

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 .

MARCH 2010

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

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718



***ELECTIONS***  
***April 5***

***Slate of Officers***

**President – John Adams**  
**1st Vice President – Ron Sineo**  
**2nd Vice President – Richie Franks, Jr.**  
**Treasurer – Erik Tallbe**  
**Secretary – George Duguid**  
**Sergeant-at-Arms – Curt Matzinger**

If anyone wishes to be nominated, come to the April meeting to be placed on the slate.

The Flyway Season Setting Committee will be meeting this month. To give your input on the upcoming dates, contact John Adams (631) 618-5728 or Ron Sineo (631) 862-8518.

***SSWA Dinner Reminder***

**March 20, 2010**

**Fisherman's Catch Restaurant**  
**Pt. Lookout, NY**

**Starts at 6 p.m.**

Remember to bring "good stuff" for the auction table. If you are currently on the list, please send your check today. We are currently at capacity.

See you there!

**\*\* SSWA Six Gun Raffle \*\***

The six gun raffle is currently underway. We would like ALL our members to submit their raffle tickets **BEFORE** April 1, 2010. We need to have enough tickets to cover the cost of the raffle. We hope to be able to draw the winners at the April meeting. If we haven't sold enough by the April meeting, we will have the drawing at the Duckboat Show in October.

Bring your tickets to the April meeting or mail them to me.

Remember, mail in your stubs with a check payable to **South Shore Waterfowlers** to:

Curt Matzinger  
32 Magro Drive  
N. Babylon, NY 11703

**If you need more tickets,  
call me at (631) 661-0379.**

**Duck Banding at the Flanders Property, Sunday, March 21, 7:30 a.m. If interested, contact Donna at [DCAPP3@optonline.net](mailto:DCAPP3@optonline.net)**



**Jon Swezey**

1877 New York Ave., Huntington Station, NY 11746

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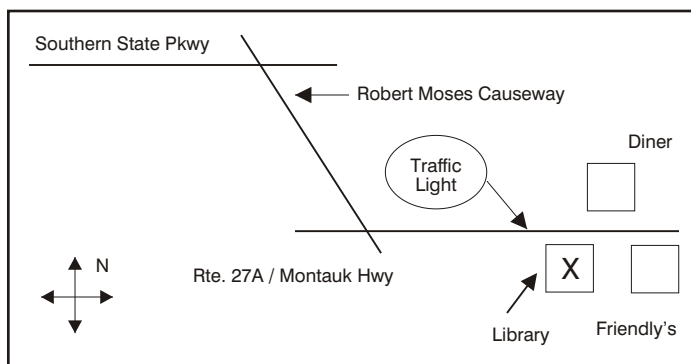
## South Shore Waterfowlers

### 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 in one of the first floor conference rooms (look for SSWA sign) at 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.



## In Memoriam

**Bill Joekel**  
**Jan. 25, 1921 – Jan. 8, 2010**

*Submitted by Martin M. Fleisher*

Bill was never an official of the Waterfowlers, although he must have served on the first committees that conducted the first decoy contests and shows in the early 60s. However, he was most instrumental in introducing our organization to the waterfowling community by winning Best of Show many times when the decoy extravaganza moved to the Electricians Hall in Melville to accommodate the masses of patrons and their traffic. This expo was named in his honor. Bill grew up on the Great South Bay, was a jack-of-all-trades, but displayed a special interest in waterfowling and decoy making. This make-up earned him the position of being a guide at the famous South Side Sportsmen's Club where he guided the likes of President Hoover and the Duke of Windsor. In later years he ran a successful dog kennel on Saxon Ave. in Bayshore. There he had his decoy workshop where he taught carvers and hunters the art of decoy making. Now the grand finale of Bill's life, his decoys are on exhibit with the country's greatest decoy makers at the Ward Brothers Museum in Crisfield, Maryland. Thanks a lot Bill!

Our prayers & condolences go out to the family & friends of Michael Dolinski. Mike was a member of the SSWA & passed away too soon.

A speedy recovery goes out to Richie Otterstedt & Fred Graham. Both men went under the knife & we wish them to be "Back on the Bay" real soon.

## South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

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

### Fisherman's Catch Restaurant

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 POINT LOOKOUT, N.Y. 11569

DANA LARSON  
 Catering Manager

## *ATLANTIC FLYWAY COUNCIL REPORT*

by Ron Sineo

**AVIAN INFLUENZA - H5N1 virus**...The Federal Government has continued to aggressively monitor for this disease in North America, but there has yet to be 1 single case of high path H5N1 avian flu identified in North America. While the Govt. still intends to monitor for this, they are now going to scale back their efforts. Instead, Samantha Gibbs of the USFWS is developing a comprehensive “reactionary” type response, in case H5N1 is ever detected in North America in the future.

**Duck Die-Offs** – One of the lowest amounts in recent years. The largest incident this year was in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, where there was a 5,600 bird (common eiders) die-off. Biologists discovered that a virus causing liver necrosis was to blame. Elsewhere in the continental United States, a 670 duck die-off was caused by salmonella, a 161 bird die-off from emaciation, a 142 bird group from botulism, and a die-off of 128 ducks from a rheovirus.

**Hunter’s Choice** – This has been the 3rd year of the three year experiment with hunter’s choice in the Mississippi flyway. A hunter survey is being done to determine whether or not it is a viable alternative management tool. The preliminary results seem to be that hunter choice does reduce harvest rate, but not as much as having a season within a season.

**Eastern Mallard Model** – The Flyway is waiting for the Migratory Bird SEIS to be released by the Feds. It should be ready in May or early June. This will help to set parameters for new models to be derived on a number of duck species. In the case of the Mallard, the thinking is that the new model should reflect that the mallard bag should be equal to the total bag! Further that there should be three regulation options:

The proposal below has the most support from the Mallard Committee:

OPTION	SEASON	BAG	HEN RESTRICTION	COMMENTS
<b>Liberal</b>	<b>60</b>	4	none	<b>Maximizes hunting opportunities</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>46</b>	4	2/bag	<b>46 days to round off weekends: hen restriction highlights restrictive nature of the package</b>
<b>Restricted</b>	<b>32</b>	3	1/bag	32 days to round off weekends

**Possession Limits** – There was a lot of discussion of possession limits. Currently, you are allowed only a 2X daily possession limit. (Technically, this includes cleaned birds). The CWF has had an epiphany with respect to this. They have reasoned that since they sell as many 3 day non-resident waterfowl licenses as they sell resident licenses, they decided that a hunter should be able to keep a 3 day bag limit of birds to take home. Throughout Canada in the 2010-2011 hunting season, then, the daily possession will be a 3 day bag limit. It is likely that the USA will follow suit and this will be a flyway recommendation for this summer. Whether or not the Service approves this change in time for next hunting season, remains to be seen.

**NORTHERN PINTAILS** - While no concrete recommendation was forthcoming regarding pintails, the new model which will be proposed pending the release of the SEIS by the USFWS is that:

1. The Harvest Objective for Pintails should be Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY)
2. Closed seasons should not be imposed if the observed BPOP average is > 1.75 million birds.
3. Regulatory alternatives should include a closed season, Moderate 1-bird season, and liberal 2 bird season.

(ATLANTIC FLYWAY COUNCIL REPORT – Continued from page 3)

**SNOW GEESE** – Flyway-wide, the population of snow geese continues to grow, despite the best efforts of sportsmen to control the population through sport hunting. The simple fact is that these birds are hard to harvest in great numbers. While there are certain outfitters who have the resources to harvest several thousand geese each year, they are few and far between. While many amateur hunters are doing their best, these birds usually require huge numbers of decoys, certainly more than the average hunter has. It is not uncommon for successful outfitters to put out 1,000+ decoys in a field in order to attract snow geese. Statistically, with 1,000,000 birds at the breeding grounds, if each hen only has one gosling survive, 1,500,000 birds will migrate south at the end of that breeding season. This means that each and every state and province in our flyway will need an average harvest of 20,000 snow geese just to keep the population at a level 1,000,000 birds next breeding season. Of course, this is not happening!

For the 1st time since I have been attending, they are beginning to look into alternative strategies beyond sport hunting as a way to control the population. Remember also that wherever these geese go, they are competing with other ducks and Canada geese for the same food supply. What is more they are destroying farmer's crops in the process.

**BRANT** – The existing model for brant is a liberal package of 60 days, 3 birds daily, a moderate package of 50 days, 2 birds daily, and a restrictive package of a closed season. The magic number for a liberal season is > 150,000 birds in mid-winter. Last season, the numbers fell slightly below 150,000, so we had a moderate season this year. The mid-winter survey showed that we only have about 139,000 brant in the flyway. We will likely have a moderate season again. (the threshold to close the season is @125,000 birds)

For the second year in a row, Long Island has wintered more brant than the entire New Jersey coast. Those numbers according to the mid-winter survey are: NJ = 55,485 brant, Long Island = 65,580 brant. If you do the arithmetic, you will see that together, NJ and NY winter @ 121,000 of the 139,000 brant in the entire flyway. Just a few years ago, the numbers were greatly lopsided in New Jersey's favor.

#### **SO WHY DID THEY LEAVE NJ AND COME TO NY?**

Perhaps the NJ salt marsh was becoming depleted of preferred foods, Brant continued to collect in Western Long Island and Queens. This area from Jamaica Bay east through Western Nassau County has become the single largest staging area for Brant in the entire flyway. It is here that they feed constantly in late winter trying to gain the tremendous energy they need before flying North to their breeding grounds in Hudson Bay. There are serious concerns that this relatively small area is close to its maximum carrying capacity for waterfowl at this time in late winter. Brant are competing with geese and puddle ducks for terrestrial grasses. They should probably be feeding on the tender buds and shoots of the emerging spartina in the salt marsh, but the salt marsh is in bad shape. While the Brant have adapted to eat grass, one mouthful of spartina buds provides a lot more energy than a mouthful of rye grass. So when the Brant migrate North, some hens may arrive exhausted and undernourished, and nest production may be negatively affected.

**P.S.** In the aerial fly over of Jamaica Bay, they thought they saw @2,000 Snow geese in the salt marsh there! If that was so, remember that these birds rip out the plants they eat by the roots!

Martin Lowney of the USDA has his hands full with Brant at JFK airport. His guys have tried all the conventional ways of scaring off the Brant near the runways... Cannon fire, dogs, etc... They even tried shooting them with paint ball guns to chase them. He is ready to try rocket netting and relocation. (probably to an area around Captree) He may be asking for volunteers help to do this. More to follow!

#### **CANADA GOOSE – GREAT NEWS!!!**

The goose committee has looked favorably on the proposal to exchange the early September season for a March ender with respect to resident geese in our western zone. They will be making that recommendation to the Flyway Council this summer! It isn't a done deal yet, but we are a giant step closer to getting it.

**Scaup** – The mid-winter survey numbers for scaup are low, but the survey has some holes in it. The thinking was to wait for the June BPOP estimates before deciding what to recommend. We will either have a second year of 60 and 2, or we will revert back to a more restrictive "hybrid" season with 2 birds for only a part of the 60 day season.

**Black Duck** – although the population of black duck seems to be steadily rising in recent years, this growth is nowhere near large enough to allow for 2 birds per day. A second limiting factor is the "parity" issue with Canada. We cannot take more than 60% of the total take of Black ducks in North America. If we went to a 2 bird bag, that would surely happen. The Black duck Joint venture committee continues to search for a compromise solution.

**Canvasbacks** – Probably the same as last year.

**Wood Ducks** – almost certain to remain 3 birds/day.

## *Extended Snow Goose Season for Spring 2010*

By Ron Sineo

By the time you read this, our regular and late duck and goose seasons will all be closed. The only season remaining will be the Snow goose season, which would normally have been scheduled to close on March 10, due to Federal Regulations.

**But for the second spring in a row, waterfowl hunters** in New York will have a special opportunity to harvest snow geese in most areas of the state just like they did last year. The DEC has again announced plans to implement a "Conservation Order" for **snow geese**. A Conservation Order is a special management action authorized by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act to control certain wildlife populations when traditional management programs are unsuccessful in preventing overabundance. Federal and state regulations were amended in the fall of 2008 to allow this additional harvest of **snow geese** in response to concerns about their growing numbers across North America.

**For NY State hunters, here is a quick summary of where, when, and how!**

**Areas open:** Western, Northeastern, Lake Champlain, and Southeastern Waterfowl Zones

**Season dates:** March 11–April 15, 2010

**Shooting hours:** ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

**Bag limits:** 15 snow geese per day, no possession limit

**Special measures allowed:** electronic calls, unplugged shotguns (more than 3 shells)

**Non-toxic shot:** required

**Requirements to participate:** current small game hunting privileges, federal duck stamp and registration in New York's Harvest Information Program (HIP). **NO** special permit is required and harvest reporting is not mandatory; however, participants must provide harvest information if requested by DEC.

So just what is behind this Special Season? It seems that large numbers of **snow geese** feeding on natural vegetation can also destroy large areas of coastal marshland during migration and winter. Serious damage to agricultural crops, such as hay, winter wheat, barley and rye, occurs on migration and wintering areas as well.

The Atlantic Flyway population of light geese composed mostly of "greater" snow geese increased from approximately 50,000 birds in the mid 1960s to more than one million birds in recent years. Most of these birds pass through New York during spring and fall migrations and spend the winter in New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. Managers concerned about the impacts of too many snow geese have recommended a population goal of 500,000 in the Atlantic Flyway. The only practical way to reduce the population to that level is to increase hunter harvest, which

in recent years has averaged between 30,000-40,000 birds in the flyway, including about 5,000-10,000 in New York.

New York has had a long hunting season for snow geese for many years, but until last year, federal regulations did not allow the season to be open after March 10, when large numbers of snow geese begin migrating north from their wintering areas. From mid March to mid April, more than 100,000 snow geese may spend time in New York, fueling up for their return to the arctic breeding grounds in May. Even larger numbers of snow geese congregate along the St. Lawrence River in southern Quebec, where annual surveys have documented the dramatic growth of this population to approximately one million birds.

Concern about the overabundance of snow geese has been growing for years. An international "Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group" concluded in 1998 that action was needed to limit the greater snow goose population. A goal of 500,000 birds has since been established for the Atlantic Flyway. However, it took more than a decade to fully implement the recommendations of this group.

In November 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalized rules establishing a Conservation Order and allowing the use of special hunting methods to increase the harvest of light geese across the country. Similar regulations have been in place in many midwestern states and Canadian Provinces, including Quebec, since 1999. Harvest of light geese has more than doubled in those areas and the population growth rate has been reduced. Now, New York waterfowl hunters will be able to participate in this conservation effort.

To re-state, then, under the new regulations, any person who has migratory game bird hunting privileges in New York, including a valid Harvest Information Program ("HIP") confirmation number, may take snow geese and Ross' geese (a smaller but nearly identical species) in the Western, Northeastern, Southeastern, and Lake Champlain Waterfowl Hunting Zones from March 11 through April 15, in addition to the regular snow geese hunting seasons in each zone. Areas where large numbers of snow geese occur at this time of year include the Finger Lakes region and the upper Hudson and Champlain Valley regions. A special season was not implemented on Long Island, because relatively few snow geese occur in hunt able areas there during the spring.

All migratory game bird hunting regulations and requirements apply to the taking of snow geese during this spring harvest period, except that use of recorded or electrically amplified calls or sounds is allowed and use of shotguns capable of holding more than three shells is allowed.

*(Continued on page 6)*

(EXTENDED SNOW GOOSE – Continued from page 5)

### Permit and Reporting Requirements

Unlike some other states, no special permit is needed to participate in New York's special snow goose harvest program. Harvest reporting is not mandatory, but any person who participates must provide accurate and timely information on their activity and harvest if requested by the Department. The DEC plans to survey a sample of program participants to estimate hunter activity and harvest, and the extent to which the special measures helped hunters take more birds. This is necessary for continuation of the program in future years.

### Results of the 2009 Spring Snow Goose Harvest Program

New York's first year in the special snow goose harvest program was a success. The DEC estimated that approximately 1,450 hunters participated in New York's 2009 spring snow goose harvest program. Participants reported hunting in at least 20 counties across upstate New York, and they harvested nearly 7,700 birds (5.3/hunter). This harvest was in addition to the estimated statewide harvest

of 6,800 snow geese during the 2008-09 regular season. Approximately 20% of the reported harvest was taken with the aid of electronic calls, and 10% was reported taken with the 4th, 5th or 6th shell in a gun. Although some of this harvest may have occurred without these special measures, the combined effects may have increased overall harvest by 10-20%.

Substantially higher harvests of snow geese during the spring season in New York are possible in the future. It was reported that many hunters said they were unaware that the special season was open, and many of those who did not hunt said they may next year. In addition, it seemed that snow geese migrated through New York earlier last season than they normally do. Biologists believe this was more likely due to weather conditions than to effects of hunting pressure. If large numbers of snow geese remain in the state into April, as they often do, spring harvests may increase to several times greater than occurred in 2009. The DEC has indicated that New York plans to continue to participate in and promote this special snow goose management program for the foreseeable future.

## *New Kids on the Block*

### Delta Waterfowl's First Long Island Chapter

They held their first meeting – a meet and greet – at the American Legion Hall, 340 Union Blvd., West Islip, on Monday, March 8 at 7 p.m. Food and beverages were served. Rocco Castellano and the other officers discussed their agenda. They wish to join the other waterfowl fraternities on Long Island to help “fight the fight” to help the ducks.

For meeting info and how to join, call Rocco (631) 820-1253.

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## *FOR SALE*

### *Southbay Duckboat*

The South Shore Waterfowlers has for sale a 14 ft. Southbay Duckboat, galvanized trailer, with a 15 hp Mercury 2-stroke outboard motor. All are in very good condition. The proceeds from this sale will help the club with their projects and events.

**Price – \$3500**

Call Ron at (631) 862-8518



***SSWA is looking for an  
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To be used at events and for storing our stuff.

Must be lockable and watertight.

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Call Curt at (631) 661-0379

### Quack's Tips

In the March/April edition of DU Magazine, there is a great recipe for duck. Basically, to make Philly-style duck sandwiches . . . The recipe serves 4. Here is the ingredients list: 3 cups of duck breast fillets VERY thinly sliced, 1/3 cup olive oil, 3 tbsp. red wine vinegar, 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard, 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt, 1/4 teaspoon coarse black pepper, 2 cups yellow onion, thinly sliced, 1 red bell pepper, seeded and thinly sliced, 2 garlic cloves, minced, a dash or two of Tabasco sauce, 4 slices of pepper jack cheese, and 4 soft Italian rolls. Now here's how to make them:

1. In a medium bowl, combine half the olive oil with the vinegar, mustard, salt, and pepper. Add the duck slices, toss and coat. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.
2. Heat the remaining oil in a large, heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onions, peppers, and garlic. Cook, stirring often, until the onions are lightly browned. Mound the onion mixture on one side of the skillet, add the marinated duck to the other side, and stir fry for 2-3 minutes. Once cooked, season with Tabasco sauce.
3. Combine the meat and onion mixture into 4 equal mounds, top with cheese, and cook until the cheese is just melted. Fill each roll with one of the mounds, and serve. Delicious!

### Vito DeVito Artist/Sculptor

221 Merchants Path PO Box 11 Sagaponack, NY 11962 631.725.1122	J.N. Bartfield Galleries 30 West 57th Street New York, NY 10019 866.JNB.ARTS www.bartfield.com	July & August 33 Rifuma Way Norway, Maine 207.743.9365
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e-mail: vitodevito@optonline.net  
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## — South Shore Waterfowlers Association —

P.O. Box 217 Brightwaters, NY 11718

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e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ 2 years . . . . . \$45.00

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

— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

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

- March 20** — **6th Annual Curt Matzinger Dinner, Fisherman's Catch, Point Lookout  
Curt Matzinger (631) 661-0379 (see Page 1)**
- March 27-28** — **Gun Show, Local 25 IBEW Hall, Motor Pkwy., Hauppauge  
SSWA will have a booth. Members come and help out.**
- April 5** — **Last SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library — Elections (see Page 1)**
- April 9** — **Western Suffolk Dinner, Captain Bill's Restaurant, Bay Shore,  
Todd Herrle (631) 581-2857**
- April 27** — **South Shore Dinner, Manor East, Massapequa,  
Marty DarConte (631) 697-7400**
- May** — **North Shore Dinner, Swan Club, Glen Head,  
Stephen Melbinger (516) 429-9951**
- June** — **Huntington Bay Dinner, Thatched Cottage, Centerport,  
Bruce Waring (631) 262-9188**
- June 5** — **3rd Annual Striped Bass Tournament, Star Island Yacht Club, Montauk  
Jo Rae Brennan (631) 537-7611**

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



SOUTH SHORE  
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P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

***Dedicated to Waterfowl Conservation on Long Island***