

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 2011 Web site: sswa.org
P.O. BOX 217 • BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

*January meeting is Tuesday, January 3,
NOT Monday, Due to Library Closure*

9th Annual SSWA Dinner

Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 6-10 pm

Fishermans Catch Restaurant
Point Lookout, NY

\$60.00 per person

Limited number of seats. Call Curt today to reserve your seats.

The 9th Annual SSWA (Curt Matzinger) Dinner at Fishermans Catch Restaurant in Point Lookout, from 6 to 10 p.m. Appetizer, 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.

March 3rd Decoy Show Honors U.S. Nationals

The Antique Decoy Collectors Association is hosting it's Annual Decoy Show. It will be at the IBEW Local 25 Electricians Hall on Motor Parkway in Hauppauge. Each year the show displays a certain type or class of decoy. This year they will be displaying all types of decoys and memorabilia from the U.S. Nationals Decoy Show. The U.S. Nationals was the largest decoy competition in the United States in its time. The SSWA, or it's predecessor, the Great South Bay Waterfowlers, is the originator of this competition. It is one of our greatest achievements, and we are very proud of this event. MANY, MANY man hours went into the running of this event. Craig Kessler and many others are trying to collect items from this era to display at the show. I am also trying to document this event for our history, and try to copy/collect/archive items that are of historical value to the SSWA. If you have any winning decoys, posters, flyers, or other items about the U.S. Nationals, please contact me at 631-661-0379 and I will make arrangements to show/copy those items and get them back to you. Please look through your "Oldies but Goodies" and see if you have anything from the show to display. Let's try to make this event one that the SSWA can be really proud of. It's our history. Let's show it off!!!

Curt

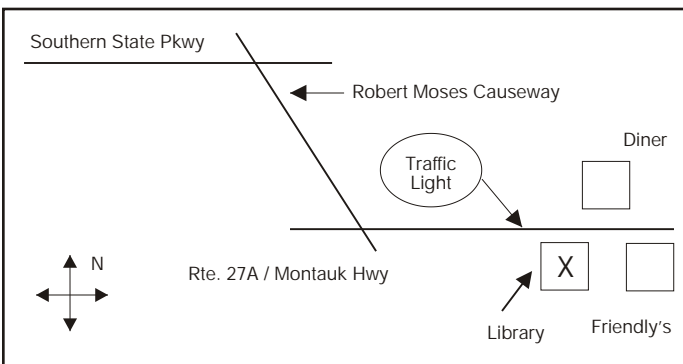
South Shore Waterfowlers

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, Historian,
and Club Dinner Chairman Curt Matzinger
631-661-0379

Duckboat Show Recap

This year's 31st Annual Duckboat Show and Waterfowl Festival turned out to be a surprise success. The day before started with high winds and driving rains. (Thanks again Erik Tallbe Jr. for all your help moving the tables with me and getting soaked.) Sunday dawned sunny but chilly with high winds. The results were a lighter than normal turnout at the gate, but the die-hard regulars still came to brave the winds and show off their boats, buy SSWA raffles and merchandise, and check out the vendor items. This helped the SSWA to raise the funds needed to run the club for the upcoming year. (A spring fundraiser should help to make up for the lighter than normal gate turnout.)

Congratulations to the Annual Raffle winners:

1st Jim O'Shea, 2nd Dan McNamara, 3rd Conrad Keydell, 4th Butchie Stroud, 5th Tom Focazio, 6th Nicholas Testut. Benelli Raffle winner was (the very happy) Rich Kopp. Bobby Dasch was not only the paintball winner, but he came in tied for 2nd for the sporting clays. What a very talented (or lucky) young man.

The Best in Show winner for a one-man grassboat was John Livote. A really nice homemade rig brought John this year's bragging rights to the coveted title. Great job John.

Mike Marran was on hand again for the coveted Dock Dog Jumping contest. Each year, people come to the festival to see the flying dogs leap off the floats. It really is something to see and is one of the most popular events of our show.

I would like to thank everyone who came down to Cedar Beach Marina to help out, the vendors who attended the show, and the supporters. Your help is what makes our show, and our club, such a great success. You braved the driving winds to help out. I can't thank enough Erik Tallbe Sr. and Jr., John Adams, Ron Sineo, and Tom Gresser for the prep work, both before, during, and after the show. The countless hours you put into our club is greatly appreciated by the members, but mostly by me. Thank you again everyone for making me look good.

Curt Matzinger

WANTED: 2012 Duckboat Show Food Vendor

I am looking for a member who has a contact with a food vendor, either a truck or a caterer who can provide food for next year's show. It would be so much easier if we had an outside source providing food, which would free up so much manpower the day of the show, as well as the days of prep before the show. Call Curt at 631-661-0379 and we can make an arrangements for next year. It's coming sooner than you think.

Hunter Ethics, Revisited

by Ron Sineo

Just what is really meant by *hunter ethics*? I think it means different things to different people. One thing is certain . . . there is an "ethic" out there to be considered. *In most cases, ethics has to do with obeying the law and doing the right thing.* Sometimes, doing both may seem to be in conflict. Here are a few examples:

SITUATION #1 It is 20 minutes before legal shooting time and you hear 2 shots. You immediately think 1) Lucky guy, he has ducks there already. 2) That guy could be ruining it for me by jumping the gun. 3) That guy is a jerk, and is giving hunters a bad name. 4) All of the above. *The ethics in this situation may also have to do with public perception of hunters. (A Law Enforcement Officer would say that it was not yet "legal" shooting time. Therefore the day's hunting period was still closed. Even though the season is open, the hunter was technically poaching. Most C.O.'s would certainly find him in violation. But beyond that, some would say that his actions soil every other hunter who is out there. If you agree with this last statement, then ask yourself: What if it was 15 minutes early instead of 20? 10 minutes early? 5 minutes? Just 2 or 3 minutes early?)*

SITUATION #2 It is definitely legal shooting time, but it is very overcast, and with the new moon, it is still too dark to see very well. Suddenly, a pair of ducks set up to land in your rig, but you can't really tell what they are, so you 1) let them land. 2) Try your best to shoot both birds (since the odds are pretty good that they are legal ducks). 3) Only shoot at one bird, just in case they are black ducks. (I am pretty sure that this has happened to many of us). We could probably have quite a debate over the would of, could of, and should of's, of this scenario . . . do you think there is a right answer?) *The ethic here probably has to do with knowing what your target is before you shoot. (Have you ever heard a duck hunter say, "I only shoot ducks that I eat"?)*

- Follow-up — Say you let the birds land in your decoys, and you wait a while. It finally gets light enough to tell that they are mallards. So you 1) Shoot them right where they sit on the water. 2) Yell loudly to try and get them to fly (so you can shoot them in the air). 3) When you shout at them, they start to swim away out of range so you shoot a waste round 6 feet over their heads to force them to fly, and then you hit one or both in flight. 4) Leave them alone, because they make great live decoys. *The ethic involved here is less clear. While there is no "law" against shooting a bird on the water, some would say there is no sport in shooting a "sitting duck."*

SITUATION #3 You and your partner are surprised by 6 ducks trying to land in your rig. . . . You both jump up and shoot, and when the dust settles, you have 3 dead black ducks. So you agree to 1) let one float away, or bury it and hope that no one saw you. 2) Keep the bird to eat rather than have it become wanton waste (even if you might get caught, because you feel it is worse to waste the bird than to get a ticket). 4) Quickly breast out the bird and toss the carcass, to get rid of the evidence, then hide the meat in your blind bag.

SITUATION #4) You shoot a broadbill but it is only crippled and is getting away. You must chase it in your duck boat to get it because you don't have a dog. You are under motor when you get within shooting range so you 1) Kill the engine, and wait until the forward motion of the boat completely stops before you shoot at the cripple on the water. 2) You kill the engine, and, fearing that the bird will dive again and get away, you shoot it on the water while the boat is still moving forward. 3) You motor after the duck, catch up to it, and you shoot it as soon as you can, leaving the engine still running and in gear. *This is a more subtle than, but a similar ethical choice to #3. Through no fault of your own, you have a cripple to chase. At this point the dilemma is to choose between the letter of the law, and the risk of wanton waste.*

Another "gray" area for many hunters is the BAG LIMIT. The BAG LIMIT law, as stated, is per person. Yet many hunters treat it as a collective limit; that is, 6 ducks for 1 hunter, 12 for 2 hunters, 18 for 3, and so on. The CO's I've talked with treat it as a collective limit as well, probably because they really have no way of knowing who shot what, so what about . . .

SITUATION #5) You and your partner are hunting ducks. You both shoot at several birds, but you know that you haven't hit any yet. Thus far he has taken 4 buffleheads, 2 mergansers, and a black duck. It has never come up before, but you are now thinking that he has already killed more than his limit. As more birds approach, you 1) tell him that he is already over his limit and that you want to shoot your own limit! 2) Keep quiet, even though you know he will try to shoot more ducks if they come. 3) Are beginning to understand the merits of each individual having his own bag limit. 4) Tell him to let you shoot first from now on, but that he can back you up if you miss.

SITUATION #6) You are hunting in a goose pit with 3 other guys you know (and with a guide). The limit is 2 Canada Geese per man. You are on the far end of the blind. When the guide calls "take em," you raise your gun, but you forget to take off the safety. By the time you realize it, the birds are out of range, and you didn't even get to fire a shot. The other 3 guys have emptied their guns, and the guide retrieves 7 dead Canada geese. The guide announces "good shooting guys, we only need 1 more goose!" How do you handle this?

Many would agree that in #5 and #6, this should have been discussed and resolved before the hunt began. The law says (in #5) that if the first hunter was alone, he should have stopped shooting when he got his 6th duck, but of course, he wasn't alone. In #6, it is even less clear.

There is no right or wrong to most of these situations, and I am sure that you can give other, perhaps better examples of these types of scenarios. Hunter Ethics is a topic that is rarely discussed, but perhaps it should be talked about or at least thought about. In the long run it may be just as important to the future of hunting as any other aspect of our sport.

New Amendment Passes Unanimously

by Ron Sineo

At the November meeting a proposal was discussed, and then voted on, to change the name and focus of the SSWA Feed Fund. The vote was unanimous in favor of making the change. Our Constitution has now been amended to reflect this change. Highlights of the changes include the following:

- The old name of *Feed Fund* was changed to the *Emergency Fund and Waterfowl Assistance Program*, or the EFWAP. In all probability, it will come to be known as the "Emergency Fund," for short.
- If a waterfowl assistance emergency is so immediate that it cannot wait until the next monthly meeting, the executive board is authorized to spend up to \$500 before the meeting, provided that there is a unanimous vote of the executive board to do so. Ordinarily, this should wait until the next meeting, when a three-fourths YES vote would be necessary before any money can be spent. (The cap on a voted expense is \$1,500.)
- For all other EMERGENCIES, the board must bring the request to the membership, and a three-fourths YES vote must occur before any money can be spent.
- Any time money is spent from this fund, the executive board is committed to replacing it as soon as is practical to do so. The board is empowered to conduct fund raisers, accept donations and contributions, and assess the membership, if necessary, to maintain the Emergency Fund at the \$7,000 level.

Our Constitution has now been amended to include the full language and text of this change. If you wish to have a hard copy of the amended constitution, you may receive one by attending the January, February, or March meeting. After January 1, 2012 we hope to have an electronic copy of the constitution available in the members only section of our website.

On Another Matter

The board of the SSWA is looking for a few good members. It has been several years now since any of the faces on the SSWA Executive Board have changed. While most members seem to have no objection to this, the members of the executive board themselves have some objections. Many of us are re-treads, and we have all held multiple positions on the executive board. We would welcome some new blood, some new faces, and new enthusiasm ... in short it is time for a change. Elections are around the corner this April. PLEASE consider running for office. Elections are supposed to have at least 2 candidates for each position. We haven't had a run off in any position for at least 5 years. This is very bad, and it is not healthy for any organization. If you are not able to run for a position yourself, consider who among your fellow members would make a good President, or a good 1st or 2nd vice-president, a good secretary, or a good treasurer. Speak to them. Be ready to nominate them for office when the time comes. No one on the current Board will be offended if someone wants to run for that position. We have

all been doing this long enough and we are all too tired. We don't see ourselves still on the Board in our current positions in 2, 3, or 5 years from now. The longer this continues like this, the more likely that the board is going to pack it in all at once, and then the SSWA membership will be scrambling to fill 4 or 5 board positions at the same time. If you value your membership in the SSWA then you need to take enough interest in our club to see that it doesn't come to that.

So how about it? Are there a few good members out there?

Fisherman's Catch Restaurant



Tel: (516) 670-9717
111 BAYSIDE DRIVE
POINT LOOKOUT, N.Y. 11559

DANA LARSON
Catering Manager

Hunting Black Ducks

by Ron Sineo

At the November meeting, our guest speaker was fellow member Ben Sohm. Ben has been hunting Black ducks for many years, and he agreed to share a little about what he knows with our members. Ben brought some decoys with him as props, as he touched upon many aspects of duck hunting. He emphasized how to use decoys, tides, wind, and location. Ben talked about some common sense approaches to hunting Black ducks. Instead of stressing decoy position, Ben stressed decoy clusters, the number of decoys (too many or too few), and individual decoy variation (heads in different positions, etc.). Ben gave useful info about what to expect before and after high tide and low tide and he used a chalk board to help describe what might be considered some unusual decoy and blind or boat locations relative to the wind. Ben has found these set-ups to be effective.

Mostly, Ben shared things that he has learned over the years about predicting the behavior of puddle ducks. He spoke about everything from pot holes and "puddles" at low tide, to air temperature affecting if and when birds will move around. It was

a very informative talk, and it prompted a good bit of dialogue among the members during the break. Ben finished his talk by giving up two of his favorite recipes for Black ducks. As a grand finale, Ben surprised us by pointing to a spot by the coffee pot where he had one of his Black duck recipes freshly prepared and staying warm for many of us to taste.

Many thanks to Ben for a great job.

Most members appreciate when we have a guest speaker who makes a presentation on water fowling. After all, we are a duck hunting club, and I am sure that we would prefer to hear about different aspects of duck hunting, rather than to listen to reports, numbers, and statistics! If you think that you might be able to give a brief presentation or talk to our members on some aspect of duck hunting, please let one of the officers know. Whether what you have to say will only take 5 minutes, or if you need a half hour or so, we will gladly schedule you for a future meeting. We are always looking for ways to enhance our meetings and bring more duck talk into the mix.

Justin Bakewicz 631.965.9251



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New Member Password

Each year we change the password to log on to the members section of our website.

The NAME remains the same, but the password will change. Look on your newsletter label for the new password. It will be obvious what the word is.

Please keep the password to yourself and don't give it out to non-members. There is information that is privileged to members only. Check out the web daily for new info of what's going on in the club and on the island.



We proudly support the Wounded Warriors

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.

Visit Wind Swept Marina and . . .



Preserving Our Club's Waterfowling History

I've been trying to preserve the history of our club for our future S.S.W.A. members. As self-appointed club historian, so far I've collected some films, videos, pictures, and a number of old newsletters related to the club. I'm asking all our members to look into their archives and see if they have any Great South Bay, U.S. Nationals, and S.S.W.A. related materials that they would like to make copies of or donate to the club. Listed below is a list of all the newsletters I have in my possession:

Fall 1981, Jan/Feb 1982, Nov/Dec 1982, Jan/Feb 1983, Jan/Feb 1984, Nov/Dec 1984, Spring 1990, Spring 1992, Fall 1992, Winter 1992, Spring 1994, Fall 1994, Spring 1995, Fall 1995, Spring 1998, Fall 1998, Fall 1999, Winter 1999, Spring 2000, Fall 2000, Spring 2001, Fall 2001, Winter 2002, Fall 2002, Jan 2003, Sept 2003, Feb 2004, Aug 2004, Jan 2005, May 2005, July 2005, Sept 2005, Dec 2005, March 2006

Please let me know if you have anything pertinent for our collection and give me a call.

Curt (631) 661-0379

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To All SSWA Members
 10% OFF All Birds and Butchering
 25% OFF All Fish

Quack's Tips

Estimating distance is a real talent. Setting up decoys in tidal waters in the pre-dawn hours can be a real challenge. Have you ever set your decoys only to discover just as it gets light, that they are either too close or too far away, and they really need to be moved? Most experts on decoy placement agree that your decoys should be located within your reasonable kill zone. This means that if you believe that you can kill most birds up to @ 30-35 yards out, then your decoys should not be further away than that. The secret is how to accomplish this in the dark! If you set your decoys by boat, there may be an easy way. Carry 100 feet of rope in the boat or make your anchor line 100 feet. Once you decide where on the shore or in the meadow you will be shooting from, put your anchor there, or stake or tie the rope there. Once in the boat, slowly motor or paddle straight out from the "blind," paying out the anchor line or rope as you go. As you get to the end of the rope, you are 100 feet (@ 33 yards away) from your blind. Drop a decoy at that spot. Retrieve your rope or anchor, and then go about setting the rest of your decoys. Keep the decoy you already placed as the furthest decoy in your spread, and work your way back to the spot where your "blind" is. When first light arrives, you will have the confidence of knowing that the furthest decoy is 100 feet away. So you will automatically know that any duck that flies over your decoys or inside your decoys is in range. You will also know that if a duck is passing by outside the last decoy, it is probably too far away to shoot!

Waterfowler's Classifieds

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WANTED:

U.S. NATIONAL MEMORABILIA
Anything related to the U.S. Nationals
Decoy Show

Call Curt at (631) 661-0379

I will make arrangements to copy/pick-up
from you



— South Shore Waterfowlers Association —

P.O. Box 217 • Brightwaters, NY 11718

Membership Enrollment / Renewal Card (please print legibly)

Address Change Address Correction New Member Renewal

Name _____ Today's Date: _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Dues: 1 year \$30.00

e-mail: _____

Telephone No.: (_____) _____

— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- January 3** — **TUESDAY, SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library**
- February 6** — **SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library**
- February 4-12** — **Harrisburg Show, Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex**
- March 3** — **Antique Decoy Collectors Association Show, IBEW Local 25, Hauppauge**
- March 5** — **SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library**
- March 1-4** — **Suffern Show**
- March 10** — **SSWA (Curt Matzinger Dinner) Dinner, Pt. Lookout (see p. 1)**
- April 2** — **SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library (Election of Officers)**

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



SOUTH SHORE
WATERFOWLERS
ASSOC., INC.

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

Dedicated to Waterfowl Conservation on Long Island