

# SOUTH SHORE WATERFOWLERS

ASSOCIATION, INC.



DECEMBER 2017

Web site: [sswa.org](http://sswa.org)

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

**Next Meeting - Tuesday,  
Jan. 2, 2018 Starting 7:00 pm**

**Happy Holidays  
& Happy New Year**

## *South Shore Waterfowlers Association Continues Working to Improve Access for Those With Special Needs*

*by Ron Sineo*

The Suffolk County Parks system provides opportunity for a licensed waterfowl hunter to hunt ducks from a blind. Until 2009, however, these great sporting opportunities were limited to those who were not physically challenged. In 2009, the South Shore Waterfowlers Association and the Suffolk County Parks Department entered into an informal agreement to change this. It was in 2009 that the SSWA began the fund raising necessary to successfully sponsor and partner with the Suffolk County Department of Parks to benefit our veterans and other physically challenged residents in our county who remain sportsmen and sportswomen despite their disabilities. In the September issue of our newsletter, I reported about the current status of our project, which (at that time) was the completion of an accessible blind at Southaven County Park, and a second blind at Hubbard County Park. These blinds are now up and running, and are available for use by physically challenged hunters.



Continued on p. 3

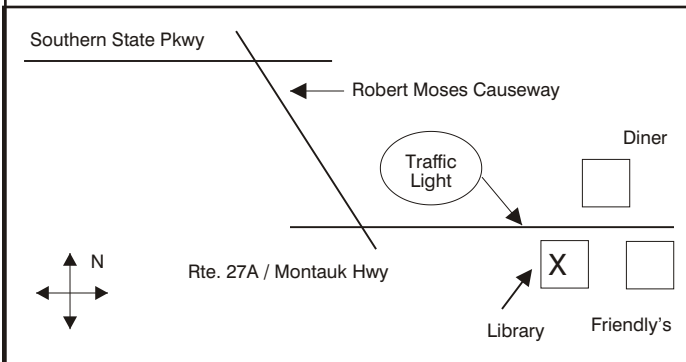
## South Shore Waterfowlers

### Voice of the Long Island Waterfowler

The South Shore Waterfowlers meet at 7:00 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) 902-2220.



### South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

- President . . . . . John Adams  
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- Sergeant at Arms . . . . . Erik Tallbe  
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## You And Your Scattergun

### Chokes

by George Grivas

Why was I missing when I was gunning with friends? It is very frustrating to say the least. I had to take a look at my shooting and my equipment.

I realized that when I was by myself my shooting was acceptable. OK, so why the difference when shooting with friends? What was different? Everything seemed the same except . . .

I came to the realization that I was taking further shots when I was with friends. I personally set my own decoys a little closer compared to other duck shooters. I found that they set theirs out just a little further. My improved cylinder choke did the job for me. (Reminder: steel shot does throw a tighter pattern than lead. I pattern my gun at the distance I shoot at.) So since my friends were providing shots at greater distances I decided to change to a modified choke which would give me a tighter pattern at the effective kill distance. I screwed in a modified choke into my Mossberg 835 and it made the difference. I was very much surprised at the change in the number of birds that I dropped.

Just a little reminder about what a choke is. Choke describes the amount of constriction of the barrel at the muzzle of the gun. What seems like the same shotshell from different manufacturers can give you different downrange performance for the same choke ( different pattern). Do you want to do things right? Go to the range and pattern your loads for the choke that you will be using.

One last thing: If you don't practice it won't matter what choke you use. Going to the range and shooting two or three rounds of skeet once a week before the season is not practice. Not having grown up hunting I learned the hard way. Now I shoot throughout the year and it makes a world of difference. I shoot trap, I shoot for field trials, and I hunt. I probably fire my gun a minimum of 1500 times during the year. How often do you shoot?

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I am very pleased to report that we are now in the beginning stages of fundraising and planning for our third County Parks location. The Commissioner of Parks has given us permission to partner with them to create an accessible blind at Montauk County Park, and it will be located on Big Reed Pond. Our goal is to have the blind ready for the 2018-2019 waterfowl hunting season!



There are four locations in the Suffolk County Parks system where a licensed waterfowl hunter can hunt ducks from a blind. These are Southaven Park, Hubbard County Park, Montauk County Park, and Cedar Point County Park. Some general information is as follows:

**FEES:**

- Residents (Green Key Required): \$13.00 Per Person Per Day
- \$ 7.00 Discounted Green Keys (Weekdays Only)
- FREE – Service Connected Disabled Veterans (with Green Key- Service Connected)
- Non-Residents: \$28.00 per person for daily hunting permit (subject to availability – after Residents are accommodated)

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS:**

- RESIDENTS Suffolk County Parks Green Key Card required (Valid for three years)
- Resident Green Key Card (Age 18 & Older) \$30.00
- Resident Senior/Junior/Handicapped/Veteran/Volunteer Fire/Aux. Pol./CERT \$15.00
- Resident Disabled Veteran FREE

NON-RESIDENTS are permitted subject to the availability after resident hunters have been accommodated, tourist rates apply.

**REGULAR DUCK PROGRAM:**

**PARK LOCATIONS:**

Southaven County Park (631) 852-1391

Hubbard County Park (631) 852-8290

(Check-in at Sears-Bellows, morning draw only)

Montauk County Park (morning draw only) (631) 852-7878

Cedar Point County Park (morning draw only) (631) 852-7620

**FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON HOW TO GAIN ACCESS TO THESE OPPORTUNITIES, GO TO THIS LINK ON THE SUFFOLK COUNTY PARKS WEBSITE.**

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Parks/ThingsToDo/Hunting/Waterfowl.aspx>

## *Alberta's Fall Flight Outfitters*

by Ron Sineo

In my day, I had always tried to research a Waterfowl Guide before I took the plunge and booked a hunt. This was often a tedious task, trying to find hunters who had hunted with the outfitter to get their opinion, and, of course, discovering the outfitters ads in the usually duck hunting magazines. Making a decision was always agonizing, mostly because you never really knew until you actually complete the hunt whether or not your decision was a good one.



Today, this task is a lot easier, if you can navigate around in some "social media" and this article begins just like that. I interviewed SSWA member Jerry Chasteen about his recent very successful hunt in Alberta. I asked how he came to book the hunt with Andrew Dath, the owner/outfitter for *Fall Flights*. Jerry smiled and volunteered that he found the outfitter on Instagram, and was sold by a couple of videos that he saw there.

Jerry booked his hunt almost a year in advance, (although 7 months in advance will probably still get you some dates in the month you want to hunt.) Jerry was interested in hunting both Ducks and Geese, so he selected the 2nd week in October. Unlike many waterfowl outfitters in the States, Fall Flights Outfitters give you 2 hunts per day instead of just 1. You hunt the morning, and then again, you hunt the late afternoon. This often happens at different locations, and gives you double the opportunity to be successful each day. **(The daily bag this year in Alberta is 3 geese and 8 ducks per person.)**

Jerry described in detail how he booked the hunt with the outfitter, and what was provided. The guided rate per person was \$800 for a 3 day hunt. (The outfitter requires a minimum of 5 hunters on the hunt) Jerry booked the trip for 5 guys. Andrew Dath, the guide, is a small operator. There are no frills. There is no luxurious lodge to stay at, there is no resident chef to cook your meals, and he does not transport you to the hunting sites, (so you need your own transportation) and so on. Knowing this, Jerry booked everything "a-la-carte".

First came the Flight to Calgary, Alberta. (1 stop to change planes in Minneapolis, from JFK, and then on to Calgary. The round trip was less than \$400. Jerry and his group brought their guns with them. At Kennedy, NYPD met them in the check in area and they checked their guns onto the plane without issue. (this probably added about 30 minutes to the security process) When they arrived in Calgary, they were delayed at the airport about 45 minutes to get their guns approved for their hunt, and they had to pay a \$35 fee.



Continued from p. 4



They rented a pick-up truck to transport the 5 of them and their gear. All expenses were shared equally, and the truck cost each man about \$175. Once in the truck, they stopped along the way at a Cabela's where they were able to get all the necessary licenses and permits for \$170, as well as plenty of ammo (which was not permitted on the plane). They had booked rooms at a local Best Western in the town of Strathmore, Alberta less than an hour from the airport. They stayed 2 to a room for 4 nights at \$70 per night for the room. The hotel opened at 4:30 a.m. for breakfast, and after breakfast, they followed the guide for a 10-minute ride to one of the many fields and hunting locations for the morning hunt. The morning hunt was always in a huge field, mostly barley. These fields were several square miles in area. The guide had scouts who had done their homework, and thus knew the approximate area where to set decoys. As they trudged out into the field, they would inevitably encounter an area that had a lot of goose poop, and this would be the place to set decoys. The morning hunts were mixed bag hunts, with specklebellies, mallards, pintail, and some wigeon as the predominant birds. Every field they hunted was only @ a 10 minute drive from the hotel. The morning hunt would be over by 10:30 at which time they would pick up the rig, and then take the guide to lunch. They would meet up again at 2:30 to set out for the afternoon hunt. This was always at a different location than the morning hunt. It was also mostly a duck hunt in the afternoon. The flight would start about 4:30 pm, and was pretty consistent until 6-6:30 p.m. which also constituted sunset.



I asked Jerry what was th best hunt, and he described the first afternoon in a barley field to me. The flight started at 4:30 pm., and all of them were in layout blinds in the middle of a huge barley field. Before 6 p.m. they had limited on a mixed bag of Mallards, Pintails and Wigeon. The 5 hunters had 40 puddle ducks in their bag!

I also asked him for an anecdotal story about the hunt. He picked that same afternoon. It seems that when they had gotten 3 dozen ducks already, they decided to shoot one at a time, so they would not go over their limit. The men took turns, and so it came to be Jerry's Dad's turn. Jerry Sr. was in his layout blind, watching 2 mallards starting to close on his position. One mallard split off to the side, but the other one kept right on coming. I guess even a seasoned hunter can get butterflies when the ducks are flying, and when all eyes are on him alone. The mallard cupped his wings, dropped his landing gear, and was about 10 feet high and closing to less than 50 feet away when Jerry Sr. fired 3 consecutive shots at this mallard and didn't even ruffle a feather!

You can imagine what came next. I don't think they stopped breaking his shoes for quite a while. I believe there might even have been a few staged re-enactments at mealtimes and such. In a case like this you just have to be a good sport whether you want to or not.



The overall cost of this 3-day hunt in Alberta was under \$2500 per man. The trip home was uneventful, and the photos they took will be a lasting reminder of a really great hunt. You can get more information about guide service by looking on-line (*Alberta Fall Flight Outfitters*)

## *A Quick Look Into the World of Doug Larsen*

by Ron Sineo



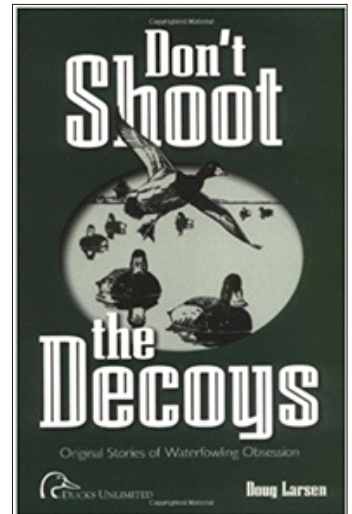
Doug Larsen has been duck hunting for over 40 seasons. He first found work during his high school and college years as a waterfowl guide. He then progressed to becoming a shooting and fishing guide in both Alaska and Argentina. He has managed sporting lodges, enjoyed a fifteen-year run as a very successful outdoor travel agent, developing over twenty international shooting properties. Doug has been fortunate enough to enjoy shooting in more than twenty countries-including countless trips to Canada and more than one hundred trips to Argentina. He has competed successfully in shotgunning and duck calling competitions locally and nationally. Doug hunts waterfowl over 50 days each season and manages one of the most productive private marshes in

Ohio, with excellent puddle duck shooting on Sandusky Bay. He has written three best-selling books on waterfowl hunting. Doug has appeared on numerous outdoor television programs, and was the host of *Waterfowler's Edge* for two seasons in 2010-2011.. Doug's column on waterfowling appears in each issue of *The Retriever Journal*, and his work regularly appears in *Ducks Unlimited* magazine. (You may recognize his name in the *Last Call* column).

All of that by way of introduction, Doug wrote a book titled *Don't Shoot the Decoys* which I happen to own. The edition I have was written 15 years ago already. Still, he provides some food for thought in his introductory remarks. I am going to quote a short piece of his intro, updating only the time spans that he refers to in his remarks.

Doug says, "I guess I'm just a traditionalist in many ways, but I still insist that I'd rather crank down the truck window with a proper handle instead of pushing an electric button, and I'd rather go inside a restaurant than talk to a speaker. But it is hard for me to frame in my mind that many of today's kids have never seen a phonograph record and have no appreciation of black -and-white television programs..... Duck hunting has been swept along in the technological tidal wave along with everything else around us. Biologists can now routinely track migratory birds with tiny radio transmitters, and Internet sites allow even the amateur to find migrating ducks and geese on radar from the comforts of a home office. Hunting licenses are purchased on-line, and today's young hunter has not likely ever bought a box of shotgun shells over the counter of a general store. From an historical perspective, the teenagers and youngsters that we are hopefully taking to the marshes and rivers and rice fields and timber in the present seasons have very likely never shot a lead-loaded shot shell at waterfowl, and it hasn't even been an option in their lifetimes. Has it really been 29 years or so that we switched to steel, later to tungsten, bismuth, or other heavy metals that are now available to us? I suppose it has. Many of today's kids have never worn a canvas hunting coat or even rubber waders in this age of gore-tex and neoprene and windstopper fleece. If you had told me 20 years ago that my favorite duck calls would be made from acrylic, I would have called you a heretic! I would have told you that acrylic is for latex paint, and real duck calls are supposed to be turned out of wood. But as Dustin Hoffman was told in *The Graduate*, the future was and is in plastics. Guess what calls I have swinging around my neck this season? One made of clear plastic, and the other is clear acrylic. I don't have warm and fuzzy feelings about either call; in fact, they both look a little like veterinary syringes. But both calls work better than any others I've tried recently, wood included, so I blow my plastic call and raise my truck window with the electric button. I'm adapting."

If this little intro has peaked your interest, you will find a lot more to interest you in the many stories of waterfowling obsession in Doug's books.



### ***ATTENTION MEMBERS***

We are currently in the process of raising funds for our BIG REED POND PROJECT in Montauk.

We will be holding raffles in an effort to raise additional funds for this project.

You will be notified in future e-mails and postcards.

Thank you for your support.



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## *Some Practical Jokes Can Still Be Good Fun for All*

by Ron Sineo

Too often today, the practical joke is done just to be mean to the person on the receiving end, or else it has negative unintended consequences. What ever happened to good old-fashioned fun?

Back in the 90's, I hunted with an outfitter in Matagordo County, Texas who was a "fun" guy. When there was a lull in the action, he would tell us stories of other hunts he had guided, and the fun that was had. I remember one story in particular, about 4 guys from Dallas who booked a hunt with him. One of the guys in the group, "Clyde" apparently had never hunted waterfowl before but wanted to go, mostly because the others had talked about how much fun it was. The other three loaned Clyde the gear he would need for the hunt. They arrived at the outfitter's in what was probably the biggest rain storm to hit that area in several years. One little river that you could normally jump across was now several hundred yards wide and it seemed like that whole part of the state was under water.



Well they woke up early that morning, ate breakfast, pulled on the rain gear and got ready to head out. Clyde was a little reluctant but knew he had to go or else he would risk being made fun of for the entire next year.

They got out to the blind and the hunting was slow, with so much water and newly flooded area the ducks had tons of places to go and were spread out all over. There wasn't much chance they were going to shoot many ducks that day. They happened to notice that one of the decoys was listing to one side pretty badly, and it needed to be removed from the spread. Clyde, being the rookie, was unanimously voted to be the one to go and get it. When he was about three quarters of the way back with the decoy, the guide started calling like crazy and motioned for Clyde to stay still and put his head down (keep in mind, no ducks were anywhere to be seen.) Not knowing what to do Clyde complied. As soon as the other 3 hunters figured out what was happening they all started calling and were telling Clyde to wave the decoy over his head and splash in the water! He gave it all he could, and they must have kept him pinned down for a long minute. It wasn't until they all burst out laughing that Clyde realized it was a just a joke.



To add insult to injury, the guide decided to move them to another spot to try their luck. As they were helping to set the decoys, Clyde walked over a little way and began to "tinkle" in the water.

Once again, the guide saw a golden opportunity and started cussing and picking up the decoys as he let everyone know how much he hated hunting with greenhorns. By this time, Clyde was worried to death and did not know what he had done. His hunting "buddy" Joe started explaining to him, somewhat disgustedly, **that ducks can smell "last night's beer" on the water and that a duck wouldn't land within a mile of them.** He bought it hook, line, and sinker and the look on his face showed how embarrassed and upset he was. I guess by then he figured he had done enough damage and was going to walk back to the truck and wait while they finished the hunt. He didn't get 5 steps away when they all let him in on it. At first he looked stunned, then angry, and he started pacing a tight circle while punching his closed fist into his other hand repeatedly. Then, he stopped, slowly turned around, and smiled. This broke the tension and they all started to laugh it off. Bits and pieces of the prank were retold, and everyone had several more good laughs. Clyde had "made" his bones. He knew he was now one of the group.



Postscript: We were told that on the Drive back to Dallas, Clyde did request that next year they bring someone else who had never hunted before so he could have some fun too.



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## *SAD FAREWELLS*

### *Albert Griswold – Tony Quintel – James Marran – Guy Soden*

Over the past couple of years, the SSWA has lost some of its core members. I use this term in reference to the influence that these gentlemen have had in our organization. Either in “stepping up” and manning the helm as President. Members who fought for our programs so that they keep their integrity intact. Men who contributed their time, financially, and/or physically in the projects and fundraising at the shows, or All 3. All these men sat on our Board of Directors, helping to set the upcoming year’s events/raffles/shows/and projects

I’m very glad to have known all 4 gentlemen personally, working hand-in-hand with three of them. All of them were soft-spoken men, until a topic or event was brought up that went against the well-being of the SSWA. Then they could be heard **LOUD AND CLEAR**, as to the displeasure of that topic. Fierce supporters of the programs that they fought long and hard to raise funds for. Projects that took many hours to complete that were left to deteriorate. Laws that were anti-waterfowling that needed to be squashed or overturned. **ALL** loved and committed many hours for the sake of the SSWA. A club they were all so proud to be a member of.

I was recently at the memorial for Past President Albert Griswold and his daughter wrote a beautiful eulogy. Here are some excerpts from it which can be used to describe all 4 of these fine men.

“We gather today to say good-bye to my dad, Albert Griswold. My dad was ill for the past few years and we know he is now at peace. But, as I was going through photos and preparing to come here, it reminded me of the man my dad was. He was what some would call “a man’s man.” a “man of few words”.

For a man of few words, there were two topics that he could talk about forever: Fishing and hunting. For these two sports he was passionate about. Through the years he experienced so much joy with friends participating in these sports. Whether on all day trips to “the Canyon” or early mornings in the brutally cold temperatures in the Great South Bay hunting ducks and geese, even if they returned home empty handed...it was a good day. Although I did not share his passion for these sports, his actions taught me that when you find things you enjoy go “all in”, be active in the organizations that support your passions, and don’t be afraid to step up and give your talents to help lead. He cared deeply for the SSWA and always spoke about it with the highest regard.

As the only man in a house full of women, even if he were not a “man of few words”, he probably would not have had much opportunity to speak. Even without words, his actions told us, he was always there for us and we knew he would take care of us. My Dad, was a “man’s man”, but to us girls, he was our daddy. We Love you daddy and may you rest in peace.”

Many thanks to Denise for her beautiful words. To ALL those that passed on, REST IN PEACE MY FRIENDS..... YOU WILL BE GREATLY MISSED.

## *Talking About Dogs: Your Duck Dog*

*by George Grivas*

What should you expect from your duck dog? You have trained him and have done some maintenance of training. You have (hopefully) transitioned his training to the field. Now is time to hunt him. You and your dog should work as a team.

Your first concern should be steadiness. To be honest this could be very difficult to maintain. The excitement of the hunt, gunshots, birds falling, water splashing, cripples swimming around – you get the picture. These things could cause a dog to break. You probably do not want your dog to break. This could bother other hunters and it could be dangerous. If your dog is not **ROCK STEADY** you should tie him to a stake or to a cleat on the boat.

Swimming cripples are another concern. I have seen my dogs chasing a cripple around a farm pond. The cripple dives and pops up elsewhere and the dog could be swimming all day. I have also seen a cripple swim down a creek faster than the dog could get out of the boat. Now this is a problem. I help the dog by sluicing cripples on the water.

Delivery to the hand is something I do not compromise on. The dog must deliver to hand **EACH AND EVERY TIME**.

Control. I can hear my mentor Guy Fornuto shouting at me “Get your dog under control”. You might be in a public place with other hunters or your dog may love the marsh area and is racing around investigating everything. Keeping him under control is a must.

Why is teaching a blind retrieve useful? Birds may fall that are not seen by your dog. Here is where taking a line is a must. It is not a hard thing to teach. It is a great tool to have because you will be able to send the dog for a bird that he didn’t mark. And if you have taught your dog to handle (take a cast for a change in direction) you now have the equivalent of a guided missile.

Is this your dog’s first hunt? Do the smart thing and let your friends do the shooting. This way you can pay attention to the dog. Believe me, the dog can be Dr. Jekyll and change into Mr. Hyde when hunting. Take the opportunity to show him what to expect from him.

So now it is time to hunt your dog. Don’t forget to work as a team.



### Quack's Tips

This edition's tips are courtesy of Joel Yeldell, pro-staff member of Tanglefree Decoys and Sitka Gear camouflage wear, and Jimbo Ronquest of Rich-N-Tone duck calls. Yeldell says that one of the common mistakes that he sees is people setting up their blinds in the lane of the kill hole. Essentially, you want to be offset just a little bit. That way, when birds are finishing and coming in, you're offset to one side or another so that their focus is finishing in your hole and not the boat, big coffin blind or whatever kind of blind you're in. You don't want that ( boat/blind) where they are trying to get to. Keep in mind there are other ways to do this, from inadequately camouflaging your blind, wearing a camouflage pattern that doesn't match the surroundings, moving in the blind as ducks fly overhead, and of course, not covering up your face and hands with some sort of camo netting, face paint and/or gloves.

Ronquest adds that a common mistake that duck hunters make is not setting out their decoy spread properly, particularly when it comes to thinking about where and how you want ducks to finish. He says, "even as veteran hunters, sometimes, we forget about how the wind affects decoys and how ducks come to them, so you always want to keep that in mind when you're setting your spread out."

While Jimbo doesn't discount hunters using tried-and-true patterns – the J-pattern, the X-pattern, the Y-pattern, and so on – he says there is something even more important for a duck hunter to keep in mind when he opens up a sack of decoys. "Those patterns are all great, but the main thing is that you want to put the decoys where you **don't** want ducks to land and you want to leave your openings in spots where you **do** want them to land.



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To receive the password for the MEMBERS ONLY section of the [sswa.org](http://sswa.org) website, call Curt at 631-661-0379 and give him your e-mail address so he can add it to the mailing list so you can receive your newsletters electronically.

## — South Shore Waterfowlers Association —

P.O. Box 217 Brightwaters, NY 11718

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Telephone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Membership expires in Sept.

— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

**CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- January 2** — **TUESDAY – SSWA Meeting at Brightwaters/Bayshore Library, 7 pm**
- February 3-11** — **Great American Outdoor Show, Harrisburg, PA**
- February 5** — **SSWA Meeting at Brightwaters/Bayshore Library — 7 pm**
- February 9** — **DU Dinner, Rock Hill Country Club, 6:30 pm – Call John at 631-618-5728**
- March 1-4** — **World Fishing & Outdoor Show, Suffern, NY**
- March 3** — **Long Island Decoy Collectors Show, IBEW Local 25, Hauppauge**
- March 5** — **SSWA Meeting at Brightwaters/Bayshore Library — 7 pm**
- March 6** — **Game Dinner – SSWA Fundraiser – Fisherman’s Catch, flyer to follow**
- March 10/11** — **Gun Show, IBEW Local 25, Hauppauge**
- April 2** — **SSWA Meeting at Brightwaters/Bayshore Library — 7 pm – Elections**
- April ???** — **SSWA Annual (Curt M) Dinner – Fisherman’s Catch**
- E-mails will be sent any time a date is confirmed.**

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



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