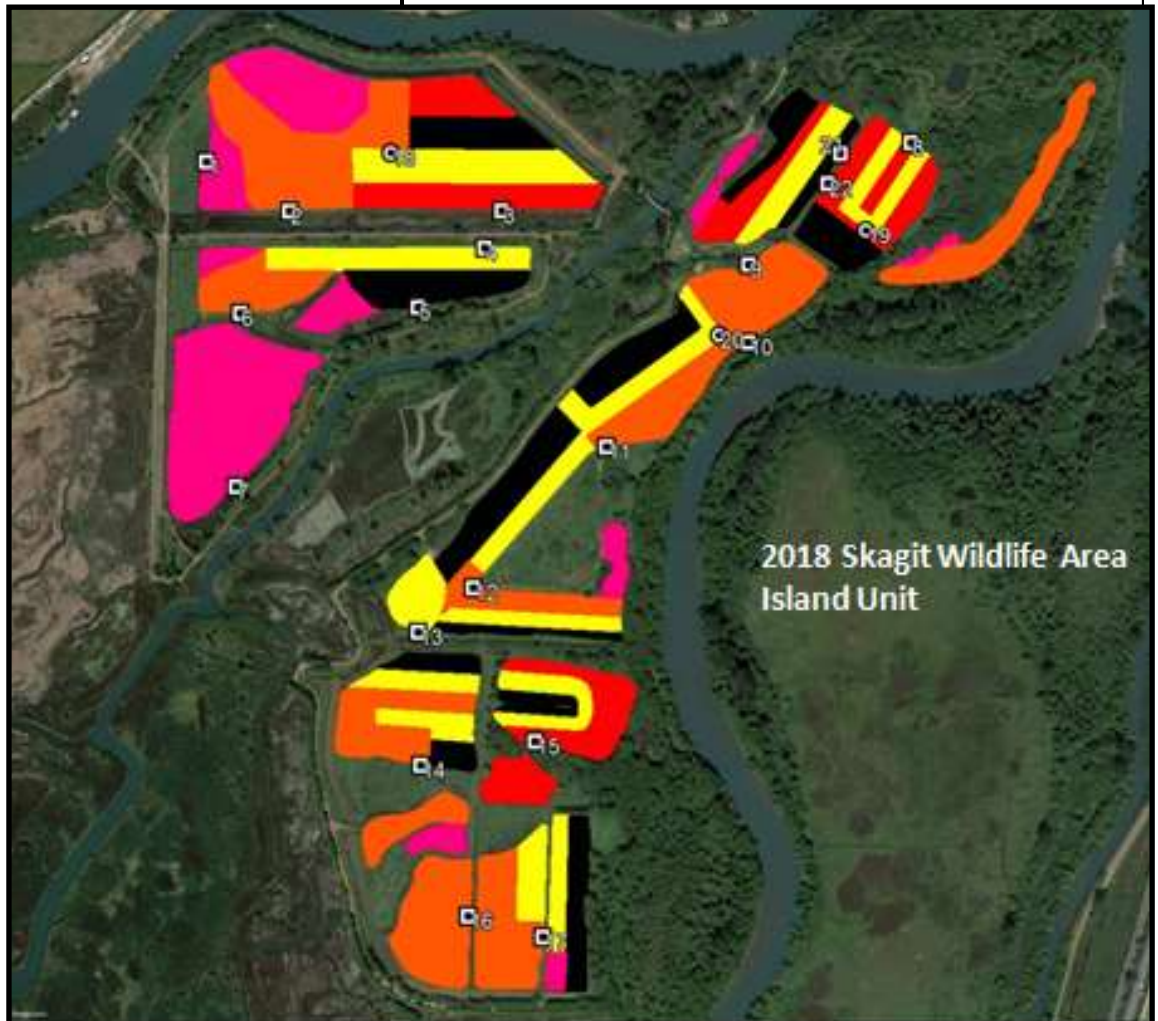
News for the Flock

October Chapter Meeting:

Our guest speaker at the October chapter meeting was **Rob Wingard** - Private Lands Biologist, Region 4, **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**. Rob provided the attendees with information on the **Private Lands hunting Program**. This is a state wide program that provides the public with opportunities to hunt at private properties. Land owners in partnership with **WDFW** allow public hunting on their properties. The process includes lands designated as **“Feel Free to Hunt”**, **“Register to Hunt”** and **“Hunt by Written Permission”**. Rob shared information on all sites within **Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom** counties. He provided the members with some of the changes to the program and fielded many questions from the audience. Excellent presentation material. Thank you **Rob** for attending the chapter’s meeting and sharing this valuable information with us.

November & December Meetings:

The Northwest Chapter meets on the second Tuesday each month at the **Conway Fire Station** starting at 7pm. See you there and bring a friend.



Field Planting Legend and Blind locations

Orange: Millet and/or Smartweed
 Yellow: Corn
 Pink: Mowed and/or disked

Red: Barley
 Black: Fava Beans

WASHINGTON WATERFOWL SLAM

Are you a Master Waterfowler? Wanting to challenge yourself to more variety for your season? Looking for a way to show off your skills without having to talk it up? Then go for a SLAM!

You must enter by January 15, 2019 and be a member of WWA in good standing.

- **Improve your waterfowl identification**
- **Learn more about waterfowl habitats and waterfowl behavior**
- **Increase excitement for waterfowl hunting**
- **Raise money for waterfowl-specific projects**
- **Create friendly recognition among hunters**

Youth Slam (Either Sex)

Mallard, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Green-Winged Teal,

Duck Slam (Drakes only)

Mallard, Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, American Wigeon, , Northern Shoveler, Green-Winged Teal, American Coot



- **Harvest the required species**
- **Open to All WWA Members**
- **End of the season you will receive a commemorative waterfowl leg band to show off your success!**

\$20 Buy In Send Email to:
WWADabblerslam@gmail.com

News for the Flock

Grays Harbor Chapter News:

By: Kurt Snyder

Hello everyone. By the time you read this we should already be looking at all the opening day photos of ducks, geese, dogs and friends! I hope all of you have a safe and fun waterfowl season with great success! This is the last issue of the **WWA** newsletter for the 2018 season so I will also wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holiday!

I consider this last year a successful one for the Grays Harbor Chapter. Our accomplishments are:

- We put on a hunt for two raffle that brought in \$1,795.00 for the **WWA** chapters that participated. Many thanks to **Jon McAninch of Cedarville Farms Hunt Club** for donating the two hunts that made this possible. **Jon** has also been a big part of our chapter and is responsible for many new **WWA** members. He has always welcomed us to practice our waterfowl conservation on his property and this has lead to many new broods of ducks and geese that are available to all the hunters of this part of Washington and surrounding areas near and far.
- We expanded our nest program on **Lagergren property near Porter on the Chehalis River**. Many of you know this property as the "buffalo ranch." Many thanks to **Ed Lagergren** for inviting us to practice our conservation on his property. We will be expanding there as the birds cooperate!
- We maintained nests in three (3) counties and saw much success in our efforts. Contact me for the details on that. I will be happy to send you the info.
- We put on a free instruction shotgun shooting clinic that resulted in some improved wing shooters as time will tell.
- We put on another free youth shotgun shooting event that gave some kids a chance to shoot targets and hopefully will result in some great hunters and future conservationist! A note on that is that this event has kind of morphed into a social event around some great shooting, friends and a really great potluck style lunch!
- We helped to get the word out about the planned destruction of the **Shillapoo Wildlife Area**. This area was created for waterfowl conservation, but the **WDFW** has planned to convert it to a "salmon recovery area" as mandated by the courts and paid for by the **Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)**. We are fighting it because it won't improve the salmon problem and reduces area critical for the migrating waterfowl and the conservation it provides.

- In other words, what it was created for will be destroyed.
- We again partnered with the **WDFW Wildlife Area Management** to procure more property that will be used much in part for waterfowl conservation.

I think we did very well for such a small chapter! I have many of you to thank and will list you not in order of any importance because I believe all of you contributed and everything you have given to conservation is important. Once again, I will say that your time is the most valuable thing you can give but not everyone has the time. Your membership in the **WWA** is important to what we do, and I personally appreciate you all. We would get nothing done if I was alone in this. I would like to note that not all of our members are waterfowl hunters, but are true conservationists!

I will start with those that volunteered to be an elected officer in our Chapter;

- **Greg Fulwider** Vice Chairman
- **Mike Nesbitt** past Secretary and present Trustee
- **Diane Smith** present Secretary and past Trustee
- **William Davis** past Treasurer
- **Allen Taylor** Trustee and new father of twins!
- **Brandon Dehart** Treasurer
- **Dick Jensen** Trustee and faithful hunting partner!

And just an all around great guy!

To all those that helped out with our annual free youth shoot:

- **Diane Smith** who headed up the potluck lunch
- **Jon and Marty McAninch, Dick Jensen, Brandon Dehart, Dirk and Ronda Farrar, Greg and Cynthia Fulwider, Mike Nesbitt, Tony Yaklich** and the whole crew at the **Evergreen Sportsmen's Club**.

To all those that had the time and energy to help out at our work parties:

Brandon Dehart, Eric Beitz, Will and Jim Goldsmith, Greg Fulwider, Diane Smith, Dick Jensen and Ed Lagergren. Collectively we put in 106-man hours and traveled 1,003 miles to do it. *AND* we are not done yet for this year!

News for the Flock

(Grays Harbor Chapter News Continued)

Thanks to **Jon McAninch** for teaching our members how to be a better shot. I'm certain that this has and will lead to some better target and wing shooting!

Also, thanks to the volunteers that helped with the display at **Cabela's** and putting up with me at about all these functions!

Honorable mention to **Dirk Farrar** and **Ken Boyer** for selling or buying the most **Hunt for Two Raffle** tickets! Our Chapter was the high seller again this year because of you and all the others that bought and sold these tickets.

One more: **The Evergreen Sportsmen's Club** for donating their facilities for our Chapter meeting and events! We all appreciate your help!

Please get to me if I forgot to mention you or if you know of someone I forgot. I will post them in the next issue with honorable mention!

It's been a great year but now it's time to wind down with some hopefully great hunts. Our Chapter will go on stand down until the first Thursday in February 2019. Hope to see you all there and don't fail to post your pictures on our Facebook page! <https://www.facebook.com/GrayHarborChapterWashingtonWaterfowlAssoc/>

Spokane Chapter News

No News This Month

AMS GUNS

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Tuesday-Friday 10-5
Saturday 10-2
VIP hours available

News for the Flock

Seattle Chapter News

By: John Arrabito

14th Annual Youth Mentor Shoot Another Success

The highlight of the **Seattle Chapter** activities in September wasn't our annual swap meet of new and used waterfowling equipment, dekes, and clothing at our regular monthly meeting. Instead it was a "changing of the guard," if you will, from **Larry and Kathy Gordon** to their daughter, **Tricia Ring** and her husband, **Royce**, in putting on the **14th Annual Youth Mentor Shoot**. **Tricia and Royce** didn't disappoint, despite the new challenges of moving the event from our usual May Chapter meeting to Sunday, September 23rd, in direct competition with one of the **WDFW** dedicated days of the statewide Youth-Only Hunt weekend.

Fourteen (14) "newbies" were introduced to safe shotgunning via one-on-one mentoring by our **Seattle Chapter** volunteers. A HUGE THANK YOU is in order to **Terry Briedenbach, David Hanson, James Ono, Joe Rinaldi and Cameron Way** for donating part of their weekend to help out.

In addition to the instruction, participants received free **WWA** logo'd hats, all shells and range fees, the use of fitted shotguns, and a fun lunch of pizza and soda. Nationally known duck call maker **Brandon Knopf** of **Iowa Hunting Products**, generously donated two (2) of his custom made calls for two (2) special raffles – one for boy contestants and one for girl contestants.

The event was highlighted by the presentation of a **WWA Volunteer of the Year[s] Award** to **Larry Gordon** to acknowledge his initiation and nurturing of this **Youth Mentor Program** for the previous 13 years, producing it with his wife, **Kathy**!

Another Youth Event Scheduled for October

Next on tap, is our planning for the 4th Annual **Ben Welton Memorial Youth Hunt** at the **Willapa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** on Saturday, October 20th. A highlight of this year's hunt is that the **Riekkola Unit** and its pit blinds will be available for goose hunting.

Unfortunately the **Seattle Chapter's** contingent of youth hunters who made the trip last year -- **Ben Fisher** and his father, **David Hanson**; and **Dylan and Jacob McGovern** and their father **Paul McGovern** -- won't be making the trip to **Ilwaco** this year due to other scheduling conflicts. **Seattle Chapter and Life Member, Mike Lovelace** and I will be taking the **WWA Duck Mount Display Trailer** down once again for the event, hopefully a load of "swag" for the participants.



On behalf of the **WWA Board of Directors (BOD)** **Seattle Chapter President John Arrabito** (right) presents one of two Volunteer of the Year Awards to **Larry Gordon**, for his years of dedicated service to Youth hunters. Earlier this year, **BOD member, Bruce Feagan**, presented an identical award to **Col. Thomas O'Dell** of the **Moses Lake Chapter**, again for his years of service to Youth!

If any other Seattle Chapter members want to go, there is still time to sign up, and the Chapter is picking up the lodging costs for Friday night. Contact me at the meeting or at jarrabito@comcast.net or 425-894-4080. See Flyer on **page 12** for more information.

New Chapter Facebook Page

Many thanks to Chapter member **James Ono** for dragging our Chapter into the 21st Century with a new **Washington Waterfowl Association – Seattle Chapter** Facebook page. Come check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/24026559992025/>

The **Seattle Chapter** will meet for the final time in 2018 on Wednesday, October 24th to make plans for the Youth Hunt and our annual Christmas Dinner, usually held the first Thursday in December. **FREE** round of trap or 5-stand for **ALL** members of **ALL** Chapters in attendance!

News for the Flock



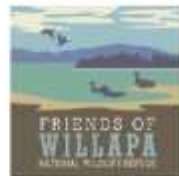
Safety is always the first order of business at the **Youth Mentor Shoot**. Here, **Joe Rinaldi, President of the Kenmore Gun Range** - a co-sponsor of the event with **WWA** - gives a safety talk to all participants prior to the event.



(Left) Royce Ring gives one-on-one instruction to this young shooter. **(Right)** Some of the happy faces of new-to-the-shooting-sports Youth. Maybe a few future **WWA** members wearing those **WWA** logo'd caps!



One-on-One Seattle Chapter Mentors, standing directly to the right of each Youth participant, in addition to giving instruction on every shot, controls the issuance of ammunition and makes sure the shotgun is always pointed down range. (From left) **Terry Breidenbach, Cameron Way, James Ono, and Larry Gordon**. **Joe Rinaldi** is standing in the center of the photo electronically controlling the clay bird thrower in the trap house.



Ben Welton Memorial

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT

Saturday, October 20, 2018

At

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge

Riekkola Unit



Follow signs to S. Bay Unit/Riekkola

Located east of Sandridge Road at the end of 67th Place in Long Beach, WA

Fun! Food! Prizes! Hunter Education!

8am - Donuts & coffee. Experienced hunters available to mentor youth.

12:30pm – 1:30pm - Lunch & prizes for youth hunters

Special youth waterfowl hunt is open to hunters under 16 years of age and must be accompanied by an adult who is not hunting on October 20, 2018. Hunters must have a valid state hunting license; any required stamps and hunter education course certificate.

For more info contact Willapa NWR: 360-484-3482

www.fws.gov/refuge/willapa



News for the Flock

Yakima Valley Chapter News

By Roger Bennett

WWA/WDFW Youth Hunt:

The **Yakima Valley Chapter of WWA** joined with **WDFW** to host five (5) youth duck hunters on September 29th as part of the "First Hunt" program to expose young people to hunting. The youth met at 4:30am at the **Sunnyside Wildlife Recreation Area** office with parents and mentors for an education and safety briefing before heading out to hunt for the morning. They were also given some hunting related gifts, and participated in a raffle for free taxidermy and other prizes. The hunting wasn't particularly good, as only a couple of birds were taken in total, but everyone got some shots. It was unanimous that everyone had a really good time.



High Quality Handicapped Blinds in the Sunnyside Area:

Members of the **Yakima Valley Chapter of the WWA** have teamed up this past month to begin installing upscale Handicapped Blinds on the **Sunnyside Wildlife Recreation Area**. The blinds, designed by **Rick Spring**, have been purchased by the **American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Committee** of the **WDFW**. The two blinds designated for the **Sunnyside WRA** are the 5th and 6th blinds of this kind in the state, and the first two east of the Cascades.

These are high quality aluminum blinds, instead of the usual wood and fiberglass models. They are designed for minimal upkeep, and maximum durability. Designer **Rick Spring**,

who is handicapped himself, came up with this design after attempting to hunt in some of the less-than-ideal existing handicapped blinds on the west side of the state. He said that the demand for these blinds is big going forward, not just in Washington, but even from out of state.

One of the two blinds is complete. The other one has been started and is in the process of being assembled on the **Johnson Unit**, closer to **Mabton**. Most of the labor, and the cost of finishing the blinds with extra paint, camo netting and grass, is being taken care of by the **WWA's YV Chapter**.

These blinds are being placed in a couple of excellent spots for hunting, or for bird-watching off-season. They are open for use by anyone, but handicapped hunters are given first priority. For information on using these blinds, contact the **Sunnyside Wildlife Recreation Area** office.



News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By: Doug Hargin

Ridgefield NWR Fall Blind Opening:

We had a good turn out on Saturday September 22nd for the fall opening and brush up at the **River "S" Unit Hunt Area on the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge**. Approximately 30 people cleaned out the blinds and picked up refuse. We also were able to camouflage most of the box blinds. We and the refuge provided *fast grass* type material and natural vegetation. With a good turnout we were able to finish most of the blinds by 11 am. The old style pit blinds again provided a herpetologist delight with handfuls of wiggly garter snakes. Everyone came back to the check station for burgers, dogs and chili as we listened to Specs cry out overhead. Welcome to new members **Felix Konat** and **Kyle Ingles** who joined at the work party. Thanks to **Arlan Hackett** and **Chris Stalcup** for grilling up a tasty hamburgers and chili for lunch.



(left): Lower Columbia Chapter member Arland Richardson with Don and his son Jordan and putting the finishing touches on blind 9
 (upper right): Jon Haugen and Amos Wehunt give their approval of blind 13A
 (middle right): Ted Blade, Kyle Ingles, Dan Hafenbrack and Felix Konat put in a good day refurbishing blind 17
 (lower): A great turn out of the Lower Columbia Chapter WWA members at the Ridgefield NWR Fall Blind Opening.



News for the Flock

Successful Banquet in the Books!

Thanks to all our faithful members, friends and family for joining us on Saturday the 29th for another memorable fundraising banquet. Thanks to **Chapter President Ted Blade** and **Rick Scott** for co-emceeing. We appreciate all the donation requests sent out and work on the banquet by **Arlan Hackett**. Thanks to **Dino Mastri** for his donations and loading and unloading the trailer. We had good help with the set up and banquet from **David Weston, Mark Weston, Dan Hafenbrack, Ted Blade, Ron Anderson, Doug Lee, Chris Stalcup, Jerry Piazza, Mike and Susan Ellis, Cliff and Jackie Pepper**. **Michael Andreotti** did another amazing job on the signage and running the raffle sales. Thanks to **Dave Weston** for handling the kids raffle. Thanks to **Barb Hackett** and **Karla Blade** for donating the women's raffle baskets. We appreciate the effort made to travel down and attend our banquet from **WWA President Rick Holt**, former **President Jim Cortinez**, **Treasurer John Arrabito** (with Estate Package donation), **Duck Stamp Administrator Mike Bell** and members **Cameron Way** and **James Ono**. We would like to thank **Jack Whitney** for his many donations from the estate of his sister **Jan Whitney**. Thanks to **David Hynning Sr.** for his truck load of waterfowl gear and decoy donation. Finally, thanks to all who showed up and spent your treasure at the event helping raise a little under **\$12,000**.

Upcoming Events for Lower Columbia Chapter:

Saturday November 3rd we will host the youth hunt at the **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)**.

On **Sunday November 11th** we will hold the Veteran's hunt also at the Refuge.



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News for the Flock

Whatcom County Chapter News

By: Matt Berry

Members of the **Whatcom Chapter** of the **Washington Waterfowl Association** spent last Saturday preparing public hunting blinds. The group of 12 volunteers met at **Lake Terrell** to cut and bundle grass before splitting up to clean and conceal the most productive blinds. It was fun for all and celebrated with sandwiches for lunch. Some members of the group continued on to blinds in other areas. Volunteers included **Victor Super, Jessie Dwight, Brian Duim, Clinton Macy, Rob Neher, Riley Johnson, Connor Crisp, Keith Neher, Kayla Neher, Bill Martin, Aaron Tedrow and myself.** **Whatcom Wildlife Area Manager, Richard Kessler and the WDFW** also helped and donated supplies and equipment. Thank you all for your time and effort!

The blind at **Lake Terrell's** is **ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)** accessible. It was constructed by our chapter a few years ago and is looking sharp just in time for what should be a great season.

Just a reminder, we will not be holding meetings in November or December as I think we will all be busy. Have fun and be safe!

Kitsap County Chapter News

No News This Month

Southwest Chapter News

By: Bruce Burns

First of all I hope everyone is excited about the opening of the 2018-2019 waterfowl season getting started. Wishing everyone good luck and safe hunting this season.

The **Southwest Chapter** meeting will be on Tuesday, 30 October, this month at 6:30pm at the **Tacoma Sportsmen's Club**. We will be planning for the upcoming **Puyallup Sportsman Show** in January, plus getting updates on everyone's start to the hunting season.

Moses Lake Chapter News

By Dick Price

Not sure how the Waterfowl opener is going to be. Have not seen a lot of ducks & geese on **Moses Lake** yet. It has been extremely dry this year which will make upland hunting a challenge also.

As you take to the fields and water please be safe, make this an accident free season. Good hunting to everyone!



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News for the Flock



WASHINGTON SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

January 23 – 27, 2019

Washington State Fair Events Center – Puyallup, WA

PACIFIC NORTHWEST SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

February 6 – 10, 2019

Portland Expo Center – Portland, OR



CENTRAL OREGON SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

February 28 – March 3, 2019

First Interstate Bank Center and Deschutes County Fair & Events Center – Redmond, OR



Classifieds— For Sale and Wanted

For Sale:

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Goose Decoys FOR SALE! Greenhead Gear. Full size honkers. Removable flocked heads and realistic feather detailing. Five (5) bodies, extra head. Never used, protective stocking over the heads. \$125 for the set. Contact **Jenny**, 425-218-7868

14' Avery Quick-set popup boat blind \$100.00. Was on my Lund 14' semi-V boat. Contact: **Jim Fetzer**, 425-422-1105 or at jbfetzer@comcast.net.

Expedition canoe, Easy Rider royalex, green, gently used. good car topable duck blind. 900 pounds capacity. \$500
Kent, 425-778-7490.

Wanted:

No one looking for anything? Maybe someone has it in their garage waiting for you!

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.
- For sale items only, not for business ads. (Businesses are welcome to purchase business ads from us.)
- Submit your classified ad each month (we have no way of knowing if you sold/purchased your item or not).
- Be sure to include your contact info. Phone and/or email.
- Send to **Matty Moore** at: matty@vision-marketing.net or call 509.944.1009 by the 10th of the month.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renew Online at www.waduck.org

By: Ellen Satre

If you have not received your membership card or decal. Please contact **Ellen**. As well, if you have questions or changes to your address please contact **Ellen** at EllenSWWA@comcast.net or call 253.845.2398.

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| #11 Rich Greenshields | #12 Mike Lovelace | #13 Reserved on Time Payments | #14 Jack Westerfield | #15 Bud Hufnagel |
| #16 John Arrabito | #17 Jenny Lutz | #18 Mike Lutz | #19 Reserved on Time Payments | #20 Anonymous |
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| #26 Jim Kline | #27 Leon Kollman | #28 Derek Melton | #29 Dan Stearns | #30 John Hanson |
| #31 Mark Hackett | #32 Logan Sanday | #33 Mickey Clary | #34 Reserved for BQT Presentation (2018) | #35 Reserved for BQT Presentation (2018) |
| #36 Doug Graef | #37 Robb Stack | #38 Rod Boyer | #39 Paul Sullivan | #40 Jessica Dunn |
| #41 Dave Farley | #42 Will Goldsmith | #43 Shaunie Cochran | #44 Claudean Talbert | #45 William Dunlap |
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WDFW UPDATE for the FLOCK

Dusky Canada Goose Banding and Monitoring

By: Warren Michaelis of WDFW

A recent request went out within our department at the **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)** regarding the need for material for the newsletter. I am a Wildlife Biologist for **WDFW** based out of Montesano, WA and cover a large portion of the coastal area. For several decades now, **WDFW Region Five** based out of Vancouver, WA and **WDFW Region Six** based out of Montesano, WA have cooperatively worked with **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)** and the **Pacific Flyway (USFWS)** conducting various marking and monitoring efforts for the dusky Canada goose.

Much of this effort has involved many hours of searching for and surveying dusky's which are marked with a special red collar with white lettering containing an alphanumeric code. This collar is linked with a federal aluminum band that is on the birds tarsus and used as a unique identifier that is specific to each birds origin of capture, age and sex. This information is administered by the **USFWS Bird Banding Lab** in Patuxtant, Maryland.

These bands have been installed on both goslings and adults during the time of capture primarily in the **Copper River Delta, Alaska**. I have had the privilege to work with both goslings and more recently adult dusky Canada geese with the **Alaska Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, USFS Chugach National Forest, and The National Biological Survey (NBS)**.

Marking of the adult geese have occurred usually every other year with around 300 collars being installed. Later these birds migrate through Canada and winter primarily in portions of southwestern Washington and throughout western Oregon. This year additional capture assistance was needed to place some 600 duskies with the traditional red collars. Fellow **WDFW** waterfowl biologist **Matt Wilson** and I were selected to represent Washington during the July capture session on the **Copper River Delta**.



Photo taken from the helicopter of a group of molting dusky Canada geese. Geese are gently moved by the helicopter into a capture area just with the background. This phot shows the beautiful Copper River Delta in Cordova, Alaska.



This is the same group of geese as they enter the "catch area." Not seen in the picture is the capture and banding crew distributed and hiding.

WDFW UPDATE for the FLOCK



Here is the group rounded up and calm in a straw lined catch pod. Some recaptures or birds with existing red collars are present. There could be also some birds with existing tarsus bands only.



Here is one of two banding crews: From the left to right is ADFG Biologists Mike Petrula, Tasha Dimarzio, myself, and Louisiana Department of Fish and Game Biologist James.

Adult geese are sexed, equipped with a new tarsus band and red collar. Careful attention is given to order of sequence and reading of codes in order to avoid errors.

Presently in the **State of Washington** there is no take allowed by hunters of dusky Canada geese. In the past, we

have used check stations in an effort to monitor this harvest throughout the hunting season. This has changed throughout the years from using an overall quota system that would close goose hunting in a particular area if met, to allowing only the take of one dusky goose annually by one hunter. More recently, we have used a field-based hunter check system. This system involves contacting hunters in the field with their bag limits and with our Enforcement program who ensure hunters are adhering to this regulation.

I would like to point out in this article that there has been a large multi-agency effort to conduct research and apply this research to management activities here in the lower contiguous United States for many years. I would also like to acknowledge the many hunters who have supported this effort by participating in hunting geese. It really comes down to a team effort by you as a hunter, conservationists through volunteering, and many dedicated professionals working towards a common goal.

I hope you find this short article to be enjoyable and interesting. For more information on the dusky Canada goose please contact the agencies I have listed. They would be glad to give you the most current information.

News for the Flock

The **WWA** is based on volunteer efforts and donations from folks that care about the waterfowl hunting heritage. Our success rides on the shoulders of these volunteers and generous benefactors. Below in red is a listing of recent contributions to the five (5) primary funds established by the **WWA** since publication of the September 2018 Newsletter.

WWA Youth Fund — \$2,565
WWA Legal Fund — \$18,172
WWA Habitat Fund — \$935
WWA Heritage Lands Fund — \$10,957
WWA General Fund — \$154

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. Thank you for your generous contribution to the **Waterfowler's Heritage**.



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News for the Flock

TREASURER's REPORT

At its February 27, 2018 Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting, the WWA Board voted to stop publishing our monthly financial report in the Newsletter which is available to the general public on our website[www.waduck.org].

However, in an effort to maintain and continue our history of financial transparency with respect to our membership, the monthly Treasurer's Report will be emailed to not only the BOD, but also to each and every Chapter Chairman to be made available for inspection and review by the Chapter membership or any individual Chapter member in good standing with dues paid current at any regularly scheduled Chapter Meeting.

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For additional information please contact:

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Skagit Valley Photos
Courtesy of Dave Honan
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 - Junior (under age 18) -- \$ 15.00
 - 2-Year Regular \$ 50.00 (New)**
 - 2-Year Family \$ 60.00 (New)**
- (2-year memberships not available online)**

Chapter & Newsletter: (Please specify your preferences)
 Newsletter by email or hard copy

- Grays Harbor/Chehalis Valley Chapter** meets the 1st Thursday of the month (Feb – Oct) at the **Evergreen Sportsmen’s Club**, 12736 Marksman Road, SW, Olympia.
- Kitsap Peninsula Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.
- 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 TBD.
- Northwest Chapter** meets year round the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the **Conway Fire Hall**.
- Seattle Chapter** meets the 4th Wednesday of the month (Jan – Oct) at **Kenmore Shotgun Range**, 1031 – 228th Street SW, Bothell, WA
- Southwest Chapter** meets on the last Tuesday of the month (Feb – Sept) at the **Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club**, 16409 Canyon Road E, Puyallup.
- Spokane Chapter** – Vacant
- Tri Cities Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.
- Whatcom County Chapter** meets the 1st Tuesday of the of the month (Jan – Nov.) at the **Ferndale Public Library**.
- Yakima Valley Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.

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A few facts about the WWA:

- Established in 1945
- Non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
- 10 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 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 Sportsman’s Show painting decoys, and with seriously ill youngsters on a decoy painting project
- Providing 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 hunt waterfowling 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 Sportsman’s shows annually
- Donation of funds and volunteer man hours for Swan Mortality Mitigation Studies
- Donation of funds and 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” conservation projects.