SOUTH SHORE

WATERFOWLERS

ASSOCIATION, INC.

DECEMBER 2013

Web site: sswa.org

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718



January's Meeting will be Tuesday, January 7, NOT Monday

Note: SSWA.org password change. See your mailing label for new password.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, April 5, 2014
10th Annual SSWA Dinner at Fisherman's Catch Restaurant in Point Lookout

Who would have thought "A FRIENDLY GET TOGETHER WITH THE WIVES" would have grown into the yearly event it is now. It's a great night out with your fellow members and their "Better Halves."

It's from 6 to 10 p.m. Included are pass-around hors d'oeuvers, meal appetizer, salad, entré, and dessert, plus a chance to win a gun. Beer, wine, and soda is also included. 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 then send a check made payable to SSWA to: Curt Matzinger, 32 Magro Drive, N. Babylon, NY 11703. Checks MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE APRIL 1st. Remember to bring some items for the Chinese auction. A good time is to be had by all. See you there.

Youth Day 2013 - A Joint Effort

After hurricane Sandy last year, the blinds out at the Flanders property were all but destroyed. The call went out for help, and the SSWA jumped in. Partnering with Ducks Unlimited, the Suffolk County Parks, and the Southampton Bay Constables, we were able to build, paint, grass, transport, and moor them in place in time for the November youth hunts. A large number of kids signed up this year, and I'm hoping we have ourselves a new group of upcoming duck hunters to join the ranks. The SSWA reached out to the kids, and we gave out complimentary junior memberships.

The hunt day had all kids at Southaven Park all fired up. Even though no birds were brought to hand, many shots were fired. They seemed to have a good time, and they talked it up at the BBQ afterwards. Thanks again to Kelly Hamilton for all her hard work in making the program the success it is. Thanks again to the Tallbe men for their culinary expertise in manning the grills.

The work of all the volunteers on this project will continue on throughout the season, as these blinds will be utilized all season long by Long Island waterfowlers. Great job everyone.

Check out the website SSWA.org for the photo gallery (in progress).

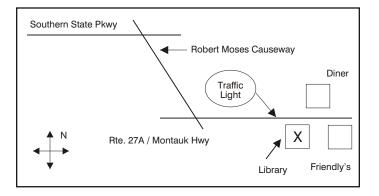
South Shore Waterfowlers

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 Ron Sineo 631-862-8518				
•1st Vice President John Adams 631-618-5728				
• 2nd Vice President Richard Franks, Jr. 631-603-6295				
• Secretary				
 Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, 				
Duckboat Show Chairman, Historian,				
Club Dinner & BBQ Chairman Curt Matzinger 613-661-0379				
• Sergeant at Arms Erik Tallbe 516-799-6613				
• Membership				

Recap of the Duckboat Show

This was the 33rd year and what a year it was. We celebrated this year with one of the largest and best shows to date. We had the largest number of vendors, some underneath our tent. Many thanks to John Ferguson for donating the tent for the show and setting it up. Funds generated from the people thru the gate help us to be able to continue our programs, events and projects.

Special thanks goes to Past President John Adams for donating items to the annual raffle. The duckboat entries were down, but First Place and Best in Show winner was John Livoti for his grassboat entry. Congratulations John.

L.I. Outdoorsman got the Benelli reps on hand again to let everyone touch and fire their new toys for this year. We had Chris' food truck on hand to cook up some yummys, which let me utilize the past food preparers skills at other venues.

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 a super demonstration and contest. Mike is requesting new additional helpers next year to take it over. He will still be on hand to point and give orders, but he needs more help. Please help out and give him a hand. Everyone loves the dogs and they really stole the show. Check out Kate Sohms article (p. 4) on it.

George Grivas gave a wonderful dog handling demonstration. Thank you George and see his article (p. 3). We had two duck calling seminars this year. Duane Arnister conducted them and Ducks Unlimited donated the duck calls which were given to the students to use during the seminar. Thank you so much for donating your time to help ensure that our duck hunting traditions continue to thrive.

I really want to thank everyone who came to the show to help out. They came from upstate New York, 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 really appreciate all the help and 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 grow and grow and go on for another 30 years. Thanks again to all that helped out and everyone who came to the show to support us.

Curt Matzinger

Talking About Dogs

by George Grivas

"Do you want to give a retrieving demonstration?" I didn't plan on it but I had Buffy with me so why not. I enjoyed doing the demo and I found the size of the audience flattering and I sensed that they liked the demo.

I started with a description of what retrievers are bred for (memory, nose, and eyesight for marking). I then described a hunting scenario and had Buffy doing triple marked retrieves on the meadow, double marked retrieves through decoys, double marked retrieves land and water combinations, and we demonstrated handling skills. All the while Buffy worked as a well behaved dog.

Some people had questions which I feel would be of interest to many waterfowlers. My answers are based upon my over 30 years experience with gun dogs and my experience as an AKC hunt test judge.

1. Which retriever is the best?

The retriever that fits your needs is the best. They all do the same work. However, one breed may be more suitable than another. If I wanted a rugged dog unaffected by cold weather and rough water, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever would be my choice. If I wanted a dog that excelled in the uplands and could be a good duck dog, the Golden Retriever is my choice. If I wanted a dog that is the best bet for the average hunter, then I would go for the Labrador Retriever. There are other breeds but these are the big three.

2. Why does Buffy look skinny compared to other Goldens?

Buffy is a Golden who has been bred for an athletic build to do field work.

3. How long does it take to train a retriever?

That depends upon the dog, the trainer's skill level, and how much you want your dog to do. In my opinion for the basic duck dog, novice trainer—10 to 20 minutes a day for 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ years should do it.

4. How do you choose a dog?

I like to look at the dog's pedigree and I like to see that the parents are good working dogs. That means go see them. FC, AFC, MH, SH, JH are hunting dog titles that appear in a pedigree.

For hunting purposes it's best to avoid pups from a pedigree that has many Champions (CH). These are show dogs that are judged on their looks, not their hunting ability. I followed my own advice in acquiring Buffy.

5. How much does a dog cost?

The initial expense for the dog will be the smallest expense you have over the lifetime of the dog. There is a broad range in cost for a Field Golden. I can't really speak for other breeds, I haven't shopped for them. Price range for Field Bred Goldens is from around \$1000 up to \$1800. Other costs include vet bills, registration fees, cost of training (travel, equipment, training birds), etc. My advice on this is don't be penny wise and dollar foolish.



Here is some of the terminology dog handlers use:

"The area of the fall is in the Phragmites. Your dog didn't see it so you will have to send him on a blind. The current in the creek is strong. Maybe if you give your dog a back and when he hits the shore an angle back to the area of the fall."

This might be a conversation between two duck hunters that are also retriever trainers. This might sound strange unless you are familiar with some retriever vocabulary.

A basic vocabulary is needed when talking about dogs and dog training. The following is an abridged list of words adapted from SMARTWORKS by Evan Graham. I chose those words that a hunter who is training his duck dog might find useful.

Area of fall The area of a fallen bird

Birdiness Prey drive, desire to retrieve

Blind retrieve Term for the retrieve of a bird that the dog did not see fall

Blink This refers to a dog that finds a bird but fails to pick it up

 $\underline{\text{Break}}$ The unsteadiness of a dog, the dog's failure to $\overline{\text{sit}}$ until sent for a bird

Bumper A retriever training dummy

Cast The specific direction given to a dog by using hand signals. Basic casts are "back," "over," and "come in."

Cover Grass or brush

Double See marked retrieve

Gun Shy A dog's fear of gunfire

Hard mouth a dog using too much pressure on a bumper or bird

Line The route to be taken by the dog under the direction of the handler.

Marked retrieve = Mark Retrieve where the dog has seen the bird fall to the ground or water. There are single marks, double marks, triple marks.

Hunting with a trained dog is very rewarding. I have been doing it for years. I enjoy the training and the companionship. I find it well worth the effort.

Dog Jumping at the Waterfowl Festival

by Kate Sohm

We had three dogs enter the jumping competition this year: Juno, Nicoya, and Kiko. As usual, it drew a large crowd of excited spectators.

After a practice jump to get their paws wet, owners and dogs were ready to compete for the chance to win \$5,000.00.

Our panel of three "professional" judges paid close attention as each dog was instructed by his/ her owner to fetch the decoy. Eager to retrieve the decoy and please their owner, the dogs willing jumped into the cold water. Each dog did a good job of bringing the bird back to their owner.

After all the dogs jumped, the judges took a few minutes to make their decision while the crowd stood by and waited. After a brief moment of confusion, the winners were correctly announced.

First Place: Kiko and owner Steve

Second Place: Juno and owners Matt and Tyler

Third Place: Nicoya and owners Chris, Robbie, & Callie

Thank you to all those who participated in this year's dog jumping contest. We look forward to seeing you and your dog again next year. Hopefully, we can get a few more dogs to jump next year as well.

A special thanks to Mike Marran for his dog demonstration and for emceeing the contest.



Center is Kiko, on right Juno, on left next year dog jumper. Nicoya (not pictured).

A Quick History of the Duck Decoy

by Ron Sineo

For centuries hunters have relied on decoys to draw ducks toward them. The earliest recorded was by the Native American Indians around 2,000 years ago, long before the establishment of British colonies. In 1924, an archaeologist, Mark Harrington, led an expedition into *Locklove Cave*, in Locklove, Nevada. There, he discovered 11 duck decoys that are the oldest known to date. So, just how old? It's unknown exactly when they were made, but scientific dating methods suggests they were made around 200 BC. The decoys found by Harrington and his expedition were made from tule and marsh bulrush reed and were adorned with actual duck feathers. While the materials used in their construction were primitive, they still had an incredibly lifelike appearance.

Native Americans may have used duck decoys for more than 2,000 years, but it wasn't until the period between 1830 and 1850 when the use and construction of decoys became popular throughout North America. This is largely due to the rise in popularity of duck hunting (which was a result of the increasing demand for duck meat) and the availability of conventional firearms. With the popularity of using duck decoys increasing, the demand for them rose as well. This led many people to start carving decoys for both their own use and for profit. One of the first mass productions of duck decoys started in Detroit, Michigan at the Mason Decoy Factory in 1896. The founder of the factory, William Mason, was an avid hunter of waterfowl. In 1890, his first decoys were made from a block of cedar with carved heads which he did all by hand. Later, when production began in the factory, they were not only carved and painted with detail, but glass eyes were added too. For more than 100 years after the mass production of decoys began, carvers up and down the length and breadth of North America were still carving practical, functional working decoys by hand. These bird replicas became highly sought after, and are the focus and the passion of the decoy collector associations and their members.

And that brings us to today's modern duck decoy. Mass produced, made from plastic, foam, cork, wood, rubber, and combinations of these materials, they are lifelike, and can be found in many poses. At first they were clones, in the sense that one decoy looked like any other. Soon, companies began to vary the offerings so that the birds struck different poses. Even floating decoys varied. There were resters, sleepers, feeders, sentries, etc., and a small group of these could fool even the wariest duck, or at least that is what the decoy companies wanted you to believe. In reality, the effective use of decoys and their placement takes most hunters quite a while to learn. The nuances involved in using waterfowl decoys to good advantage have been the subject of more than just a few books.

In closing, I would point out that today we also have a new generation of decoys, those that move. Mechanical, electrical, and winddriven motion decoys have become common place in the hunter's tool kit. Yet I wonder . . . thinking back to those Native American Indians in 200 BC who hand-made their decoys from marsh grasses and bird feathers . . . yes I wonder . . . just who was really more effective?

What Loads Should I Use When I Go Waterfowl Hunting?

by Ron Sineo

Today, when you peruse a Cabela's catalog, it is very easy to become confused by the wide variety of offerings of "nontoxic" duck or goose loads available for purchase. They have steel, of course, and the non-steel substitutes, such as bismuth, tungsten-matrix, and the like, but today they also have Hevi-shot, Hevi-metal, Fasteel, Impact, Black Cloud, Blindside, Spectra Shot, to name a few. Furthermore, the price can range from a low of \$10 a box of 25 shot shells to \$45 per box. So how can you know what is best to use? In order to answer that question, we need to take a look at how it all began.

Back in the early 70s, when lead was first banned for water-fowl hunting, the ammo manufacturers were caught with their pants down. They had done very little research on steel ballistics before they packaged "steel" shot shells for retail sales to hunters. Hunters bought these steel loads, and shot them through their favorite hunting guns. In those days, most duck and goose guns were full chokes. Interchangeable choke tubes were not generally available yet, and guys shot long barreled full choke guns to reach out for birds.

Killing a bird at 45-50 yards was not at all uncommon for lead magnum loads in the hands of an experienced shot. When hunters participated in steel's first debut, they were sorely disappointed with its performance. At the top of the list was "barrel bulge." This occurred with many long barreled full choke guns. Lead shells develop a shot s t r i n g leaving the muzzle of your gun. This means that some lead shot leaves the muzzle first, and has more energy than the shot behind it. It stretches out to only a few inches as it leaves the muzzle, but this little bit of front to back stretch is enough to allow the lead to leave the muzzle in an orderly fashion, and without a fight. Steel is much lighter, and it acts like it all wants to get out at the same time. Major traffic jam . . . thus, barrel bulge! Another problem with steel is its hardness. Steel barrel, steel shot . . . same hardness. Traffic jam at the muzzle could result in scarring and grooving on the inside of the barrel as the shot fights its way out of the barrel. Lead is soft, and the lead deforms, leaving the barrel unharmed. Steel is hard, and is unforgiving. It can harm the barrel.

Even if these were not real concerns to some, when hunters tested the early steel loads in the field, they discovered that the loads were inferior to lead. The steel quickly lost its energy after it left the barrel. Many complained that even at 30 yards, they hit birds but the shot "bounced off." It didn't have enough energy to kill a duck at those same distances that they were used to killing birds with lead shot. Most hunters hunted over decoys with lead #4 shot; some even used #6 shot successfully. Hunters discovered that because steel was so light, they had to increase the size of the shot to #2 shot in order to kill even in close over decoys. This larger sized shot resulted in fewer pellets in the shot shell, and hunters believed that this increased the ratio of cripples.

Steel shot leaves the muzzle in a clump. It doesn't spread out as much as lead does. Guys with full choke guns were shooting patterns that were more like the size of large dinner plates at 25 yards, instead of patterns that would fill a 30-inch circle. Some guys ruined their guns (from barrel bulge or from scoring), and the ammo companies really let us down!

Even though our learning curve was slow, the ammo companies finally heeded the complaints of the hunter, and conducted much needed research to improve the ammo. The gun manufacturers heard our cries too, and they began making affordable guns with interchangeable choke tubes. They realized

that full chokes and steel shot are not a good combination. They also made their choke tubes harder than the steel shot so that, at the muzzle, the gun would not be damaged. Today, a lot more attention is paid to letting the steel leave the barrel without a "traffic jam." This allows for more energy to stay with the steel shot after it leaves the muzzle. Coupled with modified and improved cylinder chokes, steel shot patterns were now expanding to fill that 30-inch circle. The problem remains, that if larger sizes of steel shot are needed, and fewer pellets are in the shell, then the pattern would be blown, because there aren't enough pellets to fill all the spaces in the pattern. To solve this problem, some ammo companies developed alternatives to steel. Heavi-shot of all types started to flood the market. The closer the stuff is to the size and weight of lead, the more it will shoot like lead shoots. Today, we even have heavier substitutes than lead shot. Presumably, the ballistics on those loads are even better than for lead loads. These loads can be quite expensive, however, and are not always the best loads to use.

Another solution to the problem of pattern density was to put more steel into the shot shell. This lead to the 3-inch and 3½-inch loads directly. DON'T be fooled into thinking that these loads will reach out much further than 45 yards, however. While it is true that they have more powder in them, they also have more shot, and one cancels the other out. Your pattern will be denser at a given yardage, but the muzzle velocity doesn't increase. This means that the steel has the same energy as smaller shells (2¾-inch shells at 1200 fps or 3½-inch shells at 1200 fps, both loads have the same energy) with the same muzzle velocity. It will not reach out any farther. In order to reach out farther, the muzzle velocity must increase.

This brings us to "fast steel." Ammo companies have discovered that if they take out some shot, and put in more powder, they can increase the muzzle velocity from the standard 1200 fps, all the way up to 1550 fps, and anything in between. At this much higher muzzle velocity, the steel pellet retains its energy longer, and its effect kill range increases. These loads will reach out farther, and kill shots at 50 yards are possible. The trade- off is that at this higher velocity, we are more prone to that "traffic jam" again at the muzzle. It is important to pattern your gun to see what effect different ammo has on your pattern at a particular yardage. With fast steel, many hunters prefer to shoot improved cylinder chokes because it helps to spread out the pattern, but they shoot modified chokes with regular steel loads.

In summary, non-toxic hunting loads have come a long way since the 70s. Understanding what the load is designed to do will help you to make a good choice. Just remember, even with 31/2-inch shells, you are not reaching out to make those 50 yard+ shots with any regularity. Shooting over decoys, the 23/4-inch shell can still give you a good kill ratio out to 25-30 yards if the ammo and choke size are matched correctly. For shells that reach out more, look for those loads with higher velocities, and remember to pattern your loads. Armed with all of this information, I am eager to buy the biggest and the best. I remember how easy it is to fire 3 shots with my semi-auto. If I fire a 3rd shot at one bird in flight, chances are I missed it with the first 2 shots. Hitting it with that 3rd shot almost never happens for me, but it doesn't stop me from shooting the 3rd shot! At \$15/box for ammo, it costs me \$1.80 to miss. At \$40/box, I blow a \$5 bill out the end of my barrel every time I empty my gun. So while I usually go to the store, determined to buy some bigger and better product, I always seem to walk out with the least expensive loads I can buy.

Quack's Tips (Past and Present)

Uses for a Clorox Bottle

- 1. Carrying an emergency extra gallon of gas in your boat.
- 2. With cap in place, they can be used as a marker buoy.
- 3. Painted, many old timers mix them into their decoy rig.
- 4. Disconnect the anchor rope from your boat, and clip it onto a Clorox bottle. When you return, pick up the bottle, with rope attached and re-hook to your boat.
- 5. A Clorox bottle can be cut to make an effective water bailer.

How to Perk Up the Look of Your Plastic Decoys!

Clean the decoy a bit with a damp rag, and set it aside to dry. Then spray it with WD-40, let dry. The WD-40 can bring out the colors and stretch out to the next season the time when you have to re-paint your decoys.

An Easy Way to Tell Your Hunting Loads Apart

When you get a box of shells, take a magic marker and write the shot size on the primer end of each shell. A quick glance at the bottom end of the shell will let you know if the shell you hold is a #2 shot or BBB. It's a lot quicker and easier than trying to read the manufacturer's marking on the plastic hull.

How to Avoid Tangles in Your Decoy Line

Use fishing snap swivels on both ends of your decoy line. This will avoid twists and tangles, making life easier when you are trying to put out or pick up your decoys.

• Sinking Decoys?

We all have plastic decoys with shot holes in them. Painter's caulking (the kind that can be painted over once it is dry, makes an easy repair. Just putty up the hole, and touch it up with the right paint when it's dry.

Waterfowler's Classifieds

WANTED:

DECOYS - DUCKS & GEESE FIELD AND FLOATERS + ACCESSORIES

Call Butch at 631-924-5249

25 hp 2-STROKE SHORT SHAFT OUTBOARD

Contact Steve at 631-286-2501

(Continued from left column)

How to Protect a Duck for Taxidermy While Still Afield?

Collect a pair of old pantyhose and cut each leg off at about at the knee. Carry these in your blind bag. When you have the bird you want in hand, carefully smooth any feathers that are going the wrong way, then tuck the bird's head under a wing. Now slip the duck, head first into the pantyhose leg, until the head is all the way down by the toe of the nylon. Tie a knot in the other end of the pantyhose leg and you will have a "football" shaped package that will survive the rest of the hunt. Once home, carefully remove the duck from the pantyhose. Take head from under the wing and place it next to the body. Place in plastic bag. Do not wrap in newspaper as it will dry out the bird if left in freezer. Get to taxidermist ASAP as he will want to inspect the bird and it is much easier if the bird is fresh. Freeze if you must, but bring it as soon as you can. Take as much care of your bird as possible because the end result will count on it. Since you are mounting your trophy, you want it to be something you can be proud of.

— 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:		
Street _		Amount Paid:		
City		StateZip	o Dues: 1 yea	r \$30.00
e-mail: _			Members	ship expires in Sept.
Telephone No.: () Sponsored		d by:		

South Shore Waterfowlers Association wishes to thank our special friends. Please support these Long Island Businesses.



Jon Sweezey

1877 New York Ave., Huntington Station, NY 11746 (631) 271-4969 • Fax (631) 271-9621

e-mail: campsiteli@aol.com

Your Source to the Outdoors Since 1964

Fisherman's Catch Restaurant

Tel: (\$16) 670-9717 111 BAYSIDE DRIVE POINT LOOKOUT, N.Y. 11569

DANA LARSON Catering Manager

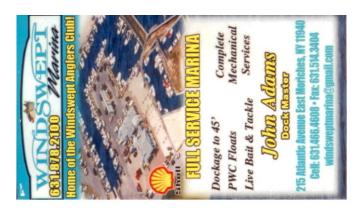




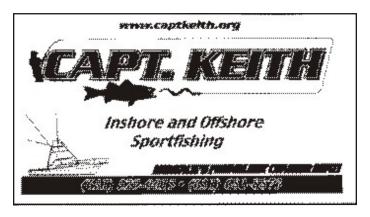
To All SSWA, Delta, and DU Members
10% DISCOUNT



To Place Your Business Card in the Newsletters, contact Curt for pricing and details (631-661-0379)







— South Shore Waterfowlers Association —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

January 7 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library (Tuesday, NOT Monday)

(meeting speaker, Tom, will do a discussion on taxidermy)

February 3 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library (nominations for upcoming election

of officers to be submitted to nominating committee)

????? — SSWA Cod Fishing Trips (TBA) (Check website for details)

March 1 — Antique Decoy Collectors Show, IBEW Local 25, Hauppauge

March 3 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library

March 8 & 9 — Gun Show, IBEW Local 25, Hauppauge (we have a table, come help man

the show or at least stop by and say hello)

April 5 — 10th Annual SSWA Dinner, Fisherman's Catch, Point Lookout (see p. 1)

April 7 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library (Elections)



SSWA—Proud creators of the Southaven Park Blind 9 Wounded Warriors Project

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



SOUTH SHORE WATERFOWLERS ASSOC., INC.

P.O. BOX 217 BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718