

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 2016

Web site: sswa.org

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

SSWA Annual Election Procedures

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 2015 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 as follows:

John Adams for President, Ron Pliszak for 1st Vice President, Erik Tallbe Jr. for 2nd Vice President, Kate Sohm for Secretary, Curt Matzinger for Treasurer, and for advisors: Bob Dasch, Dani Karam, Bill McGinley, and Bill Spadafora

2016 Waterfowl Hunter Task Force

On Saturday, April 2, 2016 there will be a meeting of the 2016 Waterfowl Hunter Task Force for the Long Island Zone. It is the job of the task force members to develop recommendations for dates of the 2016-2017 duck and goose hunting seasons for the Long Island Zone. John Adams sits on this task force to represent the members of the SSWA. John's contact email is michjon30@msn.com. His phone # is 631-874-7459. If you have suggestions about the dates of the coming hunting season, share them with John.

Bayhouse Experience

For all SSWA members in good standing. Ben and Kate Sohm are raffling off a chance to experience a bayhouse duck hunt. All proceeds go to the feed fund. See page 9 for details.

Thank you Ben and Kate for organizing this fundraiser.

12th Annual "Curt M" Dinner April 16 – Fisherman's Catch

It's that time of year again. We are almost at capacity, so everyone who contacted me interested in attending, please send your check before April 1st to confirm your spot. Anyone else who wishes to attend, **call today** because spots are limited. Call Curt at 631-661-0379.

\$60.00 per person
Dinner starts at 6:00 pm

SSWA Website Login

Name: **Member**

Password: **shotgun**

[Login](#) [Cancel](#) [This is a member login]

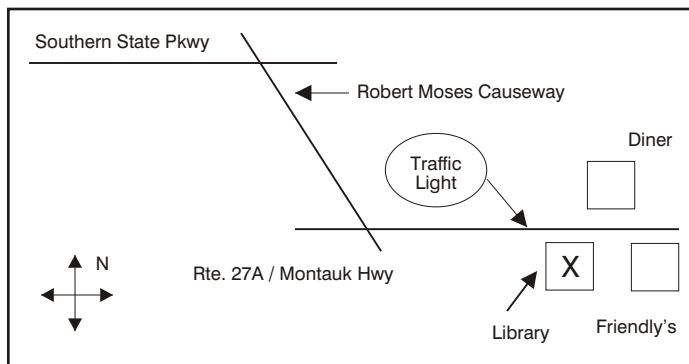
South Shore Waterfowlers

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

2016 Winter Flyway Report

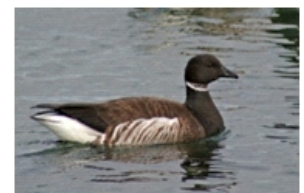
by Ron Sineo

The 2016 winter Atlantic Flyway Technical Meetings took place from February 21 through 26 in Virginia Beach, Virginia this year. As usual, Paul Padding of the USFWS began his address to the group with bleak budget reports and projected staffing needs for the USFWS for the coming year.

As many of you have come to know by now, the USFWS has adjusted the meetings calendar to relax the deadline schedules that each of the 4 Flyway Councils have in recommending changes in regulations to the SRC each year. Because of this, most of the 2016-17 waterfowl frameworks were put in place this past October. Only 2 species warranted final scrutiny last week. They were the canvasback duck and the Atlantic Brant. The Canvasback duck was discussed by the Harvest Management Working Group in order to create and propose a decision tool for setting a canvasback limit each season. In our Flyway, no recommendation for a change in bag limit was needed, so for the 2016-17 hunting season, we will once again enjoy a 2 bird daily limit on canvasbacks.



The Atlantic Brant is an entirely different story. The mid-winter counts each year for the past 3 years have been steadily decreasing. The numbers last year were 111,400 birds (only 11,400 birds away from a closed season on Brant. That is why the restriction on Brant was a season of only 30 days, and 1 bird per day). This year, the mid-winter count on Brant skyrocketed to a whopping 157,900 birds.



The SNOBS committee (SNOW geese, Brant, and Swans) spent a good deal of time discussing why there was such a discrepancy. This is after all a 41% increase in bird count. Ted Nichols from NJ is one of the biologists who has been doing the mid-winter Brant Survey for several years in a row now, and he was asked to give his thoughts on this. He is certain that last year's and this year's counts both were accurate. Unfortunately we know that this 41% increase was not brought about by a great breeding season. He concludes that for whatever reason, these additional Brant must have been somewhere outside of the survey area last year, and found their way into the survey area this year. (This suggests that the current survey area may not be capturing the representative population numbers we thought they were.)

(Continued on p. 3)

South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

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- 1st Vice President John Adams
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- 2nd Vice President Ron Pliszak
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- Sergeant at Arms Erik Tallbe
516-799-6613
- Membership Bob Dasch
631-472-0683

2016 Winter Flyway Report

by Ron Sineo

(Continued from p. 2)

The service conducts a parts collection “wing bee” each year, where hunters are asked to mail in a wing from the birds they shoot. The biologists are then able to tell the age of the bird from the wing, and this gives them a harvest age ratio or an estimate of the number of juvenile birds per adult in the harvest. For most species there are more juveniles than adults. For one thing, 2 or more ducklings usually survive from each nesting attempt, and for another, juveniles are not as wary and more easily become part of the hunter’s bag. So it follows that with most species that have good production of juveniles, the hunter’s bag will have more juveniles in it than adults.



The bad news continues to be that fewer and fewer Brant are hatched each breeding season, and those that do hatch have very poor survival rates. **The good news is that based upon the mid-winter count this year, we may enjoy a 60 day Brant season, with a 2 bird daily bag limit.**



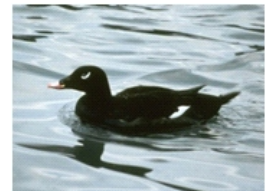
Another major change in the regulations has to do with Sea Ducks. I reporting that coming for 2 or 3 years now. The USFWS of Sea Ducks. As a result, the Special 107 been reduced to a 60 day regular season. only be a 60 day sea duck season. The the ability to designate a sea duck zone in our flyway have decided to eliminate



York falls into category. For states that continue a **sea duck zone, the bag limit on aggregate sea ducks is 5 ducks per day but a maximum of 4 can be** scoters, Eiders, or Long-tailed ducks. Also, Flyway wide, the 60 day sea duck season must be a continuous 60 days, EXCEPT if the sea duck season is concurrent with the regular duck season. Then, the season will be split or not, the same as the regular duck season. The NYDEC has decided that we will no longer have a



sea duck zone, and that each state waterfowl zone will have its own 60 day season, during which time the aggregate bag limit will be 6 birds, which includes no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders, and/or 4 long-tailed ducks. So by keeping the sea duck season contiguous with the regular duck season, we may have a split season, and we may shoot a total of 6 sea ducks instead of just 5.



There is also a change in the Canada Goose Hunting Area regulations beginning this hunting season. That area that used to be designated as the “special late Canada Goose season” north of 25A in the western portion of the Central Goose Hunting Area has been eliminated. That same geographical area has been incorporated into the Western Long Island Goose Hunting Area for Canada Geese. This means that there will no longer be an early September season in that area. Instead, there will be the same 105 day regular resident goose season that now exists in the rest of the western LI Goose Hunting Area. The bag limit there has been increased from 3 birds to 8 birds per day.

When the Broadbill Was King on the Great South Bay March 9–August 27, 2016

Suffolk County Historical Museum

300 West Main Street, Riverhead, New York 11901

631-727-2881 – www.suffolkcountyhistoricalsociety.org

Duck Stamp Contest

by Ron Sineo

It was on Monday, February 22, when Paul Padding (USFWS) was addressing the Flyway Council that I first learned of the proposed changes to the Federal Duck Stamp Contest Rules. As soon as I got home from the meetings, I put out an alert to our e-mail members, and I also put this alert on our website. It seems that the Feds. have acknowledged that the sale of hunting licenses country-wide are down, and that the number of duck stamps sold annually has declined as well. Their HR people have suggested that there is an untapped source that they may be able to attract to buy duck stamps. (These are the “non-consumptive” users of the resource.) In other words, the bird watchers out there. The FEDERAL language is as follows:

*We propose to add to this section the requirement that an appropriate non-waterfowl migratory bird species **MUST ALSO APPEAR** in any entry submitted to beginning with the 2016 contest.”*

I ask you: If this comes to pass, how long will it be before these same birders and non-hunters try to enact legislation to have duck stamp money diverted to buy habitat for the robin, or the red-winged blackbird or the piping plover, etc.???

The public comment period ended on March 14th. We made every effort to alert you to this issue. We hope that you weighed in to the USFWS before the public comment period ended.



Talking About Dogs – “Sammy”

by George Grivas

I recently made a trip to Memphis, TN and spent a week training dogs with friends. It was terrific training with these people and we had a good exchange of ideas. While there, Nicholas joined us with his dog Sammy. Nicholas lives in Arkansas and has a puppy from the litter that I had bred.

Nicholas lives in a remote area. There were only 11 kids in his High School Graduating Class. Needless to say, he has trouble finding people in the know with whom he can train. No problem, I made myself very available for help. We use Facebook, cell phones, and the computer for guidance in training.

Nicholas has done a fine. This is the first dog that he has trained. This past Winter he hunted Sammy in flooded timber. His season was almost as bad as ours but he managed to provide Sammy with 18 birds to retrieve. Sammy is hunted from a platform, has a fetch command, a place command, and has excellent water work. He is a good dog. During our training sessions it seemed like Sammy had no obedience. Nicholas was embarrassed. His dog was trained but he left out one aspect—“generalization.”

Generalization consists of universalizing a dog’s behavior. Dogs are situational and need to be shown that a behavior is expected to be performed everywhere. These include sit, stay, here, down, heel, steadiness in a boat, steadiness in a blind, etc. These must be practiced everywhere. A wooden boat and an aluminum boat may seem like different places to a dog.

So what can Nicholas do? He needs to look for training opportunities. Basic obedience in playgrounds, shopping centers, soccer fields, and the boat ramp for example. AND THIS IS A LESSON FOR ALL OF US. A dog that has his obedience generalized is a well trained dog and is welcome in most places.

You and Your Scattergun

by George Grivas

I thought I knew how to shoot but I was wrong. After years of mediocre shooting, both in the field and on the trap range, I decided to change things. I accepted a friend's invitation to come down to the range and start shooting regularly. My shooting partners have averages from 96-98. They shoot quite well and taught me a lot. I do not claim to be a good shot but I am an educated one.

How well do you know your shotgun? How much time did you put into getting to know your gun? If you do not know your gun you cannot shoot well.

To start, does your gun fit you? If you find that you are placing the butt of the stock on your shoulder joint or your bicep it is too long. Cut it down. If your thumb is hitting you in the face it is possible that your stock is too short. Extend it.

How are you using your beads on your shotgun? If you are using your bead or beads to aim your shotgun **YOU ARE NOT USING THEM PROPERLY.** You should not even be looking at the beads or barrel at all. Your eyes should be focused on the bird and the barrel would then be a blur in your peripheral vision at best. The beads are used to help you with your gun mount by making sure the muzzle, barrel, and eye are all in line. Beads are not sights and if you are using them that way you are using them improperly. And now a word about those high visibility beads. If I need to borrow a shotgun and it has a high visibility bead, I will cover it up with electrical tape because I find it makes me look at the barrel which is not what I

want to do. I recently had to borrow a shotgun to shoot flyers at a field trial and the first thing I did was cover the the high visibility bead.

How can you find the center of your pattern (point of impact)? The following is from Kay Ohye's shooting clinic. Go to the pattern board with your paper. If your paper does not have a target on it, draw one—a circle with a 5" diameter will do. Step back 10 yards. Mount the gun, make sure the beads form a figure-8, hold still and fire at the bottom of the target. You will probably find two holes in the paper, one from the wad and one from the bunched up shot. The location of the shot hole will tell you two things: 1) Does your gun shoot where you are pointing it? and 2) How high or low is your point of impact (POI)? If your POI is 2" high at 10 yards it is 8" high at 40 yards. And remember, you will kill more birds when they are in the center of your pattern.

Finally, how to use your stock. Of course it is there to cheek and shoulder your gun but you should also remember to keep your cheek pressed to it after you pull the trigger. Keep wood to wood as we say in trapshooting circles. If you don't, you will be lifting your head and ruining your shot, most likely shooting low and behind.

This is really written for people who are new to shooting. We as hunters often spend time showing newbies decoys, rigs, and setups but we rarely take the time to teach them how to use their shotgun. Know your gun and practice.



Jon Sweezey

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What's in a Name?

by Ron Sineo

Every recognized species on earth (at least in theory) is given a two-part scientific name in Latin. This system is called "binomial nomenclature." These names are important because they allow people throughout the world to communicate about animal species. This works because there are sets of international rules about how to name animals. Zoologists try to avoid naming the same thing more than once, though this does sometimes happen. These naming rules mean that every scientific name is unique. It is also this way for the names of Migratory Game Birds. Below are some names of North American Waterfowl. First, the English name is stated, then the scientific name. Next, a list of "recognized" local nicknames for each species used in at least one of our Flyways. Sometimes, the nickname will only refer to the drake or to the hen. Sometimes it refers to both. In each list, of the 4 names given, only one of them is False. Can you pick out the False nickname for the ducks and geese listed below?

_____ MERGANSERS (*Mergus Merganser*)

1. Lawn Dart 2. Fish Duck 3. Coot 4. Sawbill

_____ SNOW GEESE (*Chen Caerulescens*)

1. Flying Rat 2. Sky Carp 3. Snow Chicken 4. Black-Tips

_____ CANADA GEESE (*Branta Canadensis*)

1. Bombers 2. White Cheeks 3. Canadiens 4. Honkers

_____ GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Anas crecca*)

1. Chestnut Head 2. Common Teal 3. Green Snipe 4. Water Dove

_____ AMERICAN BLACK DUCK (*Anas rubripes*)

1. Red Leg 2. Black Mallard 3. Dusky Mallard 4. Dark Mallard

_____ MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

1. Greenhead 2. Orangebill 3. Suzie 4. French Duck

_____ MOTTLED DUCK (*Anas fulvigula*)

1. False Mallard 2. Florida Duck 3. Florida Mallard 4. Florida Blackduck

_____ WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*)

1. Painter 2. Woodie 3. Summer Duck 4. Squealer

_____ AMERICAN WIDGEON (*Anas americana*)

1. White Cap 2. Grey Duck 3. Baldpate 4. Poacher

_____ GREATER SCAUP (*Aythya marila*) & LESSER SCAUP (*Aythya affinis*)

1. Bluebill 2. Flying Shoe 3. Spats 4. Broadbill

_____ BUFFLEHEAD (*Bucephala albeola*)

1. Butterball 2. Buffalo-Head 3. Dipper 4. Water Pigeon

_____ RING-NECKED DUCK (*Aythya collaris*)

1. Ringbill 2. Blackjack 3. Paintedbill 4. Jet

_____ LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*)

1. Old Squaw 2. Granny 3. Ha-Ha-Way 4. Belly Flopper

_____ NORTHERN SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

1. Spooner 2. Spoonbill 3. Shovelnose 4. Lips

_____ BLUE WINGED TEAL (*Anas discors*)

1. Blue Shoulders 2. Summer Teal 3. White Faced Teal 4. Smiler

_____ PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)

1. Sprig 2. Long Tail 3. Pinnie 4. Sprig-Tail

_____ COMMON GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*)

1. Oreo 2. Whistler 3. Shell Cracker 4. Shoe Head

(See Answers on p. 7)

Quack's Tips

Now that the season is over, Quack says it is a good idea to check that your hunting gun is cleaned and well-oiled before you put it away for the season. You can also check for the same thing with your left-over ammo. Steel shot shells that got wet while hunting are likely to be a problem next season. Inspect each shell individually. If they are dirty, wipe them down, and then oil the brass. If the brass has already begun to show signs of rust, you can take a little steel wool to the brass and then put a light coat of oil on it. Above all, if your shells are old, or they fell into the water at some point, you should give them the "shake" test. If you don't hear the shot rattle inside the shell when you shake it, it is probably better if you discard that shell. (Unlike lead, steel shot will rust into a hard mass of shot if moisture has gotten inside the hull.) Better to be safe than sorry.

Sporting Clays Shoots at Peconic River Sportsman's Club

Dates to be announced.

Every summer, members in good standing of the SSWA are invited at guests of Peconic to shoot at their sporting clays course. The price includes a round of sporting clays. Some days SSWA hosts a BBQ afterward, sometimes we go to the Triangle Pub for lunch. We will keep you informed when dates become available through e-mails & web.

Answers to "What's in a Name" on p. 6

3, 4, 3, 3, 4, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 3, 1, 2, 1

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— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| April 4 | — Last SSWA Meeting for the season, Brightwaters Library — Elections |
| April 8 | — Western Suffolk Dinner, Captain Bills, Bayshore. Call Bill Sciuti
631-774-7467 or Ron Kee 917-753-4054 |
| April 16 | — 12th Annual “Curt M” Dinner at Fisherman’s Catch (See page 1) |
| April 27 | — DU Peconic Bay Guns & Gear. Dan Goodwin 631-926-7146 |
| April 30 | — North Shore Dinner. Call Stephen Melbinger 516-429-9951 |
| May ??? | — Sporting Clays Shoots – To be announced |
| May 20 | — DU Eastern Suffolk Waterfowl Hunter’s Party. Jonathan Corwin |
| June 5 | — Delta Waterfowl Sporting Clays Shoot — Suffolk Trap & Skeet.
For info call John Ferguson at 631-807-9251 |
| June 22 | — DU South Bay’s Gun & Gear Event. Rock Hill C.C. Carl Lucas 878-1146 |
| Sept. 18 | — Delta Waterfowl Dinner — Bocce Beach, Fire Island
For info call John Ferguson at 631-807-9251 |
| TBA | — SSWA Fishing Trip |

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



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Dedicated to Waterfowl Conservation on Long Island

The Passing of a True Sportsman's Advocate...

Charlie Bevilacqua

by Ron Sineo

The longest-serving member of the New York State Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB), Charlie died on February 11 following complications from a series of strokes. He was 79.

A dedicated champion of conservation values, not just on Long Island where he lived, but across the entire state as he was instrumental in getting the DEC to change many of its policies over the years.

He was tireless in his efforts to promote and safeguard the sporting life and was a leader in taking action that had an impact on wildlife and habitat before it was popular.

As a gun owner, he rallied against every anti-gun law that was introduced in both the state Senate and Assembly and had no problem telling lawmakers—particularly those in his district—the impact those laws would have if they were adopted.

A member of the U.S. Marines, Charlie served as president of Nassau County Fish and Game Association; he was a life member of the NRA and was heavily involved in Friends of NRA Banquets on Long Island. He also served on the Nassau County Forest Practices Board, the NYS Open Space Advisory Committee for Region 1 and the NY Power Authority Joint Task Force on Energy and Natural Resources. He and I served as the Region #1 Directors to the NYSCC. Charlie represented Nassau County, as I represent Suffolk County.

Charlie was a true sportsman's advocate, and he was my friend. He will be sorely missed.



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



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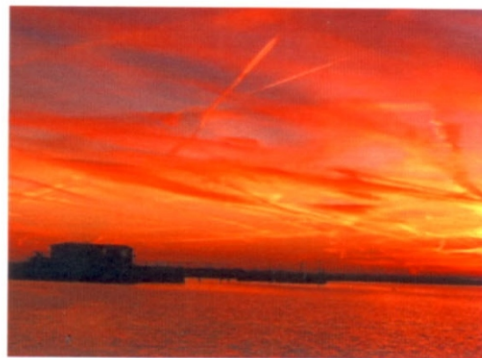
Prize includes overnight accommodations plus meals for winner & one guest at the Sohm Bayhouse on Little Stone Creek, followed by a day of duck hunting on the Great South Bay.



Winner & guest must have current valid hunting license & duck stamp.
Date & time will be set up between winner and Ben & Kate Sohm
for the 2016-2017 duck season.

Winner must be a SSWA member in good standing.

\$20.00 each



Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold.
All donations go to the South Shore Waterfowlers Association Feed Fund.
Ticket drawn when All tickets sold.
Call Curt @631-661-0379 to obtain tickets.

Puddle Duck Appetizers

by Ron Sineo

Materials: round wooden toothpicks, aluminum foil

Ingredients: 1 duck breast, any good marinade, bacon strips

Procedure:

Preparing the duck breast:

Remove the fat and membrane from the duck breast and rinse thoroughly. If the breast is very plump, you may want to butterfly some or all of it, and then completely halve the part of the duck breast that you butterflied, so that you now have 2 pieces that are each only half as thick as the original fillet. This is strictly a matter of personal preference. However, thinner pieces will cook faster. This may take some experimenting.

Cut up the fillets into about 1-inch square pieces (they should look like chunky, oversized scrabble tiles).

Place the pieces into a bowl and cover with the marinade. Put in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour. Count the pieces. (Depending on the size of the breast, this will yield between 20–30 pieces.)

Prepare an equal number of 2" long bacon strips)

Getting ready to cook:

Best if done on the grill, cover the grill with aluminum foil, poking holes in the foil every 2" or so. After breaking the wooden toothpicks in half, remove a piece of duck from the marinade, wrap a 2" strip of bacon around it (the bacon should not be so long that it completely encircles the meat. Ideally, it has covered 3 sides only,) Stick the toothpick all the way through the bacon-meat-bacon sandwich, and repeat this until all the meat is wrapped and ready for the grill.

Preheat the grill, and then place the morsels on the grill. Try not to push the toothpick into the foil (you don't want them to catch on fire!). The morsels will need to be turned at least one time. (I find that small tongs work well for this.) Keep an eye on the bacon. When it starts to crisp up on both sides, it is done. Do not over-cook these morsels. Remove them from the heat as they are done and stand them off to rest and cool for a minute or two, so you don't burn your mouth.

Enjoy!

(Don't eat the toothpicks!!!)

**This is a sample of the SSWA
cookbook coming out this fall**