

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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March 15, 2021



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Letter from the President



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Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

WE NEED YOU! That's right, YOU!

Are you interested in serving on a committee for **WWA**? Are you a social media whiz, or do you want to support fundraising for your chapter? Join one of our **WWA Committees!** Each Committee Chairman sets their own schedules, and the commitment is not demanding. We need your voice and your ideas to truly sustain this wonderful organization, and I invite anyone reading this to reach out to me via email for more information.

In other news, Spring is right around the corner and we'd love to know how you store your gear for the off season! Any decoy rigging tips, or special cleaning routines you have please let us know on the Facebook page! Personally, I always toss my gear in the corner of the garage and pray it's good come October! I for one could definitely benefit from hearing about your advice!

Speaking of Spring, if you have any turkey success next month, remember to take lots of pictures because I'm sure we'd all love to hear about it in the May issue! Thank you for being part of this great organization, and always feel free to reach out if needed.

Planning for an All Chapter Meeting to be moved to late Spring/early Summer

Because of several scheduling conflicts the **WWA All-Chapter Meeting** has been bumped further down the 2021 calendar. We'll keep you posted in Future **WWA** Newsletter[s]. I can't wait for us all to get together and plan out the rest of the year.

Ramon Guel

WWA President

MISSION STATEMENT

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

News for the Flock

2021 EVENTS CALENDAR

- Sat, Mar 20 **Mandatory** Reporting Deadline for Sea Ducks and Geese. See [Page 11](#).
- Mon, Mar 22 **Two-Fer** Seattle Chapter Meeting in-person at the Kenmore Gun Range and online (See *WebEx Invitation*) on adjacent [Page 3](#). Program for **ALL Members of ALL Chapters is on Turkey Hunting**, by the always popular guide, **Matt Stevens**. As they say, "Be There (one way or the other), or Be Square!"
- Thurs, Mar 25 Usual LC Chapter Meeting Night **Encore Online Meeting**; See [Page 6](#). *WebEx Invitation* to be sent by email
- Tues, Mar 30 SW Chapter Meeting Night **The Tacoma Sportsmen's Club is open for business**, and we'll be meeting in person in the Education Building. See [Page 12](#).
- Wed, Mar 31 Mandatory Deadline for **FREE** WA State Duck Stamp. See >>>>>>>>>>
- Thurs, April 1 GH Chapter Meeting, **in person**; Evergreen Sportsmen's Club near Littlerock; 7 pm, See [Page 10](#).
- Tues, April 6 Usual Whatcom Chapter Meeting Night. **No online or in person gatherings scheduled**. Notice otherwise, will come by Email to Whatcom Chapter members.
- Wed, April 7 WWA BOD Meeting **Online Only** — 7:00 p.m. All WWA Members Welcome to attend. Contact Corp Secretary, Bob Taylor (See [Page 1](#)) for a *WebEx* Online Invitation.
- Weds, April 14 NW Chapter Meeting **in person**; Twin Cities Sportsmens Club Stanwood; 7 pm, See [Page 11](#).
- Tues, April 27 Usual SW Chapter Meeting Night
- Weds, April 28 Usual Seattle Chapter Meeting

IN THIS EDITION

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- Page [8 & 9](#) WWA Hunter Mentor Report
- Page [14 & 15](#) WA Legislative Report
- Page [17](#) Thoughts & Prayers for Jack Otto
- Page [18](#) Recipe of the Month
- Page [19](#) Classified Ads
- Page [20 & 21](#) 2020/21 Duck Stamp & Print Order Forms
- Page [22](#) List of WWA Life Members
- Page [24](#) WWA Application & Who We Are

Last Call

Get your **FREE** WA State Duck Stamp

To receive a complimentary (as in **FREE**) WA State Duck Stamp, mail a copy of your 2020-21 License with a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) to:

WWA Duck Stamp Program
18207 Rhodes Lake Road E
Bonney Lake, WA 98391

(Absolue Deadline is March 31, 2021)
(Unclaimed Stamps will be destroyed in April)



Thank you, your order has been placed.

Please check your email for order confirmation and detailed delivery information or visit [Message Center](#) to review your notifications.

Amazon will make a donation to **Washington Waterfowl Association** >
See your impact

News for the Flock

Seattle Chapter News

By: James Ono

Two-Fer Chapter Meeting on March 22nd

The **Kenmore Gun Range** has changed their hours to be open until 5 pm to the public. As a result, we can begin having our meeting at our normal time with **ONLY WWA** members shooting from 5 pm to 7 pm (the public can shoot from 3 p.m. until 5 pm) and our meeting following. We can also use the clubhouse for our meeting, but must continue to abide by **COVID** guidelines by wearing masks while inside. **However, we will still be meeting on Mondays, and we will NOT be providing food.**

For the first time ever, we will be conducting **BOTH** an in-person meeting at Kenmore, along with a virtual showing of our program on **WA Turkey Hunting** by guide **Matt Stevens**. **Matt's** past presentations at our meetings have made for some of the highest attendance ever, and because numerous members of other Chapters have shown great interest in his programs (some traveling long distance mid-week to attend), we decided to try and use **Kenmore's WiFi** capabilities to bring **Matt's Power Point Presentation** to **ALL Members** of **ALL Chapters** virtually, beginning at 7 pm on Monday, March 22nd. The **WebEx** details to join the presentation are set forth and linked below.

WebEx Meeting Details

February Chapter On-Line Meeting
Monday, March 22, 2021, 7:00 pm

<https://jamesono.my.webex.com/jamesono.my/j.php?MTID=m86e82a288257f2d832a09c656c88f1fb>

Meeting number: **182 273 4907**

Password: **WAduck** (923825 from phones and video systems)

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Access code: **182 273 4907**

Matt has not been in front of our group in over two (2) years, where his past presentations — on turkey hunting, predator hunting, and bow hunting for elk — have been some of the more popular programs ever for the enjoyment of our Chapter members. Now with this virtual presentation, **WWA** members from **ALL Chapters** from **ALL over the State** can watch **Matt's** presentation and participate in a Question/Answer format after the program.



Then-14-year-old Sam Stevens used his father Matt's tips and techniques to take this Trophy Turkey in 2018!

Please consider donating to the club to help cover the cost of the in-person meeting, as we do pay a fee to keep the facility open for members-only shooting.

Many thanks to **Martha Jordan**, head of the **Northwest Swan Conservation Association (FB Page Linked Here); (Website Linked Here)**, for her very informative Presentation at our February 24th online meeting regarding an update on Swans and Snow Geese in Washington.

For those of you who missed **Martha's** presentation about this year's swan and snow goose migration, the recording of the presentation can be found below at the **Webex link immediately below:**

Recording link: [https://jamesono.my.webex.com/jamesono.my/ldr.php?](https://jamesono.my.webex.com/jamesono.my/ldr.php?RCID=0e2e42d009bb4bbb9074451775710be8)

[RCID=0e2e42d009bb4bbb9074451775710be8](https://jamesono.my.webex.com/jamesono.my/ldr.php?RCID=0e2e42d009bb4bbb9074451775710be8)

Password: **sZ686hb9**

(Continued on **Page 4**)

Duck Nesting Maintenance

During the last two (2) weeks of February, the **Seattle Chapter** checked and refurbished duck nesting sites in **Bellevue, Stillwater, Cherry Valley, and Issaquah.**

Chapter Artificial Nest Chair, **Bob Hazelbrook** led a group of Chapter members including **Kelly Salvage, Sean Williams, Trevor Morris, and Todd Wisecarver** at the **Stillwater Unit** of the **Snoqualmie Wildlife Area.** The group checked 27 boxes at this site, cleaned them, and replenished the nesting material. A total of 21 of the 27 boxes at the site appeared to be successfully used.

Chris German helped us coordinate with a local **Woodinville Boy Scout Troop.** **Bob Hazelbrook** and **James Ono** met **Chris** and the rest of the **Boy Scout** volunteers at the **Cherry Valley Unit** of the **Snoqualmie Wildlife Area.**

The **Boy Scouts** and their parents were a great group to share this outdoor experience with. They asked great questions and were really excited to get out there and help with some “hands-on” conservation.

Unfortunately, due to the water levels at the site, we were only able to check six (6) boxes. One contained 8 unhatched eggs; another had a starling nest; but the remaining four (4) boxes appeared to have hosted successful Wood Duck hatches!



Bob Hazelbrook (back to camera in chest waders) enables some Woodinville area Boy Scouts to get some “hands-on” conservation experience at the Cherry Valley Unit of the Snoqualmie W.A.

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Thanks to directions from **WWA Member Brett Stark** who originally established artificial nesting structures within the city limit of Bellevue, **Frank Lyman, Frank Lee, and James Ono** met at the Mercer Slough Nature Park. One of the 2 Wood Duck Nest Boxes is broken beyond repair. The other was overgrown with branches and had been used by some sort of mammal.

See the picture of the nest with fur and bones in it on the adjacent **Page 5.**

*(Seattle Chapter News Continued on **Page 5**)*

Seattle Chapter News Continued

We removed the leaves and mammal nest and added fresh nesting material.

The two (2) nesting tubes were in decent condition, but showed no signs of nesting. We refreshed the tubes with fresh hay. It has been a number of years since these nests had been checked so hopefully next year we will be able to see some utilization.

The final site we serviced was at the **Emily Darst Park** within the city limits of **Issaquah**. **John Arrabito** led the work party and was joined by **Frank Lee, Frank Lyman, Sean**



Mammal Nest



Frank Lee holding the ladder for Trevor Morris servicing a Wood Duck Nest Box within the city limits of Issaquah.

Williams, James Ono, Trevor Morris, and Janelle Morris. One of the next boxes will need to be repaired, another appeared to have been nested in by a squirrel. We also added a new box. We refreshed 2 of the 3 nesting tubes and the 3rd appears to be gone. This site has also not been serviced in years and has struggled in the past. We will monitor for the next couple years and evaluate how viable the site is.

Since we found a number of boxes that need repair and the locations of some of the boxes need to be relocated, we will be doing a box build soon and organize more work parties for later in the summer.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, we wouldn't have been able to do it without you.

Waterfowling 101

Waterfowling 101 will be an introduction to waterfowl hunting that we would like to initiate in the near future. We hope to create a multi-day seminar to help teach new hunters some of the basics of waterfowl hunting. In order to make this happen, we need a group effort to put together a curriculum. This could be an amazing way to introduce new waterfowlers to the sport, encourage sportsmanlike behavior in the field, and show people the value of **WWA** membership. If you would like to be a part of the team that helps put this together, please reach out to **James Ono** at

ohnoitsono2009@hotmail.com.



Frank Lyman cleaning up the final approach to a Nest Tube in Issaquah.

News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By: Doug Hargin

Recap of Virtual Chapter Meeting February 25th

We had our first meeting of the year last month. The **WebEx** platform seemed to work well and we had a decent turn out. We'll do an encore online Chapter meeting on March 24th beginning at 7 pm.

In February we had two speakers join us on short notice for the meeting. **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** Manager, **Juliette Fernandez** spoke briefly to introduce herself and recap the Youth and Veteran Hunt as well as thank **WWA** for our work and support of the refuge.

Martha Jordan, Executive Director of the **Northwest Swan Conservation Association** gave an interesting presentation on **Trumpeter** and **Tundra (Whistling) Swans** in the Northwest. **Martha** has been interested in swans most of her life as a wildlife biologist. She also updated us on the exploding numbers of snow geese in eastern Washington and **Boardman OR**, as well as the **Ridgefield/Sauvie/Shillapoo** areas. You can learn more about her organization [at nswans.org linked here.](http://nswans.org)

Shillapoo Wood Duck Box Work Party

On **Saturday March 6th** our chapter successfully cleaned out and refurbished duck boxes in the **Vancouver Lake area of**



Dino Mastri cleaning out Nest Box #48

Shillapoo. Thanks to **Shillapoo Wildlife Area Manager Daren Hauswald, Ted Blade, Doug Hargin, Dino Mastri and Justin Roberts** (he drove down from Shelton to help out) for their help. Thanks for the extra effort **Justin!**

Send Stories or Suffer, lol

Last month it was **Nutria**. This month it's only this snow goose article from fellow **LC Chapter** member **Bob Taylor** that saved you from my story on **Coots**. However, it's still waiting in the wings for April's Newsletter unless I get some other member's more relevant content. lol

On a more serious note, we need/want your input for the **WWA Newsletter**. Hunting stories, unusual experiences and/or photos. New tech help and gear, advise and ideas you can share, experiences hunting other venues. Whatever would interest you to read about in this Newsletter. Submit them to dlhargin@msn.com. Thanks!

It's the Gunner, Not the Gun!

By: Bob Taylor

During the veterans' and military hunt last February 6th, pup **Skye** and I headed out for an area of the **Shillapoo Wildlife Management Area** just west of the City of Vancouver, WA for what we thought would be a terrific hunt. We had hunted this same location a year ago and were treated to flights of about 200 ducks and great numbers of geese, so our hopes were high.

In anticipation of close-range ducks over decoys I was armed with a **CZ 28-gauge side-by-side** whose stock I've sanded to fit, since I'm a left-handed shooter. I choose this gun because it's the one I now shoot most accurately. For the geese, I intended toting a 13-pound old **Ithaca Mag-10**, a real cannon. I had **#5 copper plated Boss bismuth** cartridges for the 28 and #10, T-sized steel shot for the cannon.

Since the location I choose was a long hike from any road but near a small river, I hauled a bunch of dekes out the day before with my boat. At "0 Dark Hundred Hours" on the 6th, **Skye** and I hiked the couple of miles from the road and, with great expectations, began setting the dekes out. Once legal shooting time neared, I loaded the 28 then discovered to my chagrin that the other gun bag I'd toted contained my old **12-gauge Parker** instead of the **Mag-10**. Since neither 10 nor 28-gauge shells do well in a **12-gauge Parker**, my only weapon was the 28-gauge peashooter! Oh well, the pup and I settled in for some close shots.

(Continued on Adjacent **Page 7**)

Photo courtesy of Frame To Frame — Bob and Jean — 2017 Ontario, Canada



It's the Gunner...

At first legal light the peashooter terminated the flight of an incoming duck which, of course, turned out to be a pintail hen. After that, in great contrast to the previous year, we went an hour and a half without seeing another bird even at great distance. What a disappointment!

Throwing in the towel at about 10:00 am, I unloaded the little CZ and started the long trek back to our truck, after which I'd have to bring the boat and retrieve the dekes. As we approached the truck, we heard a noise like a football crowd and, as we turned the last corner of our trail, came across a sight to behold. There in a large cornfield were thousands of snow geese! There were so many the field did indeed look like it was covered with snow! Some birds were always in the air, wheeling around and rejoining the flock.

Feverishly dumping the rest of the gear, I reloaded the 28, hoping for a close-up jump-shot. On my knees, the pup and I inched through the mostly knocked down cornstalks to within about 40 yards of the flock but then had to stop as the nearest birds were all looking our way with necks up. Waiting with bated breath (yes, that's the correct spelling, lol) for the flock to inch closer or for some wheeling birds to fly over us proved fruitless.

After about a half hour of cramped and freezing legs, I decided to take one shot as soon as one of the birds came within about 40 yards of us. When one finally did, I

focused on its head and fired the peashooter. To my total amazement, the bird folded and hit the ground with a thud! As Skye was making the easy retrieve, I stared at my little CZ in wonder. Did my 28 really do that?!

Upon inspection, it turned out that the center of my shot-string had perfectly nailed the bird's head, one bb even penetrating its brain. A pretty lucky shot as I struggle with a shotgun, but **Skye** and I will take it!

Of course, the moral of this story is that a well-placed shot is much more important than gauge, shot size, and shot density. If the shooter misses the bird, none of that stuff much matters!

Of course #2, I forgot to take pictures of the truly amazing snows, so you'll have to imagine the sight with this stock photo.



Skye and the Peashooter!

WWA Hunter Mentor Program

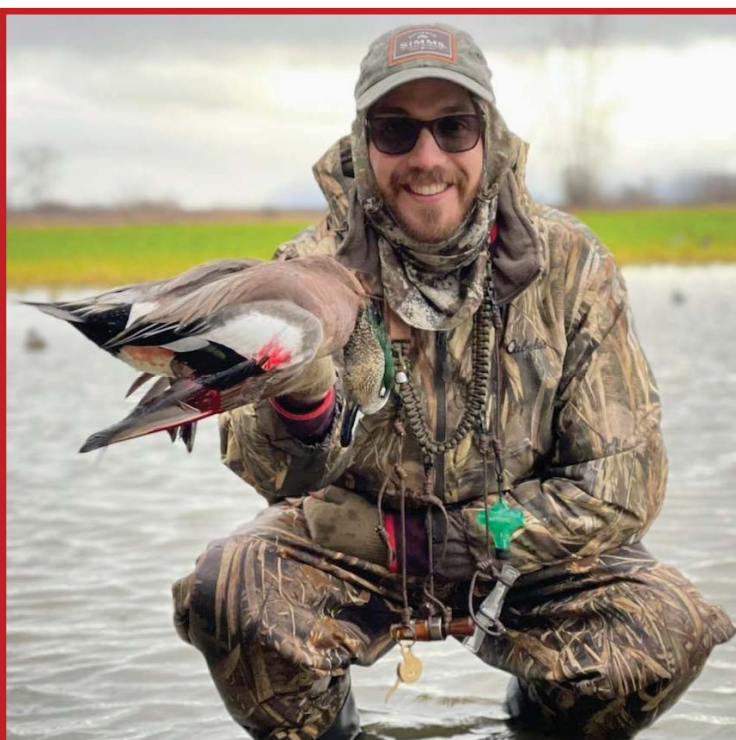


Photo by Sean Williams

This year the **WWA** piloted a mentor program that pairs new members with more experienced hunters in an effort to help show new hunters the ropes and also get members into the field together. This year we matched 10 new hunters with a mentor. The feedback we have received has been great. We are so grateful to all of our mentors who stepped up and to our new members for getting involved. If you are interested in this program for next season, please reach out to **James Ono** or **Ramon Guel**.

We recently asked our participants to share a little about their experience with the programs and any stories they had from the season. Here are a couple highlights.

Sean Williams – Mentor, Tim Tinghino



The year 2020 marked the beginning of my journey as a huntsman. And what a year it has been! With several new friends, a freezer full of ducks, and a foundational knowledge of waterfowling, I'm incredibly thankful for the opportunity made possible by the **Washington Waterfowl Association**. The year 2020 will forever live in my memories as the beginning of a long-awaited pursuit – waterfowl hunting! I hope each year continues to afford me the same level of joy, passion, and camaraderie that I experienced through the **WWA** mentorship program.

A few short weeks afterward being enrolled I met my **Seattle Chapter** mentor, **Tim Tinghino**, at the **Kenmore Shooting Range**. With my father's old **Supermatic Deluxe 20 gauge** in hand, my hunting journey began! We went out almost every weekend chasing ducks. I missed a lot, but ultimately nailed my fair share. But through each hunt I gained a new set of skills and perspective that have helped shape my philosophy about waterfowl hunting. Between learning how to setup a spread, reading the weather, predicting the movement of birds, identifying species in flight, and respecting the harvest, I finished this year with a situational awareness that **YouTube** just can't teach.

What would have taken years of failing on my own, I learned from **Tim** in a single season. I hope the **WWA** continues to provide this opportunity to new waterfowl hunters. Waterfowling needs a community that is willing to go the extra mile. Breaking down barriers and providing opportunity is how the **WWA** made me a waterfowl hunter.

I look forward to starting next year's season with a little more grit, a greater appreciation for wild birds, and confidence in my abilities. Thanks **Washington Waterfowl Association!**

— Sean Williams

(Continued on Adjacent **Page 9**)

WWA Hunter Mentor Program Continued

Mark Anderson – Mentor, Dino Mastrì

We were able to navigate work and family commitments and got in a couple of public land hunts in the books — one of which included a fantastic shot by **Mark** resulting in a Taverner’s goose.

This year I'm looking forward to using **Mark's** enthusiasm to get me more motivated and get him on the birds.
--Dino Mastrì

I also had a great time with **Dino** and like he said, we had some trouble navigating work and home life to get out a lot, but we were able to make a couple of hunts work. Now we need to figure out some time to meet up and make plans for 2021!
--Mark Anderson



(L-R) Jacob McGovern, Mentee Matt Reat, and Seattle Chapter Mentor Paul McGovern.



Kelly Savage, Mentee of Seattle Chapter Mentor John Hanson shows off a pintail to John’s Brittany Spaniel, Russ.



Mentee Mark Anderson

News for the Flock

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

Well, its officially over in Washington State. We have put another waterfowl season behind us, and now it's time to look forward. New decoys, blinds and boats. Maybe a new shotgun. Jacket?

I see a lot of comments and questions on Facebook about which jacket to buy to keep us dry. There are a lot of them available to us now as technology answers to the demand. I always reply that the simplest way to go is "the way to go." I use a \$35 Ruff-Duck brand that I bought from Service Saw in Chehalis many years ago. It's a coated nylon jacket that has little in the way of insulating quality. It's got the old school camo in green. AND, it keeps me as dry as any \$450 jacket. It doesn't interfere with my shooting and



Last Chance! The drawing for the Canada Goose carving donated by Brian Blake will take place on April 1, 2021 (winner responsible for any shipping costs). The body is hollowed and made from cedar beams salvaged from the Bay City whaling station, and the detachable head is carved from Alaskan cedar. All proceeds from the drawing will be donated to Seattle Children's Hospital. Raffle tickets at \$1 each are still available. Mail to: Cedarville Farms, 15 White Oak Lane, Oakville, WA 98568 or email Jon McAninch at: cedarvillefarms@aol.com for more information.

does NOT gain weight when wet. I can layer (like the days of past) to keep warm and if for some reason I lose or destroy it I'm not out a bunch of money. My friend Jon McAninch uses a neoprene jacket from a company called High and Dry. He likes it as good as I like my Ruff Duck. I may get one of those in the future.

Our last chapter meeting did not go as planned. We only had five (5) of us brave the outdoors to attend, so we sat around for an 90 minutes and solved all the world's problems. No minutes or reports were read, but we did talk about the future of hunting and shooting.

I would like to throw in a plug for the **Evergreen Sportsmen's Club**. This Club has always supported the **WWA** by giving us the "range" when we needed it, and they donate their facility to our Chapter nine (9) times a year for our business meetings! The **Club** is in great shape but the darn government restrictions that are blamed on the virus has put a dent in their income. Now would be a great time to re-new your membership or join as a new member. You can check out their schedule for shooting trap and sporting clays on their website; <https://shootevergreen.com/> Check out and like them on Facebook too. <https://www.facebook.com/shootevergreen/> both linked above.

The "Union River Blind Project" Update

We have at this time \$1,425 donated and pledged for the project! Once again, I am in awe at the generosity of the waterfowlers! You always come through for the conservation of waterfowl and for fellow waterfowlers! I recently sent out an update to the team, and soon I will be sending out the same update to those that volunteered to help out and to the many donors.

One point I would like to make about it here is that there is only \$350 of **ALEA (Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account)** grant money available to this project — barely enough to replace or repair the anchor chains for the two (2) floating blinds. SO, I have split the Project into three (3) phases. Phase 1 will be funded by the current beg-a-thon that I'm doing. Phase 2 hopefully will be funded by a future grant from the state Duck Stamp Fund OR another **ALEA** grant!

Many thanks to all the WWA individual members and **WWA** Chapters that have donated! We could not get these projects done without you all.

Next Meeting Date

Our next Chapter meeting is scheduled for April 1st at the **Evergreen Sportsmen's Club**, 7:00 pm sharp. Hope to see many of you there.

News for the Flock

NW Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

March Chapter Meeting

Our guest speaker at the March chapter meeting was **Rob Wingard** — **WDFW Private Lands Manager and Biologist for Region 4**.



Rob provided the attendees with information on the **Private Lands hunting Program**.

https://privatelands.wdfw.wa.gov/private_land/.

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,
- Hunt by reservation, and
- Hunt by Written Permission.

Rob shared information on sites within **Snohomish**, **Skagit** and **Whatcom** counties, including some of the new sites introduced in the 2020 season and an overall increase in register to hunt site utilization. Feedback on some of the sites was provided by chapter members.

Rob gave us a forward look at some of the planned enhancements to the program and how the program is currently financed through the **Farm Bill** for site access contracts with land owners and **Duck Stamp** funding for foraging crops planted. Foraging crops by acreage planted

for the 2020 season on the west side include 40 acres in the **Bayview/Edison** area; 30 acres in **Snohomish County**; and 30 acres in **Whatcom County**.

Rob fielded some excellent questions from the members. Some site access issues and hunter utilization problems were brought forward by members and acknowledged by **Rob**, who looked for feedback and ideas on methods to resolve.

Thank you Rob for attending the chapter's meeting and sharing the **Private Lands Program** information with us.

April Chapter Events

The **NW Chapter** will be engaged in our annual cleanup effort at various **Skagit Wildlife Area** units. Some of these sites currently hold a significant amount of water. Wildlife Area employees are monitoring the water levels. Once the areas drain off we will schedule the cleanup activities.

Mandatory Reporting Deadlines

Don't forget to report your waterfowl harvest!!

Sea Duck, SW Canada Goose, Snow Goose and Brant due by March 20, 2021.

You must report hunting activity on your harvest record cards to WDFW using the online reporting system at: fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/, or

by mailing the cards to:

**WDFW
Wildlife Program - Waterfowl Section
P.O. Box 43141
Olympia, WA 98504.**

Reports need to be postmarked by the reporting deadlines even if you did not harvest any birds.

The **Northwest Chapter** meets on the second Wednesday each month at the **Twin Cities Sportsmens Club** in Stanwood. Trap at 6:00 pm and Business meeting starting at 7 pm. Raffle at the end of each meeting. See you there and bring a friend. Support your passion – get involved

Rick Billieu

rgbillieu@frontier.com

See and like our Facebook page **Northwest Washington Waterfowl Association** at:

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

News for the Flock

Southwest Chapter News

By Bruce Burns

WA State Duck Calling Contest is on for 2021

The Southwest Chapter Duck Calling Contest Coordinator WWA Board member Nathan Neideigh has been officially notified that the **2021 World Duck Calling Championship** once again will be held this year in Stuttgart, AR. So we are back in the planning mode at this time. Working towards sending a WA representative to that event, the **Washington State Sanctioned Duck Calling Contest** will be held at the **Sumner Sportsmen's Club** on August 7, 2021. There will be more information coming in the near future.

I have been in contact with the **Tacoma Sportsmen's Club** and they are open for business. So the Southwest Chapter will be holding our first in-person meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 beginning at 6:30 pm in the **Education Building**. You can come out early and shoot a round of trap or skeet plus the kitchen will also be open if you want to have dinner there. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

WWA Hoodies Still For Sale

We still have WWA Hoodies available to buy at only \$35 each (See photos below). If anyone wants one contact me via my email at bwburns36@gmail.com. Payment would be by check made out to: **WWA-Southwest Chapter** and mailed to.

Bruce Burns
P.O. Box 1429
Buckley, WA 98321

Moses Lake Chapter News

By Dick Price

I have completed an **ALEA (Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account)** grant request for \$33,000 for a habitat improvement project at the **Royal Lake** complex. This project will tag along with a Stamp & Print money request by **WDFW** for the removal of Russian olive trees on the site. The project will be funded in the 2021-2023 funding cycle.

Once that is done the **ALEA** grant will be used to purchase spray and tillage work to eliminate non-native vegetation in the area and replant native grasses and forbs.

This will be followed by the planting of 3,000 native shrubs to provide nesting cover and winter food.



Tacoma Sportsmen's Club

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



WWA Hoodies, Gray Front



WWA Hoodies, Green Back

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 **February 2021 Newsletter**.

WWA General Fund — \$1,533

WWA Habitat Fund — \$1,140

WWA Heritage Lands Fund — \$11,077

WWA Legal Fund — \$19,753.52

WWA Youth Fund — \$2,610

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

TWIN RIVERS BIRD TAXIDERMISTRY

Base 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!

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

- One duck mount is \$300. Was on sale for \$240
- One goose mount is \$450. Was on sale for \$400
- One pheasant mount is \$250. Was on sale for \$210

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. Pen ink can bleed onto the bird.
- 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.



loran.navarro@yahoo.com

970-988-4717

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

WWA Legislative News

WA Legislative Report

By Mark Pidgeon

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)**.

Last Minute News Flash: From our lobbyist Tom Echols - **HB 1375 – the crazy animal-rights bill that uses COVID as an excuse to ban mink farms, ban fur farms, and ban the production of fur – is DEAD for 2021. Unfortunately it will be pushed hard in 2022 under a different bill number. It pays to have a great lobbyist in Olympia. Thank you for your efforts, Tom!**

We have come to the halfway point in session and we have passed three (3) major cut-offs, February 15 House of Origin Policy Committee cut-off; February 22 House of Origin Fiscal Committee cut-off; and March 9 House of Origin floor cut-off. This means that all bills that were introduced have to be passed out of the chamber they were introduced in by March 9 or they are considered dead. The only exemptions are budget related items.

As I mentioned in the last month's **WWA Newsletter**, I feel that **SB 5159**, the **PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes)** bill, is the most important bill to hunters this legislative session. I thought that there may have been some hard sailing for the bill since **Senate Ways and Means Chair Senator Christine Rolfes of Kitsap County** was not a fan of the **PILT** bill, but **SB 5159** passed the state senate on third reading 47 - 2, with **Senator Rolfes** being one of the two (2) dissenting votes. It is now sitting in the **House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources**, where it is scheduled for a March 17th hearing. Passage of this bill would keep **WDFW** from being at war with rural counties when they buy land for rec purposes.

Hunting Bills Shut Out

Neither one of the two excellent hunting bills ever

got a hearing, and both died. **HB 1185** which would have given discounted hunting licenses to seniors 70+ died with the February 22 House of Origin Fiscal Committee cut-off, and **SB 5187**, which exempts a non-profit gun club from paying sales tax on clay targets on activities that they are charging a fee, died for the same reason.

Another bill that died with the March 9 House of Origin floor cut-off is **HB 1261** — a really interesting bill because of its background. **HB 1261** would have doubled the non-reporting penalty for hunters from \$10 to \$20, but this was **NOT** a piece of agency request legislation. Someone in a sportsman's club requested their legislator sponsor this and **Representative Brad Klippert of Kennewick** is great friend of the **HHC** and of the overall hunting community, is an outstanding legislator. This legislation puts everyone in a bad spot, because if you oppose it, you oppose increased reporting, yet hunters that don't report, still won't report, so you're not going to increase reporting by that much.

One bill that passed with overwhelming support is **SB 5146**, which authorizes the **WDFW Commission** to indemnify the United States and its agencies as a condition of securing federal funds for purposes of fish, shellfish, and wildlife projects. Certain federal agencies may require indemnification language in their contracts. For example, the **United States Army Corps of Engineers** requires indemnification for damages arising from the design, construction, and operation of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects. This bill passed the state senate unanimously on February 23rd by a 49 - 0 vote!

Since **HB 1375** ultimately died (**See News Flash Box above**), I'll spare you the majority of my anger about how the bill still got a hearing on March 10th in the House equivalent of the Natural Resources Committee — **AFTER** the three cut-off dates have already passed! The **House Democrats** — the party in power, who sets the cut-off dates — didn't even play by the rules that they set for the Legislature to be run by.

It is a travesty that this bill was even heard! This bill was such a poorly written, garbage of a bill, and to pander to the animal-rights (**AR**) community like that is sickening. The **AR** people from around the world came to submit comments. The bill did contain an exemption for taxidermy, but this bill, while it doesn't affect hunting, we have to support our allies in the trapping and ranching communities. This bill should never have received a hearing! But Rejoice — It's **DEAD** for now!

Legislative News Continued

Keep the Pressure on Re: Your Preference for Appointments to the WDFW Commission



Rylan Weythman (left) with Mitch Myers

Washington Outdoorsmen and women are still waiting for the **Governor Inslee's** final appointment to the **Fish and Wildlife Commission**, so there is still time to voice your preference for **Rylan Weythman**, via the online portal listed at the end of this post introducing him.

Support one of our own. Support someone who has sat in the same blinds, glassed the same clear cuts, fished the same holes, and, more importantly, who shares the same core values as the Washington Hunting and Fishing Community.

It also wouldn't hurt to mention that Governor Inslee's two most recent appointments to the **WDFW Commission**, were specifically in violation of state law; more specifically in violation of RCW 77.04.040 linked [here](#).

RCW 77.04.040 was put in place to keep balance on the **Commission**, so all Washingtonians have a fair shot at enjoying the outdoors. The Commission is the **Citizens'** representation on wildlife management.

Please help restore "fair citizen" representation on the **WDFW Commission**. **Support Rylan Weythman!**

Rylan is an avid hunter and fisher, and not just waterfowl but also big game, turkey, and upland birds. His personal background gives him unique personal knowledge of both sides of the Cascades. He and his wife **Sara**, a school teacher, currently live in Okanogan County, after spending the better part of the last 10 years in King County.

He was raised and schooled near **Wenatchee** -- specifically **Cashmere** -- where he spent most of his summers (and more) fishing for salmon on the nearby **Columbia River**. He left **Cashmere** to go to college and law school in California. In 2012 he returned to Washington and is currently a Partner at the prominent law firm of **Foster Garvey**, where he is a litigation attorney.

Rylan is a very attractive Commission candidate because in one sole appointment he is the perfect replacement for **Dave Graybill**, who was from **Wenatchee**, and **Rylan** would maintain representation of that part of the state on the Commission. Take a few moments to express your support of **Rylan** to the **Fish and Wildlife Commission** using the following WA State Government portal.

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/boards-commissions/recommend-applicant>

Click on **Fish and Wildlife Commission**, then follow the prompts. When it asks for **Rylan's** email address, he has given his consent to use his business email at:

Rylan.Weythman@Foster.com



WDFW News Briefs

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.



OLD SKAGIT GUN CLUB
 14933 Josh-Wilson Rd
 Burlington WA 98233
 (360) 757-4326



Dane Widen
 (360) 424-9234
 dw687eell@msn.com



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

Spokane Chapter News

By: Ramon Guel

The Wood Duck Nest Box clean up is tentatively scheduled towards the end of April! We need all hands on deck for this. Please email me if you are able to help out with this work party at the **Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)**.

Spokane Chapter Chair Keyth Phothivongsa will be reaching out to the chapter directly to start up meetings soon. Watch for those emails as well. Thanks!

Whatcom County Chapter News

By: Lyle Galloway

On Saturday, March 6, 2021 we had a handful of guys show up to work on and refurbish the blinds at Lake Terrell, including **Seattle Chapter member Paul McGovern** who made the trek up to join us and to scout for next year for a new place to hunt for he and his two boys, **Jacob** and **Dylan**.

Unfortunately I didn't get any pics nor know of anybody else that did, and I was the last one off the lake... Bummer!

We got 15 blinds cleaned out. Most of the blinds need serious repair as well because most are 20+ years old.

After the goose hatch we hope to spend some more time out there, and I promise to bring my camera. If you want to join us, contact me at: lylegalloway55@gmail.com.

Tri-Cities Chapter

Yakima Valley Chapter

No News This Month

News For the Flock

Thoughts & Prayers for a Long Time WWA Supporter and his Son

About a month ago **Jack Otto**, the 15-year-old son of **John Otto and Toni Halligan Otto** suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury and ever since has been in an Intensive Care Unit of an Everett Hospital fighting for his life. The family could use your positive thoughts and energy — and for those so inclined, your prayers!

You can follow **Jack's** progress in a daily blog posted by his mother on her **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/toni.h.otto> linked above, or a thread started on the **WA Refuge Forum** by **Mitch Myers** linked [here](#).



News For the Flock

Food For Thought

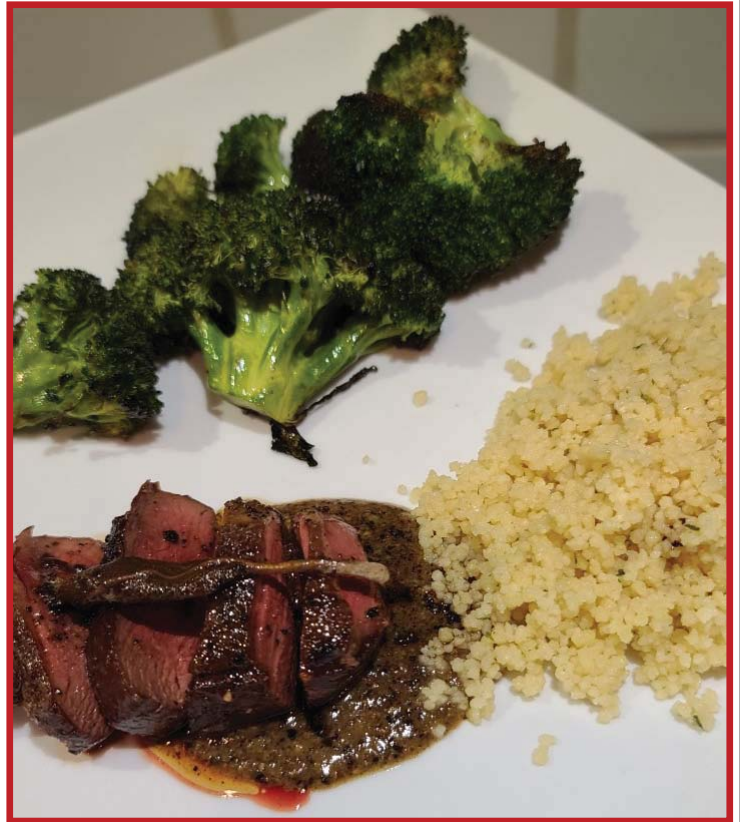
By Timothy Tinghino

Up Your "Game" with an Easy Pan Sauce for Duck Breast

So you just seared a duck breast to a perfect medium rare. It's now on the cutting board resting and you think how can I up my "game." How about making a pan sauce? This is a simple way to change up the flavors to your dish and compliment the tasty duck.

- Once your breast is seared remove the excess oil from the pan.
- Next you will deglaze the pan with a half cup of stock. Chicken stock or your homemade wild game stock will work best. Make sure to scrape up all the brown bits from the pan. It will add flavor and make cleaning the pan so much easier.
- Add a tablespoon of good mustard (stone ground or brown. **NOT** yellow).
- Whisk in the mustard. Once mixed well, whisk in a tablespoon of butter.
- Season to taste.
- Add a spoonful of the pan sauce to your plate and sliced duck breast on top.
- Enjoy.

If you have a recipe you would like to share in the Newsletter (monthly) and on our social media pages, please email: WAWaterfowlMedia@Gmail.com



Midnight Valley Labradors

AKC Registered Labrador Puppies
Excellent Breeding, Great Temperament,
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midnightvalleylabradors@gmail.com

Check out our website at:

<https://midnightvalleylabs.com>



Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

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.
- 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.

For Sale

Light Truck Tires — Four (4) LT 265/75R-16/10, *Les Schwab* Terramax, 40,000 mile warranty; only 5,711 miles, **\$400**
Contact Al, H 360-892-4479 or M 360-907-9244.

BACKWATER Longtail Mudmotor — 10 hp *Briggs and Stratton* motor. Like new, sell for **\$950** (1/2 of new).
Contact John, 406-752-2190

Winchester Model 12 in 12 Gauge, 28" Barrel, Modified Choke. Manufactured 1962, In good condition. Pictures upon request. Located in the Seattle Area despite phone area code. **\$600. Contact Matt, 865-441-0305** (text or call).

Ithaca Model Mag-10, 10Ga Magnum, Standard Grade Shot very little. Little bit of surface rust. **\$500**
Contact Tom, 206-619-1300

Winchester - Super X Model 2, 12 gauge 3-3 1/2" Black composite - 28" barrel, **\$500**
Contact Tom, 206-619-1300

Classic Belgium Browning A-5 "Humpback" in 12 ga. Magnum with rib and Full Choke, good condition. - **\$1200.**
Contact Robb, 206-909-7189

Remington Model 740 Woods Master 30-6 semi-auto with scope, Very Good Condition, **\$465.**
Contact Robb, 206-909-7189

Two (2) Decoy Carts — one with dual bicycle tires; one with dual balloon tires depending upon the terrain you have to traverse. **\$50 each.**
Contact John, 425-894-4080



2020/21 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print Order Form

The Washington Waterfowl Association is pleased to present the 2020
Washington State Migratory Bird Stamp and
Limited Edition Print.

Artist Timothy Turenne



Revenue received through this program will be used by the Washington Waterfowl Association and the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, to improve habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds in Washington.

To order your print(s) and accompanying stamps, please complete the application.

REMINDER TO LIFE MEMBERS

Order your 2020 prints now to secure your multi-years matching print numbers!

2020 Washington Migratory Bird Stamp Print Order Form

Please send me:



Quantity ____: unframed print(s) and stamp(s)

Quantity ____: frame for print & stamp



If available, the edition number(s) I would like are: _____

Please Ship Prints to:

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

I have included \$70.00 for each unframed print & stamp for a total of \$ _____.00

I have included \$175.00 for each framed print/stamp for a total of \$ _____.00

*Shipping and Handling \$ 10.00

Total Amount: \$ _____.00

-- Easier Yet --

Go to

<https://www.washingtonduckstamp.com/shop>

to place your order

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renew Online at www.waduck.org

By: Mark Pidgeon

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** at marpwwa@gmail.com or call 425-221-3986.

WWA Life Members

JOIN THE HERITAGE CLUB

\$500 Life Member; \$750 Sustaining Lifetime Member* H = Honorary Members

WADUCK.ORG

#1 Gary Talbert*	#2 Paul Bunn*	#3 Austin Addicoat*	#4 Rone Brewer*	#5 Fritz Kiemle*
#6 Jim Cortines*	#7 Neco Villella*	#8 Roger Bennett*	#9 Bruce Feagan	#10 Larry Gordon*
#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*
#21 Earl Mikkelson*	#22 US Rep Jamie Herrera-Beutler H	#23 Ken Packard*	#24 Jan Sabin*	#25 Lance Kintrea
#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 (2021)	#35 Reserved for BQT Presentation (2021)
#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*
#46 Analise Arrabito	#47 Robert Zeka	#48 Ron Watkins	#49 Ken Boyer	#50 Henry Field
#51 Ric Wray	#52 Rich Phillips	#53 Ross Barkhurst*	#54 Michael Bess	#55 In Memory of Anne Grichuhin
#56 Frank Gallo*	#57 David Irons*	#58 David Ragsdale	#59 Tim Koehler*	





Washington Waterfowl Association
Established 1945
501(c)(3) Tax Exempt

Consider Your Donation For

Heritage Lands



FARMLAND AND PUBLIC ACCESS PRESERVATION

The WWA is launching a private land/public access program called *Heritage Lands*. The goal is farmland preservation and public outdoor recreation opportunity, with the initial implementation in the Skagit and Stillaguamish River valleys.

DON'T let your Heritage Lands Turn from this into....



This Program will **Purchase Farmland, Preserve it, Conserve it, Promote it, Maintain it, and Manage it for Waterfowl and Public Hunting for you and the Next Generation.**

We need your personal, corporate, or in-kind commitment to help us exceed our goal of \$300,000! We currently have a benefactor that will match the first \$2,000. Contact Rone Brewer to donate (206) 595-7481.

Every Donation Helps! WWW.WADUCK.ORG

For additional information please contact:

Rone Brewer, (206) 595-7481
nwducks@frontier.com

Skagit Valley Photos
Courtesy of Dave Honan
www.davehonan.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
 - Life — \$ 500.00
 - Sustaining Life — \$ 750.00
 - Senior (65 or over) - \$ 15.00
 - 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** — 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 TBD.
- Northwest Chapter** meets year round the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the **Twin City Sportsmens Club**, 26933 64th Ave NW Stanwood.
- Seattle Chapter** meets the 4th Wednesday of the month (Jan – Oct) at **Kenmore Shotgun Range**, 1031 – 228th Street SW, Bothell.
- 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** – Dates and places TBD.
- Tri Cities Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.
- Whatcom County Chapter** meets the 1st Tuesday of the of the month (Jan – Nov.) at **Laurel Farm & Western Supply** in Bellingham.
- Yakima Valley Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.

Pay with a credit card from our website:

www.waduck.org

or

Mail with a check to:

WWA,
P.O. Box 40182
Bellevue, WA 98015

A few facts about the WWA:

- Established in 1945
- Non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
- 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.