

S O U T H S H O R E
WATERFOWLERS
A S S O C I A T I O N , I N C .



DECEMBER 2010

Web site: sswa.org

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

Wounded Warrior Project Dedicated

by Ron Sineo

The dedication for the Wounded Warriors Project of a handicapped-access duck hunting blind and fishing platform at Southaven County Park finally occurred on Monday, November 29th. This was a long time in coming. The SSWA began fund-raising more than two years ago to support this project. There were many obstacles to overcome, and many hurdles to leap, but the job finally was completed thanks to the efforts of many and the perseverance of a few. The ribbon cutting ceremony happened at 2pm on Monday, November 29th, officially opening the blind. Curt Matzinger, past president of SSWA, spoke on behalf of the SSWA as several SSWA members looked on. Officers John Adams, Ron Sineo, and Erik Tallbe were on hand as well. In all, about two dozen attended the ceremony. The Parks Commissioner Joseph Montouri, Deputy Parks Commissioner Tracey Bellone, and Principal Environmental Analyst Nick Gibbons were all present, as well as other County Parks and NYSDEC personnel, and members of the Suffolk County Sporting Advisory Council. During the ceremony, the Suffolk County Parks Commissioner presented the SSWA with a Proclamation signed by the County Executive, Steve Levy. Curt Matzinger accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the SSWA. As the ceremony was about to end, Mr. Montouri expressed a desire for more of this type of partnership regarding Suffolk County Parks and Sportsman's organizations like the SSWA, especially when the outcome would be to make the parks more user-friendly for County Residents.

This ceremony officially opened blind #9, and made it available for the rest of the duck hunting season. The SSWA invites all of its wounded Warrior friends, and other handicapped sportsmen and women to take advantage of this newly retro-fitted facility. The lottery for blind use occurs every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday during the duck hunting season. More information can be found by checking the Suffolk County Parks website, or by calling the Southaven Park Check Station at (631) 854-1414. Remember that a green Key Card is required.

Special congratulations and thanks to Curt Matzinger and John Adams for their efforts and determination to see this project come to fruition. Thanks to all the SSWA members who assisted over the past 2 year period to help make this project a reality.

Wounded Warriors Project — Phase 2

It was wonderful to see that the Southaven Park, Wheelchair accessible hunting and fishing platform has been completed and dedicated. It was great to see all the praises about the project, both from the warriors as well as all the people who attended the dedication. Wheelchair bound people are now able to benefit from the project, now for duck hunting as well as in the spring, summer and fall for fishing. (See above for more info.)

What we are trying to accomplish for phase II is to raise money for the bronze plaque that is to be mounted by the blind 9 platform, as well as a shadowbox that is to go up on the sign in cabin. Also we would like to get additional stuff to have on hand for the warriors to use. Anyone interested can make a donation to the SSWA. Send check to: Curt Matzinger 32 Magro Drive, N. Babylon, NY 11703. Another way is to attend the duck derby that the Long Island chapter of delta waterfowlers is having (see article). They are raising money for the wounded warriors. Phase II is underway and we can use your help. Thank you all.

Curt Matzinger

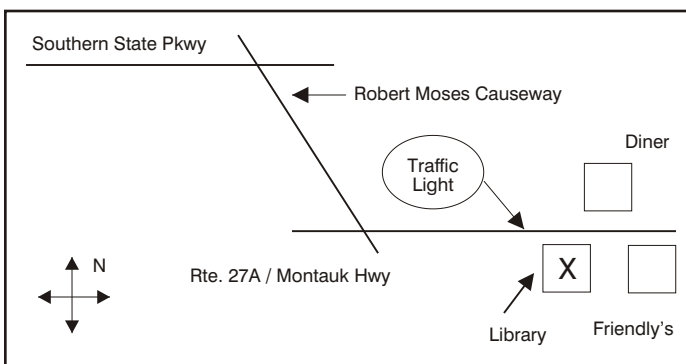
South Shore Waterfowlers

Voice of the Long Island Waterfowler

The South Shore Waterfowlers meet at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st Monday of each month from September through April. If the 1st Monday falls on a holiday, the meeting will take place on an alternate date (to be announced). (A library holiday is the same as a U.S. Postal holiday.)

Meetings are held on the first floor conference room of the Brightwaters/Bayshore Library located on Montauk Highway (Rte. 27A) in Brightwaters/Bayshore (see map below).

For additional information, please call John (631) 874-7459 or Ron (631) 862-8518.



South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

- President John Adams
631-618-5728
- 1st Vice President and
Membership Ron Sineo
631-862-8518
- 2nd Vice President. Richard Franks, Jr.
631-603-6295
- Secretary George Duguid
631-667-5886
- Treasurer Erik Tallbe
516-799-6613
- Sergeant at Arms, Newsletter Editor,
Duckboat Show Chairman, and
Club Dinner Chairman Curt Matzinger
631-661-0379

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!! Saturday, March 26, 2011

The 7th Annual SSWA (Curt Matzinger) Dinner at Fishermans Catch Restaurant in Point Lookout, from 6 to 10 p.m. Appitizer, salad, entree and dessert. Beer, wine and soda included, plus a chance to win a gun. All for only \$60.00 per person. Space is limited and we were at capacity last year. Call Curt at 631-661-0379 to reserve your seat and send a check made payable to: **SSWA** and mail to Curt Matzinger, 32 Magro Drive, N. Babylon, NY 11703. Remember to bring some items for the Chinese auction. We always have a good time.

Congratulations

The SSWA wishes to congratulate Kelly and Chip Hamilton on the birth of their son Frederick Browning Hamilton.

He was born on December 8 and weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. Hopefully we have a new duck hunter in our flock.

Best wishes to all the Hamiltons.

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The Duckboat Show Turns 30

by Curt Matzinger

Happy birthday to the Annual Duckboat Show and Waterfowl Festival. This was it's 30th year and what a year it was. We celebrated this year with the biggest and best show to date. We had the largest number of vendors, some underneath our new addition, a tent. Many thanks to John Ferguson for donating the tent for the show and setting it up. Dave Relyea donated this year's raffle main prize, a Southbay Duckboat, Mercury outboard and trailer. With this item, we were able to add much needed funds to our treasury. Thank you so much for this as we will be able to continue our programs, events, and projects. Andy Dively took the gun and the boat went to John Klesseraht. Special thanks goes to SSWA President John Adams. He donated the broadbill plaques for the duckboat winners: First Place and Best in Show.

The Benelli reps were on hand again to let everyone touch and fire their new toys for this year. Thanks to the Tallbe's for again manning the grill. We were also able to add some funds for the completion of Phase 1 of the Wounded Warriors Project (see p. 1).

The hit of the show again was Mike Marran's dock dog jumping contest. Even with his bad health, Mike put on a wonderful show and his 8 entrants were great. A super demonstration and contest. Everyone loves the dogs and they really stole the show. Best in Show was Chloe with his owner Pat.

I really want to thank everyone who came to the show to help out. They came from upstate NY, as far south as South Carolina. We even had some helpers come from Vancouver, Canada. I can't do this show without the members' help, and you really came through again. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU. I also really appreciate the broadbill plaque that was presented to me by John Adams, on behalf of the SSWA. It was the 30th Anniversary Best in Show award for my work as chairman. The fact that he and the members presented it to me really makes me feel appreciated. Thank you so much. I like being the chairman and running the event, but one man can't do it all by himself. So as long as the members keep volunteering to help out, the show will continue to happen for another 30 years. Thanks again to all that helped out.

Delta Waterfowl Duck Derby

by Rocco Castellano

What: Duck Hunt for Wounded Warriors

Where: All of Long Island

When: January 30, 2011

Ducks will be counted on a point system per hunter as follows.

DRAKES ONLY

Black Duck = 10 pts

Canvasback = 10 pts

Pintail = 8 pts

Scaup = 8 pts

Hoodies = 8 pts

Wood Duck = 7 pts

Mallards = 6 pts

Scoters = 6 pts

All Other Ducks = 5 pts

Geese = 2 pts

Ducks must be brought to American Legion Hall, Union Blvd. in West Islip no later than 7 pm. All ducks must be taken on day of event ONLY.

\$40.00 per hunter.

1st prize = gun

2nd prize = mount

3rd prize = gift certificate

Proceeds will go to the Wounded Warriors

Hunters will be able to enjoy some food and beverages included in the price.

Adult beverages will be available .

Contact Rocco at: 631-820-1253



Come join us to support the heroes

Attention All Broadbill Hunters

by Ron Sineo

The USFWS Refuge System Law Enforcement Division is trying to put together a National Collection of Waterfowl mounts which will be housed at the USFWS Training Facility in West Virginia. But it seems that they have had a lot of difficulty in collecting a pair of Greater Scaup for this display.

West Virginia is part of the Atlantic Flyway, and it just so happens that we seem to winter the most Greater Scaup in the flyway right here in the Great South Bay. It also seems that there are those in the USFWS who have heard of the SSWA.

As a result, the SSWA has been asked to help them collect the 2 specimens they need. Once collected for exhibit, the entire bird will be mounted, with the left wing prominently displayed, so both the drake and the hen need to be in good shape, with no broken primary feathers. We are asking all SSWA members who have opportunities to shoot broadbill to be on the look out for such quality specimens after they have reduced the birds to their bag. Participating in this effort will be another opportunity for the SSWA to earn a feather in its cap. If we are successful, It is likely that SSWA would be mentioned somehow by USFWS for its contribution.

If you shoot a drake or hen broadbill in good shape and wish to donate the bird for this worthy purpose contact me as soon as possible and I will make arrangements to pick up the bird. After you retrieve the bird, take some care with it by tucking its head under its wing and folding the wings back against its body so that all the feathers return to their natural position. Putting the bird head first into a plastic bag so that the plastic is tight to the body, will keep the feathers neatly in their place. Once this is done, the bird can be placed into the freezer and will keep indefinitely until it is picked up. Call Ron at (631) 862-8518.



A Summary of Some Fall Events

by Ron Sineo

Our club has a very busy and ambitious schedule each fall. Besides our monthly meetings, beginning in September the SSWA had a table at the Long Island Gun Show on Saturday and Sunday, September 18th and 19th. We staffed the table the entire weekend, sold some memberships and earned some money for our club as well as collected donations for our Wounded Warrior Project. It was a good weekend for our club.

The next weekend we participated in National Hunting and Fishing Day, which is an Island-wide event sponsored by SASI each year. This year it happened on Saturday, September 25th. We had a table there so that we could showcase the SSWA to all who passed by our table. We signed up a few new members, highlighted what our club is all about, and we even put a few dollars into our treasury. All in all, we had a successful day.

In October we were just as busy, with a long 2-day weekend at the Oyster Festival in Oyster Bay. We certainly got plenty of exposure for SSWA as thousands of people passed by our table during the 2-day expo. The Wounded Warrior Project was popular there, and we collected enough money to be able to finish paying for the materials required for that project.

The 30th Annual Duckboat show was also in October, and there is a separate report on page 3.

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Cleaning Your Shotgun

I'll bet, if you ask 10 guys how to clean a gun, and how often, and with what products, you will get 10 different answers!

So let's take a closer look at this business of cleaning a shotgun. To begin with, we must know what kind of shotgun it is, for this is surely going to impact what needs to be done. For example, a single-shot gun is probably the easiest of all to clean. Whether it is a break gun or a bolt-action type gun, there really isn't much to be done. Sure with both guns, the inside of the barrel needs attention, as does the chamber and bolt of a bolt action, and the "break area" or exposed surfaces of the break gun when the gun is open. This can be accomplished in no time, with a cleaning rod, wire brush, solvent and patches. If the gun is going to be stored for a while, it also needs a light coat of oil on the metal surfaces (inside and out) but remember to wipe off the excess oil before you use it. I think that the next easiest gun to clean is the traditional side by side or over and under double barrel. This is the same as the single shot break gun except that it has two barrels to clean instead of one. Again, this type of gun is not that difficult to deal with, and cleaning it is pretty straightforward.

The task gets a little more complicated with the pump gun, however, because there are so many more moving parts. Naturally, every time you handle a gun, your fingerprints should be wiped off and the metal parts lightly oiled, before you put it away. Although some advocates would demand that you thoroughly clean your gun every time you use it, this is probably not realistic. If we were just talking about taking the gun to the range every week and shooting clays, I think you could get away with a modest cleaning schedule. Pass a cleaning rod through the barrel every 100 rounds or so, without taking it apart, and then wipe off the outside, and lightly oil it. Additionally, break the entire gun down every 500 rounds or so. This includes taking off the forearm, removing the barrel, the bolt, the slide mechanism, and also the trigger assembly. Proceed to thoroughly clean all the moving parts. If you reload, your ammo probably fires dirtier than factory shells do, and you may have to clean your gun with greater frequency.

In general, the guns that require the most frequent care and cleaning are the semi-automatics. These guns, like the pump guns, have many more moving parts than the break guns. The pump guns have some advantage in that the first shell is ejected, and the second shell is loaded into the chamber by the manual pumping action. Even if the gun is a little dirty, you can often "muscle" past the dirt and still have the gun function. With semi-automatics, however, the acts of extraction and ejection of the first round and the loading of the second round, rely on either mechanical spring "recoil" action or gas "recoil" action. In both of these cases, when the moving parts become dirty, they have a tendency to stick, jam up, and not work smoothly. This will inevitably lead to gun malfunction. Semi-automatics, by and large, require the most frequent cleaning, and the most care.

When you buy a gun cleaning kit, there are general directions about how to use the cleaning rods, the wire brushes, and patches and so on. I don't intend to review those techniques here. Instead, I would like to advise that the duck hunter has to pay careful attention to his gun every time he uses it. Most hunters I know shoot a pump or semi-auto. As indicated, these guns have the most moving parts, and are more prone to malfunction when not cleaned properly. Even if you go hunting, and do not fire a shot, you have still carried your gun a field, or in a boat to the pond or salt marsh, and you have loaded and unloaded it. You have handled it. Your hunting partner may have handled it. You may have leaned it against the blind or the boat gunwale. Clearly, a case can be made to thoroughly clean your gun each and every time you use it when hunting!

This is not always practical, especially when you are going right out again the next day to do more hunting. Here's what I try to do every time out. I keep a field kit in my truck, along with a spare "roll-up" gun sock. I use a floatable, padded, gun case. And I take it with me into the blind or duck boat. The gun only comes out when I am ready to load and shoot it. I try to keep the case clean and dry at all times. When I am finished, I unload my shells and put them into the pocket of my hunting coat . . . NOT my shell box. When I get back to my truck, I work from the tailgate. I use WD-40 and generously spray the inside action, and the entire outside of the gun with it. I close the action and then wipe the WD-40 off the outside with a dry cloth. If my gun case got wet inside, I use the spare gun sock, instead of the case, to protect my gun until I get it home. Once home, if I don't break it down to clean it further, at least, I wipe down the gun with a silicone rag, and put it in my gun safe . . . EVEN if I am going hunting with it the next morning! I don't leave it in the hunting gun case overnight! (And I NEVER leave it in the truck overnight!) Then I take the shells out of my coat, and I spray the brass with WD-40, and wipe them off, before I put them back in my ammo box. WD-40 won't hurt the gun, and is a great temporary lubricant. It was developed (by NASA, I think) to be a water desiccant. It absorbs water, and hastens its evaporation, thus preventing rust. If you have noticed that your gun takes a beating when you go hunting, try some of the tips listed here. You may be pleasantly surprised with the result.

Ron Sineo

Membership Renewals

All renewals expire in September. Check the year of expiration on your newsletter label. Be sure to renew your membership to ensure that you are still an active member of the SSWA. Please include your e-mail address.

With your paid-up membership you will receive your quarterly newsletters and your log-in password which will enable you to access the member section of our new website. Pick up your new membership card and window decal at one of our meetings.

Your membership helps keep our organization strong and enables us to continue our projects.

Magazines for Veterans

Starting at the September Meeting, Curt will be collecting used hunting & fishing magazines and books for the VA Hospital in Northport. Please bring your used items to the meetings each month and I will get them to the men and women in the VA Hospital. I have been bringing mine for a while now, and it seems they are flying off the shelves. L.I. Fisherman, American Hunter, DU mags, etc. Read them and then bring them to the meetings. Your wives will thank you for getting them out of the house. The veterans really appreciate them.

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e-mail: _____ 2 years \$45.00

Telephone No.: (_____) _____ 3 years \$60.00

Quack's Tips

1. Never try to break serious ice when you are alone! (Serious ice is anything thicker than that clear "skim" ice).
2. With one man in the bow (for weight), go slowly, and ride the bow onto the ice, letting the weight of the boat break through it, stop the boat long enough to allow the bow man to use a paddle or iron bar to break up the big pieces on the sides of the boat.
3. Ride the boat slowly up onto the ice again, and repeat this process.
4. As the ice approaches 1½ inches thick, the weight of the boat alone may not do it. Then the bow man must work at a slow even pace to crack and break the ice in front of him. This is very strenuous work. It should never be done in haste because there are no do-overs. Life vests should be worn! and the bow man must be careful not to reach too far or hang over too far. Falling through ice can be a one-way trip.
5. If the ice is thicker than 1½ inches or so, it is probably better to put the boat back on the trailer and go get a cup of coffee at the diner! No duck is worth your life!
6. If you are at the launch ramp, and you have to break more than about 200 feet of ice to get to open water, don't launch the boat . . . it just isn't worth it.
7. If you plan on staying out a while, you have to be concerned about the trip back. On a really cold day, the broken ice will seal up behind you rapidly, and become even thicker than it was before. It is wise to take your time and clear the ice as thoroughly as you can. Break the huge chunks into smaller pieces and clear a path that is somewhat wider than the boat. When you have gotten to open water, turn the boat around and go back through the path you have cleared. This will give you a good sense of how fast the ice is reforming. If you have to break ice on your way back, you should probably pull your boat out of the water, because it will surely be all locked up by the time you planned to return.

Quack cautions that this is only the beginning of "ice safety." He says that whenever you are hunting in a tidal flow, moving ice can be very dangerous. Most of the time, there is more ice below the waterline than there is above it. The force of the currents is not to be fooled with. Fiberglass and home made duck boats are no match for tidal and current driven ice, and hulls can be pierced in a blink. Don't think that aluminum johnboats will fare much better either. What often begins as a simple chore to retrieve some decoys that have been picked up by the moving ice, can quickly escalate into a bad situation! Locally, we have regular tide changes. You can be stooled out in a "clear" spot for a couple of hours, when suddenly the tide reverses, and the ice flows begin. It is the smart hunter who knows when to call it quits for the day.

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— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- January 3** — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library
January 30 — Delta Waterfowlers Duck Derby (see p. 3)
February 5-13 — Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show, Harrisburg, PA
February 7 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library
February ?? — Antique Decoy Collectors Show, Patchogue (see SSWA.org for date)
March 7 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library
March 26 — 7th Annual SSWA (Curt Matzinger) Dinner, Point Lookout (see p. 2)
March ?? — Gun Show IBEW Local 25 Hall, Hauppauge (see SSWA.org for date)
April 4 — Last SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library



VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



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