

# 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 2013

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

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

## **TASK FORCE MEETING – April 27**

*Call John, Ron S, or Erik to give your input on the dates for the upcoming seasons. Phone numbers located on page 2.*

### ***The SSWA Annual Election of Officers will Take Place at the April 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting***

All members in good standing are eligible to vote in the annual election of Officers of the South Shore Waterfowlers Association. To be a member in good standing, your dues must be paid and up to date. Voting will be in person only, at the Brightwaters Library on Monday, April 1, 2013, during the regular meeting.

As of this past month's meeting, the following candidates have been nominated to run for office:

President:    \_\_\_ John Adams    \_\_\_ Ron Sineo

1st Vice Pres:    \_\_\_ OPEN

2nd Vice Pres:    \_\_\_ Rich Franks, Jr.

Secretary:    \_\_\_ Ron Pliszak

Treasurer:    \_\_\_ Curt Matzinger

Advisors:    \_\_\_ Katie Sohm    \_\_\_ Steve Jendricks  
              \_\_\_ Tom Gresser    \_\_\_ Bob Dash

As of the March meeting, we still need a nomination for the 1st vice president position. At the moment the only race we have is for the office of President. We require 4 advisors to be elected each year.

Nominations will also be taken again, from the floor at the April meeting. Any additional candidates nominated, must be present to accept their nomination. For any position for which there is a race, voting will be done in person by paper ballot only. Proxy votes are not permitted.

### ***9th SSWA Dinner is Set for April 20 at Fisherman's Catch***

March is usually the time for the Annual SSWA Dinner at Fisherman's Catch Restaurant in Point Lookout. Because of "Sandy," we booked the date of April 20 for the dinner. If you are interested in attending, and want to be put on the list, call Curt at 631-661-0379, then send a check for \$60 per person payable to **SSWA** and mail to Curt Matzinger, 32 Magro Dr., N. Babylon, NY 11703. Checks **MUST BE RECEIVED before April 10th** Due to checks needing to be deposited and cleared, no money is to be collected the night of the dinner. Don't forget to bring items for the Chinese Auction. It's a great night out. We have a good time and a lot of fun. Call me today.

### ***Password Change***

Once or twice a year the password for the [sswa.org](http://sswa.org) website is changed. The new password appears on your mailing label on your newsletter. It will be a word that doesn't usually appear on a label. The password enables you to go to locations on the website that are "member specific." That means only paid-up members can look at the info in that area. All other areas can be accessed by the general public. We have these member specific areas because we don't want members' personal info to be accessible by non-members. To log onto the website go to [sswa.org](http://sswa.org), click on **Login**, enter **member** where it says Name, then enter the password where it says Password, then click **Login**. When finished looking around, remember to click **Logout**. Enjoy the website. It's yours for the viewing.

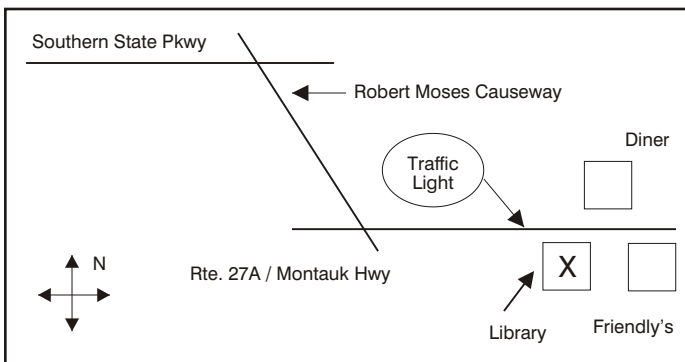
## South Shore Waterfowlers

### 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.



## Show Recaps

This past month some members of the SSWA attended the two shows that were held at the IBEW Local 25 Hall. I would like to acknowledge the members who helped me out at the shows. John A, Ron S, Guy, and Bill H worked the Antique Decoy Collectors Show with me. Ron S, Kate and Ben, Erik Sr. and Jr., Guy, Ron P, Tom and Bill helped me at the two-day Gun Show. We did well at these combined shows, which is a great help to our treasury. As you all know, the Duckboat Show in October was hammered by the start of Super Storm Sandy. This resulted in a huge hit to our treasury due to the low turnout. Thank you so much to my helpers. We need your continued help to ensure the existence of the oldest waterfowling organization on Long Island.

Curt

## Sporting Clay Shoots at Peconic River Sportsman Club

Once again it is my pleasure to announce that the SSWA is invited to hold shoots at the club. They were gracious enough to permit our members the opportunity to attend shoots at Peconic. We have not set dates in stone as of yet, but we will post them to the website when they come available (sswa.org). If you don't have access to the web, call me at 631-661-0379 and I will send you the dates when I get them. We usually go out to lunch after the shoot. It's a great day out and there's no better way to sharpen your shooting skills than to run the course at Peconic. Perry makes sure that NO ONE will break 100. They will be once a month starting in May. You must call me to be put on the list for EACH shoot you want to attend. We need to have Peconic members accompany us around the course. It is \$35.00 a person to shoot the course and bring your own shells, glasses, and hearing protection. Hope to see you there.

Curt

## 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 . . . . . Ron Pliszak  
(631) 902-2220
- Treasurer . . . . . Erik Tallbe  
516-799-6613
- Sergeant at Arms, Newsletter Editor,  
Duckboat Show Chairman, Historian,  
and Club Dinner Chairman . . . . . Curt Matzinger  
631-661-0379

## Reminder

The boating course offered by SASI at Caleb Smith State Park will be April 10 and April 17, 6-10 pm. Call Ron Sineo for more info at 631-862-8518.

## *Taking a Page Out of History*

*by Ron Sineo*

When my dad hit Utah beach during the Normandy Invasion, he was in the “Mechanized Cavalry,” a part of General Omar Bradley’s First Army. There was still stiff resistance beyond the beachhead when my pop rode off the LCT in the M4 Sherman tank that he was a gunner on. He didn’t like to talk about his wartime experiences in Europe, but little by little I was able to piece together quite a picture. As his regiment pressed through France and into the other countries of Europe, his outfit was reassigned to General Patton’s 3rd Army. There were 4 guns on the Sherman: a 75mm cannon, a 50 cal. top machine gun, and a 30 cal. machine gun on each side of the 75mm cannon. The crew consisted of 5 men, the commander, the gunner, the loader, the driver, and the co-driver/hull gunner. Once my dad told me that the 75mm cannon shells were stacked so that when you were firing the 50 cal., you needed to get on top of the 75s magazine to sight the 50 cal. gun. As the height of the magazine reduced during combat, you could eventually stand to fire the 50 cal. He and 2 others in his tank survived the battle of the Bulge, but by the time the war was over, he already had some hearing loss in both ears. He was reluctant to admit it, but I remember while growing up, that I always had to repeat things to him. The radio and later the TV were always too loud in my house when Dad was home. After the war, dad became quite a proficient trap shooter. But through the late 40s and the early 50s he usually didn’t even wear hearing protection at the range. It wasn’t until the mid-50s that most ranges started requiring hearing protection. By the time my dad was 65 he was totally deaf in his right ear, and had about 50% hearing loss in his left ear. Still, he resisted a hearing aid. After all, he had my mom! He would ask her “what’d he say?” and then she would repeat it for him. He got quite good at reading lips as his hearing deteriorated. In his 70s, a hearing aid was really necessary for him to hear any sounds at all, but by then he was too set in his ways to adapt to its use.

Of course we didn’t know too much back then about protecting our hearing. Millions of factory workers of his generation were routinely subjected to loud noises in the work place that resulted in an

entire generation slowly going deaf. Today we are supposed to know better!

Yet, how many of us still don’t bother to use hearing protection while duck hunting? We dismiss the idea for a whole bunch of reasons, I guess, among them:

- I never did it growing up, and I can’t get used to it now.
- I need to hear the bird sounds in the distance
- I can’t whisper to my hunting buddy in the boat or duck blind if I have my ears plugged.
- How many shots do you think you are going to fire anyway?
- I can’t tell if I’m calling right when I wear ear plugs, . . . etc.

Well, here’s a thought. If you have ever experienced “muzzle blast” from a hunting partner, you know that your ears ring for quite a while afterwards. Don’t fool yourself into thinking that you haven’t harmed your ears at that point. Consider the foam type plugs. Keep them in your hand if you must talk, or “listen for birds” or hear yourself call. But please consider putting them in your ears if it looks like you are going to get a shot! The hearing you protect may be your own!

### *3rd Annual SASI Dinner*

Smithtown Elks Lodge #2036

120 Edgewood Ave., Smithtown

**Friday, April 26, 2013**

Event begins at 7:00 pm

**\$50 per person**

**Call Ron Sineo for tickets at 631-862-8518**

Included with ticket: hot buffet dinner  
with five entrees, two sides, salad, coffee, cake  
Open beer, wine, and soda bar

Tickets will **NOT** be sold at the door.

Must be purchased in advance.

There will be raffles, door prizes, Chinese auction,  
and games throughout the night.

## *Planning a Guided Waterfowl Hunting Trip*

*by Ron Sineo*

For almost 30 years now, I have had the good fortune to take at least one road trip for a guided hunt each year, usually out of state. Some of my most memorable hunting experiences have been the travel kind, but some trips have been real clunkers too. Over the years, I have learned the hard way, that there are several things that should be taken into consideration, when planning an away hunting trip.

For starters, it is always better to travel with a hunting buddy. Selecting who that should be, however, can be a challenge. As you know, duck hunting is really not a group sport! You can go on a fishing boat with a bunch of guys and have a good time, even if there aren't many fish . . . but I doubt the same thing is true about duck hunting, especially when you are paying for it. And speaking of paying for it, if you travel a good distance, there are automatically going to be some major expenses. While you can keep some of the costs down by sharing the trip with one or two other hunters, some costs are just unavoidable!

If you can drive to a place, hunt it, and drive home again, without having to stay overnight, then I consider that type of trip a "local" trip. Some brave souls I know will leave the house at midnight, drive 5 hours to a hunting spot, hunt the whole day, and then drive the 5 hours back home! I personally think that kind of trip is foolish, and is an accident waiting to happen. Anyway, for our discussion here, it is still a local trip.

So a road trip for me is at least an overnighter. This type of trip chews up 2 days just in traveling the round trip. I don't know about you, but if I have to spend 2 days traveling, then I want to spend at least 2 days hunting! This type of trip is going to involve arranging transportation, housing, and meals, in addition to the non-resident licenses, stamps, and the guided hunt itself. In the beginning I used to pick places that I could drive to in a day. I fooled myself into thinking that I could save a lot of money by taking my own car. That is, until I dropped my drive shaft on I-95 in North Carolina. It ruined the trip, and cost me a bundle that I hadn't planned on. Now, for trips that are hundreds of miles away, I usually fly, and use a car rental. If the rental breaks down, they give you another car, and you are on your way again in an hour or so. Some

guys avoid flying because of the gun thing and airport security. Trips in the US or Canada are not a problem, just an inconvenience. You will need a sturdy, made for airplane travel, lockable gun case, and you have to follow simple airline rules about firearms. Obviously, your firearms will travel as luggage in the cargo hold.

The most important thing is to research the guide! A bad guide can ruin any trip. For waterfowling, the best recommendations are those "word of mouth" recommendations that you get from guys you know and trust. If you are going into uncharted waters, however, and you can't get word of mouth recommendations, the next best thing is to check the trade magazines. Ducks Unlimited, Wildfowl, Delta Waterfowl, Waterfowlers.com, & Waterfowl USA are among the best. They seem to have some control over their advertising, and have been known to drop advertisers who don't deliver as promised. If the outfitter you want to use, advertises in at least 2 or 3 of these publications, it is a good sign. Also, be wary of any outfitter that didn't advertise last season, and/or doesn't have a website that you can go to for more information. Websites are a necessary fact of life these days. Be sure to check out the website of any outfitter that you are thinking about using. Usually season dates, prices, what to bring, accommodations, contact numbers, and a lot more, are all available on the website. Comparison-shopping is usually productive, but expect to pay between \$300-500 per morning for the blind or the boat (most guides charge extra for full-day hunts, and still expect that you will have your limit before noon anyway) for the guide service. Be wary of prices that are listed "per hunter." If you and your buddy go together, you may get shoved into a blind or pit with a couple of strangers. There may be unpleasant rules like: minimum of 4 shooters in a blind, etc. Licenses, stamps, ammo, and so on, are all extra costs. Most services provide meals and lodging for an additional fee. Sometimes you can save a few bucks by staying in a motel, and eating on your own, but the convenience of being right at the lodge is usually worth it. Most guide services have 800 numbers listed. Call them for general information. Especially be wary of the guide who is a lot cheaper than the others . . . there is always a reason.

Planning a Guided Waterfowl Hunting Trip  
(Cont'd. from p. 4)

### **Ask the right questions, such as:**

How much is it per day? Are meals and lodging included? Do you provide the non-resident licenses and stamps, and how much are they? If not, how do I get them, and when and where? Are there any hidden fees or other charges that I should know about?

There are 2 hunters in my party. Will we be hunting together, and will we have our own guide? WE DON'T WANT TO BE PUT INTO A LARGER GROUP WITH STRANGERS! . . . AND WE DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED! (Either of these can happen unless you stipulate otherwise.) Once all of this is sorted out and agreed to, you will want to lock in your hunting dates. This is usually accomplished by mailing off a sizeable deposit. Before you mail the deposit, ask what happens to your deposit if you have a last minute emergency of some kind and have to cancel the trip. Will you get your deposit back? . . . Can you reschedule or at least put the deposit toward a later trip? Be sure to check on transportation availability and pricing for those dates before you send off any deposits. (Years ago, I sent a \$200 deposit, and then found that it was a tough place to get to. Changing planes and big bucks for airfare caused me to decide against the trip. I lost my \$200 deposit.)

Planning a trip for the first time is the hardest, and we all learn from our mistakes. Plan early. You can often get better deals. Even though some guides won't formally book a trip before August, when season dates are finally official, most guides will "pencil" you in. This lets you continue with your planning. Take it from me, it's great to get away. Be sure to bring a camera and take plenty of pictures. Even on the few "bad" trips that I've had, we shot birds. Most of the trips have been great, and I have wonderful memories, and in those instances where the memory isn't as sharp as it used to be, I have a few photos to help me remember. I find myself often reviewing the old photos and reminiscing after the season closes, as a remedy for "cabin fever." If you already take "away" hunting trips, I hope you found something here that was useful. If you haven't ventured far away yet, perhaps this will encourage you to try.

## ***Future Upgrades to sswa.org***

### **Business Opportunities**

If you have a business that you like to have appear on the SSWA.org website, send me a business card and I will get it on our website. This is available only to members in good standing and will be removed if you become negligent in your dues. It is a feature we are trying to have available before Sept (we need to have the site changed for this purpose). We are hoping that members use other members' businesses, and by being listed on the site, we hope to get more usage to the site, while getting your business seen by more people. Remember to have your website name listed when you send me the card, so that it will be listed also. Send the card and info to Curt Matzinger, 32 Magro Dr., N. Babylon, NY 11703.

### **Member Directory**

The Officers presented the idea at the last meeting and it was well received. We would like to make a list available to all paid-up members, of each members Name, Town, and Phone number. It will be in the secure section of the website, and only members can see it. Many times we have been approached with the question, "Do you have John Smith's phone number?" They would like to go hunting, shooting, ask a question, etc., to the person and they can't get in touch with them. We would like to post a list of members on the web by September.

ANYONE NOT WANTING TO BE LISTED, CALL Curt at 631-661-0379, and leave your NAME AND ADDRESS. I will remove you from the list, and I will call you back to confirm you are off the list.

We feel this is a great way to expand the comradery of the club. The more people get to know each other, it will, in turn, make the SSWA a friendlier organization. Remember to call if you wish to opt out.

### **Recipes**

If you have a really great duck, goose, fish, or game recipe, e-mail it to cazinger@yahoo.com and I will get it in the new section. Many members don't know how to cook the game they shoot, and you old-timers have some great recipes. Please share them with your fellow members.

*Curt*

### Quack's Tips

Most divers and sea ducks have too strong a flavor to make great table fare, yet more and more, we find ourselves hunting these less than desirable game bird species. To be honest, while we cook them with our best efforts, we often don't look forward to those meals.

Here is a recipe from Zach Taylor's book, *Successful Waterfowling*, where he claims to have solved the problem! Referring to the divers and sea ducks, he says, "here is a way to deal with them." Filet out the breasts and allow them to soak in a marinade of small whole onions, bay leaves, salt, pepper, garlic clove, and 2 cups of dry white wine. (Prepare them in the morning for evening cooking.) When you are ready to start cooking, dry and flour the breasts and lightly brown by frying in bacon fat. Next put them back in the marinade and stew for approximately 2 hours. Add potatoes, tomatoes, and carrots to the stew.

I have tried this. If you like pot roast, you will probably like this!

## Waterfowler's Classifieds

**FOR SALE:**

**CORK BLACK DUCK KITS**  
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### Benelli Nova Winners from Decoy & Gun Show

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Tom Ryan       | 4. John McCormack |
| 2. Nate Goldstein | 5. Matt Macari    |
| 3. Steve Canino   |                   |

*Congratulations to all the winners.  
 Thank you for your support.*



SSWA—Proud creators of the Southaven Park  
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**— South Shore Waterfowlers Association —**

P.O. Box 217 Brightwaters, NY 11718

*Membership Enrollment / Renewal Card (please print legibly)*

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— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

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

- April 1** — Last SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library (Election of Officers)
- April 20** — 9th Annual SSWA Dinner, Fisherman's Catch, Point Lookout (see p. 1)  
*(GET YOUR CHECK IN BY APRIL 10)*
- April 26** — SASI Dinner, Smithtown Elks Lodge (Contact Ron Sineo for info).
- June 9** — Delta Waterfowlers Sporting Clays Shoots, \$70 per person,  
100-round sporting clays, Suffolk Trap and Skeet, followed by BBQ.  
Contact John Ferguson at 631-539-9539
- May–Aug.** — Peconic River Shoots (Dates to be announced, check out [sswa.org](http://sswa.org), see p. 2)
- September 22** — Delta Waterfowlers Dinner. Contact John Ferguson at 631-539-9539



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support the  
Wounded  
Warriors*

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



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WATERFOWLERS  
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BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

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