

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 2014

Web site: sswa.org

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

LAST CHANCE – LAST CHANCE – LAST CHANCE

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'oeuvres, meal appetizer, salad, entrée, 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 almost at capacity. Call Curt at 631-661-0379 to check availability and 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.

Attention Shooters

I have a few tentative dates for the next couple of months shoots at Peconic Sportsmans Club. A round of sporting clays costs \$40.00 and then lunch afterwards \$10.00 (either BBQ on site or at the Triangle Pub). Mark Sunday May 18th and Sunday, June 29th on your calendar. We start promptly at 10:00 so arrive a little early to get ready. Bring 100 rounds for the sporting clays shooting, and eye and ear protection. This is for SSWA members, but call me to see if space is available for your guest (I mean future SSWA member). Call Curt at 631-661-0379. It's a lot of fun!

Fishing Trips

The club is trying to get a fishing trip organized, but we are waiting for good fish availability AND good weather. When it happens, I will announce them on the website. If you are not computer savvy, call me at 631-661-0379 and I will call you about an upcoming trip. Can't wait to wet a line and get some filets.

**Enjoy Your Enclosed SSWA
Tide Chart**

Sad News

In the past few months we lost two members of our club. Both men were the type that made up the backbone of our organization—both advocates of waterfowling and the great outdoors. One was our tenth president Martin Fleisher. He served as President with the sole purpose of helping out and doing the best for our club. An avid hunter and bayman, his heart and soul was always out on the bay, and in the marshes. (See daughter's article, pg. 4)

The other was Frank Pomes. I knew of his love of hunting and working his dogs. A member of many organizations and clubs, he truly loved the outdoors and all the wild things. They are both now roaming the marshes in the sky looking for the next flight to come in. So next time you are out on the water, look up and think of our lost friends, raise a glass to them and their memory, and say "GOD BLESS."

**Congratulations to our Decoy and Gun Show
Camp-Site Sport Shop Gift Certificate winners:**

E. Gulbrandsen, Shane McCann,
Guiseppe Gervasi, and Stan Penn

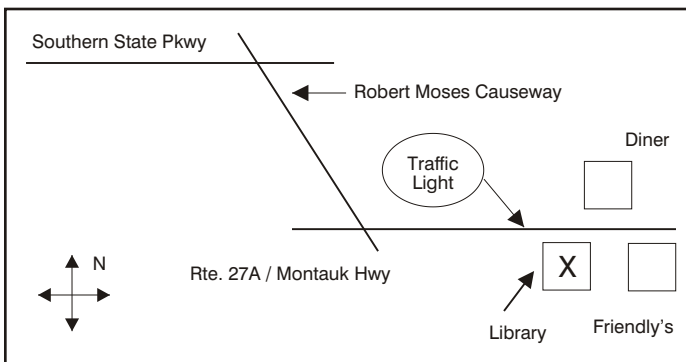
South Shore Waterfowlers

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.



The President's Corner

Well, a lot has happened since the last issue of our newsletter. For one thing, another regular duck and goose hunting season has come and gone. Most would probably agree that the weather this winter was as white, wet, cold, and generally as harsh as any



of the winters we have had in recent years. Hunters encountered lots of ice, but there is no doubt that this type of weather tends to concentrate the birds. The trick, of course, is to be able to get out to where they are. Snow storms and bad weather prevented the club from holding its February meeting, but that hasn't slowed us down. On March 1st, SSWA manned a table at the annual Decoy Show, which was at the IBEW Hall in Hauppauge, and on March 8 & 9, we staffed a table at the Spring Gun Show also at the IBEW Hall. Much thanks to Curt, who besides taking his turn, was there to set-up and break-down our displays, as always. Thanks also to the several members who volunteered their time to staff the tables.

On March 7th, Curt and I met with members of Suffolk County Parks at Hubbard Park in Flanders. We were examining potential sites there with an eye on eventually partnering with the county to construct a handicapped-access blind for duck hunters. The County has been very cooperative with SSWA on this subject in the past (the blind we were able to promote at Southaven County Park), and it looks good for us to partner with the County once again on behalf of our Wounded Warriors. Last month I attended the winter meetings of the Atlantic Flyway Council, and things are generally looking good for ducks this fall. A wildlife research biologist from Maine (Lucas Savoy), who did some work with the Joint Venture folks on Sea Ducks, has arrived on Long Island. His goal is to try and put some radio transmitters on White Winged Scoter hens. John Adams and a few other SSWA members and I have been invited to join Lucas as observers. Although I will not be able to go, we look forward to hearing from John and the others about this worthwhile project. Our 10th anniversary club dinner is set for April 5th. (There may be a few tickets left. Contact Curt 631-661-0379 for tickets.) Our last meeting for the spring will be held on April 7, 2014, and we will hold our annual elections at that time. I hope to see you there.

Ron Sineo

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 Ron Pliszak
631-902-2220
- 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 Bob Dasch
631-472-0683

Talking About Dogs

by George Grivas

How can I get a good hunting dog?

Getting a good hunting dog requires that you do some homework. I will use the Golden Retriever as my example because I have one but what I say about Golden Retrievers applies to other retrieving breeds too.

There are plenty of Golden Retrievers but getting a good hunting Golden is more than just going out and buying a dog "with papers." There are several gene pools that you can choose from and you should know a little about each one. Following is a brief description of some of them:

1. The Field Trial Pool: Field Trial Golden Retrievers are bred for health and stamina and what it takes to be a competitive dog. Field Trials are competitions where there is a winner, first place, second place, and third place.
2. Hunt Test Pool: Hunt Tests (AKC, HRC, NAHRA) were developed so that hunters who were not interested in trials or were unable to trial could test their dog against a hunting dog standard. The founders of these tests realized that Field Trials did not suit their needs.
3. Bench Shows: Bench Shows evaluate a dog's appearance. They don't have anything to do with hunting behavior.
4. Other: These are pet breedings, accidental breedings, etc.

Once I locate a breeding, I try to get to see the parents. I want to see how they work. I am actually shopping for a litter and not a puppy. The litter should have the genetics that I want in my puppy. When looking at the parents I look at the following behaviors: retrieving desire, delivery to hand, soft mouth, toughness in training, energy level, game seeking ability, good nose, dominance, and trainability. In other words I am looking for behavioral traits that can be passed on to the pups. What



did you say, you can't see the parents? Talk to someone who can.

OK, so how did I get my current dog? I read advertised litters on Entry Express, Retriever Training Forum, Retriever News, and my local breed club's litter page. I avoided breedings of show dogs and looked at the Field Trial Pool and Hunt Test Pool. I called several breeders. I checked the health clearances of the parent dogs. I also called the breeder of my last Golden and she recommended a particular breeding because she not only had seen the parents work, but also saw the grandparents work. I called that breeder, immediately sent my deposit, and then got my pup when it was old enough.

Of course there are no guarantees about how a pup will turn out but why not give yourself the best odds at getting a good hunting dog? After all, your dog will be with you for many years.

(RETRIEVER TRAINING: A BACK TO BASICS APPROACH by Robert Milner was used for information for this article.)

Editors 2 Cents: I read a great statement concerning Retrievers. It went "When training Retrievers, you demand from a Lab, negotiate with a Chessie, and ask a Golden." It reflects the intelligence of a Golden. I owned one and she was wonderful.)

Obituary for Martin Fleisher

It is with a heavy heart that we report the passing of Past President Martin Fleisher. Martin was our 10th club President. Below is an obituary which was put together by his daughter, Beth Maxine Fleisher. Martin was just a few weeks short of his 89th birthday when he passed.

Martin Fleisher **February 27, 1925 – January 9, 2014**

After being displaced from his home on the water in Copiague by Hurricane Sandy, for a sad and trying 14 months Martin Fleisher lived at the Oak Hollow Nursing Home in Middle Island. He passed away peacefully on January 9, 2014.

Martin was raised in Freeport and Rockville Center, where he attended South Side High School. His parents didn't boat, hunt, or fish, but through a family friend he learned how to sail. He bought his first sailing canoe when he was 12. After that, he was never without a boat, or three, or five in his fleet. At South Side he made life-long friends who taught him how to duck hunt.

His high school education was interrupted by the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. Shortly after the attack, he enlisted in the Navy, and was deployed on the USS Evans DD-552, a Fletcher-class destroyer. He was a Torpedo man 3rd Class, firing a 20mm anti-aircraft gun from the fantail. His ship saw ferocious action in the South Pacific, culminating the morning of May 11 at Okinawa. They shot down 23 kamikazes that morning—something Martin attributed to the skill he'd gained duck hunting on Long Island. Martin lost his hearing in the battle from the deafening percussion of the anti-aircraft guns.

Martin returned to Rockville Center, and became a silver smith. He got back in touch with his old high school friends, and began hunting in earnest: in Point Lookout, Freeport, Amityville . . . wherever there were ducks to hunt. He loved the traditions of hunting, and made his own decoys, even casting his own anchors and weights out of lead. He had an antique scooter, and later made his own shooting box from a Blue Jay sailboat hull. I have hundreds of memories from my childhood that revolve around duck hunting, such as: picking thatch on the "grout" (refers to the muddy tidal meadow at low tide) for thatch rails, Martin and his friends coming home from a winter's day on the bay covered with ice and loaded with ducks. I remember a trip to a Ducks Unlimited property in mid-western Canada, where we travelled in a swamp buggy to tour the conservation efforts, and saw wolf tracks. I remember eating duck dinner, and finding out what the shot glass was for.

Martin is survived by me (his daughter Beth) and his twin grandsons Alasdhair and Ben Claremont, who have been attending the annual meet-up each October at Cedar Beach, which Martin first brought them to when they were toddlers. This year they shot his beloved 1957 Browning 12 gauge auto-five in the skeet competition, thereby carrying on the tradition.

Donations can be made in Martin's name to Ducks Unlimited.

Editors 2 Cents:

I loved listening to Martin tell his stories of his life. They were so entertaining and informative. An example is when he told me, during the war he was asked to help with fixing a problem they had with torpedos running too deep. He said he and "AL" were working on it one day. I asked him who "AL" was, and he said so matter-of-factly, "Albert Einstein of course." I was amazed that he knew Einstein. His quote was "He was really smart, but a bit of a dope concerning other things." I was on the floor laughing so hard. His slide presentation at one of our meetings is still talked about today. Everyone loved his stories of each slide. Some so amusing the whole room was hysterical. Martin was truly a GEM. He will be missed.

The Brant Saga (by Ron Sineo)

At the Winter Tech Section Meetings of the Atlantic Flyway Council last month, there was mostly good news to be had. It looks like we will have a “liberal” season of 60 days, and 6 ducks per day again, as we have enjoyed for quite some time now. There is, however, one bird whose population seems to be struggling, and that is the Atlantic Brant.

The population of Brant in the Atlantic Flyway has fluctuated greatly over the years. Still, we have not had a closed season on Brant in quite some time. The Mid-winter waterfowl survey (MWS) provides the only assessment of Atlantic Brant population size available at this time. The MWS is a once-a-year survey conducted by zones and segments that focus on the waterfowl wintering areas with the highest concentrations of birds. Therefore, the survey provides a relative index to the abundance of birds from year to year. It is mostly conducted from aircraft with some ground and boat counts. As a result, Brant harvest strategies have been developed based upon the numbers of Brant counted in the MWS. These harvest strategies are listed below:

STRATEGY 1

A closed hunting season will be considered when the **mid-winter survey estimate** for Brant is below 100,000. Aboriginal and sport hunters in Canada will be advised of the situation and requested to consider reducing their harvests.

STRATEGY 2

A sport hunting season consisting of 30 days and a 2 bird bag will be considered when the **mid-winter survey estimate** is between 100,000 and 125,000, if productivity, food supply, age structure, or other factors do not preclude it.

STRATEGY 3

A sport hunting season of 50 days and a 2 bird bag will be considered when the **mid-winter survey estimate** is between 125,000 and 150,000, if productivity, food supply, age structure, or other factors do not preclude it.

STRATEGY 4

A sport hunting season of 60 days and a 3 bird bag will be considered when the **mid-winter survey estimate** is between 150,000 and 200,000, if productivity, food supply, age structure, or other factors do not preclude it.

STRATEGY 5

A sport hunting season of 60 days and a 4 bird bag will be considered when the mid-winter survey estimate is greater than 200,000, if productivity, food supply, age structure, or other factors do not preclude it.

Following is a review of the MWS count for the past 9 years, and the resulting regulations on Brant in the Atlantic Flyway.

2005-2006 (123,248) Restricted Season 30 day/2 per day
 2006-2007 (146,639) Restricted Season 50 day/2 per day
 2007-2008 (150,559) Restricted Season 30 day/2 per day
 2008-2009 (161,618) Moderate Season 50 day/2 per day
 2009-2010 (151,273) Liberal Season 60 day/3 per day
 2010-2011 (139,350) Moderate Season 50 day/2 per day
 2011-2012 (148,886) Moderate Season 50 day/2 per day
 2012-2013 (149,157) Moderate Season 50 day/2 per day
 2013-2014 (111,752) Restricted Season 30 day/2 per day

It is plain to see that we have had only one “Liberal” season in the past 9 hunting seasons. This is because there has only been 1 year in the past 9 years where the MWS of Brant has actually been well above 150,000 birds. If Atlantic Brant populations were thriving, we would have had many “liberal” seasons on Brant. The sad truth is that Brant are not “thriving.” There are probably many reasons for this such as lack of food and/or overcrowding on the staging areas before the migration north. This flight can cause hens to be too weak to withstand the rigors of nest building/sitting once they arrive on the breeding grounds. Brant breed in the high Arctic, north of the Hudson Bay area of northern Canada (and points north even above the Arctic circle). Arriving too early, before the thaw, can be a death sentence for them. If they arrive too early, the nests that are productive hatch goslings that can starve because vegetation they need to eat hasn’t emerged yet. And of course there is always the threat of predation. We cannot control any of these factors. The only thing in our control is to adjust the hunting harvest. In the mid-winter of 2013, following Superstorm Sandy, the count for Brant was at a 10-year low, at only 110,000 birds. Since there was previously four consecutive seasons of only a moderate harvest strategy, biologists hoped that the low number was due to the fact that the storm had scattered the birds to places where they couldn’t be counted. By imposing a restrictive strategy this past hunting season, it should have guaranteed a substantial increase in population count for the MWS this winter. While the count was definitely higher than last year’s 110,000 (132,900 birds this year), it was lower than most had hoped. If the harvest strategy is followed again, we would have a moderate season of 50 days/2 per day. However, there is great concern over the lack of immature birds in this past year’s harvest. Recent low nest production on the breeding grounds, and the very low survival rate of juveniles does not bode well for the Brant population. There was much debate which resulted in postponing the decision about the coming Brant season until the July meeting. It is hoped that by July, there will be some new and encouraging information about this spring’s nest success which will increase the chances that the biologists will recommend a moderate season. If there is no good news, we may once again be looking at a 30 day, 2 bird per day season for Brant.

Quack's Tips

If you have ever tried to blow a duck call, especially in cold weather, you may have produced a squeak or made a "sour" note. You immediately think "something is wrong with the reed." What is probably wrong is the reed got wet and the water froze. Duck caller reeds sometimes freeze or stick in frigid weather. Prevent gum-ups by using a product such as Rain-X or Aquapel that's made to deter rain, snow, and ice buildup on windshields. A few drops rubbed on the reed with a cloth makes the reed less likely to stick in the heat of a cold-weather hunt. Try it!

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SSWA Election Procedures (2014)

- Elections will be held at our April Meeting.
- All members in "Good Standing" will be allowed to vote.
- In any election where there is more than one candidate running for the same position, the vote will be by paper ballot.
- Votes may only be cast in person. There are no Proxy votes allowed.
- In order to run for office, a candidate must have been in good standing for the entire 2013 calendar year. To be placed on the ballot, the candidate's name must be nominated, and seconded, and the candidate must agree in person to run for that position. There are 5 elected offices: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- There are also 4 advisor's positions on the Board of Directors that are annually elected.

The Proposed Slate for this year's election are the incumbents, namely:

Ron Sineo for President, John Adams for 1st Vice President, Richie Franks Jr. for 2nd Vice President, Ron Pliszak for Secretary, Curt Matzinger for Treasurer, and Bob Dasch, Tom Gresser, Steve Jendricks, and Kate Sohm for Advisors.

- At the March meeting, Erik Tallbe Jr. was nominated for 2nd Vice President. At the April meeting nominations will be taken from the floor one last time before the election is conducted. After all nominations are closed, each candidate who is opposing another for the same position will get 3 minutes to address the membership before the vote is called.

— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

P.O. Box 217 Brightwaters, NY 11718

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— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- April 4** — Western Suffolk DU Dinner, Captain Bill's, call Ron Kee at 917-953-4054
- April 5** — 10th Annual SSWA Dinner, Fisherman's Catch, Point Lookout (see p. 1)
- April 7** — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library (Elections)
- April TBA** — Peconic Bay Great Guns and Gear Event, John Cushman at 631-926-9432
- May TBA** — Eastern Suffolk Waterfowl Hunter's Party, Water Mill, NY, call Steve Rempe at 631-807-2395
- May 18** — Sporting Clays Shoot, Peconic Sportsmans Club (see p. 1)
- June 5** — South Bay's Great Guns and Gear Event, Rock Hill Country Club, Manorville, call Jim Jankowski at 631-721-6914
- June 29** — Sporting Clays Shoot, Peconic Sportsmans Club (see p. 1)
- June TBA** — Delta Waterfowl – Sporting Clays Shoot & BBQ, Suffolk Trap & Skeet, call John at 631-807-9251



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