

# SOUTH SHORE WATERFOWLERS

ASSOCIATION, INC.



MARCH 2018

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

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

## *14th Annual SSWA Dinner*

**April 21, 2018 – 6-10 pm**

**Fisherman's Catch Restaurant  
Point Lookout, NY**

**Still \$60.00 per person**

Includes pass around cocktail hour hors d'oeuvres, appetizer, salad, entree, dessert, beer/wine/soda and a chance at a gun. Don't forget to bring any unused items you no longer need for the Chinese Auction.

Call Curt at 631-661-0379 to get on the list before it fills up.

## *Special Announcement*

Fisherman's Catch Restaurant has a new chef who is PHENOMINAL. Everyone who attended the game dinner was blown away by his three courses. At our game dinner wrap-up meeting at the Catch, everyone who worked the dinner could not stop talking about his dishes. Everything we had was so delicious. The owner of the Catch, Bruce Larson, is a true friend of the SSWA, so let's support him. You won't be disappointed,

**P.S. – Check out Groupon**

## *Special Thanks to Members*

I would like to express my gratitude to the members who gave their time to help out at the last 3 events: LIDCA Decoy Show, Game Dinner at Fisherman's Catch, and 2-day Gun Show. These 3 events were successful in helping to generate much needed funds for our general fund and our warriors with disabilities project at Montauk's "Big Reed Pond." I really appreciate the fact that you donated your time to help out your club. Your dedication to the SSWA is why I keep doing all I do for the club. I couldn't have done it without you. You all are the best!



## **Fisherman's Catch Restaurant**



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DANA LARSON  
Catering Manager

## *April Slate of Officers*

- President . . . . . Ronny Pliszak
- 1st Vice President . . . . . Kate Sohm
- 2nd Vice President . . . . . Erik Tallbe, Jr.
- Secretary . . . . . Dani Karam
- Treasurer . . . . . Curt Matzinger

Anyone interested in adding their name to this slate should contact Curt Matzinger at 631-661-0379. Come to the April meeting to vote.

## South Shore Waterfowlers

### Voice of the Long Island Waterfowler

The South Shore Waterfowlers meet at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Monday of each month from September through April. If the 1st Monday falls on a holiday, the meeting will take place on an alternate date (to be announced). (A library holiday is the same as a U.S. Postal holiday.)

Meetings are held on the first floor conference room of the Brightwaters/Bayshore Library located on Montauk Highway (Rte. 27A) in Brightwaters/Bayshore (see map below).

For additional information, please call John (631) 874-7459 or Ron (631) 902-2220.

## Dates for Upcoming PRSC Sporting Clays Shoots and New Rule Changes

Here is the info I received from Joe Sarrantinio.

“As mentioned at the March meeting here are the dates for the 2018 SSWA sporting clays events at the Peconic River Sportsman Club along with their corresponding RSVP dates.

Sunday, May 6 — RSVP by April 27

Saturday, June 9 — RSVP by June 1

Sunday, July 8 — RSVP by June 29

Saturday, August 4 — RSVP by July 27

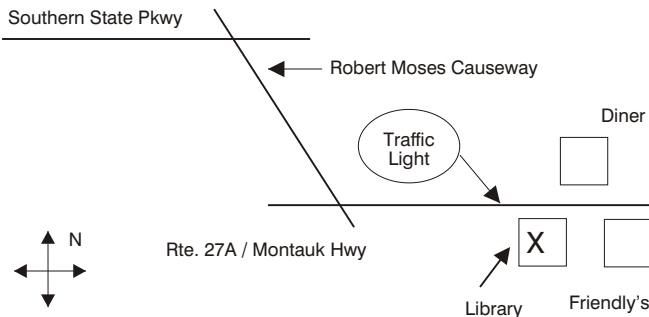
Fee is \$40 per participant (cart rental is extra and can be paid on day of attendance – shooters split fee. This way you don’t have to lug all your gear and shells).

All participants – paid up members – must RSVP and submit fees by the posted dates to be eligible to participate. Make checks payable to SSWA and mail to Curt Matzinger, 32 Magro Drive, North Babylon, NY 11703. Being that we have to get PRSC members to take us out, by paying up front you are committed to coming to the shoot and also makes sign-up quicker and easier.

This is a great opportunity to shoot a 15-station course of sporting clays at the very best private club on Long Island, it’s also a great opportunity for some true pre-season practice. Safety rules require eye and ear protection (a hat is recommended), target ammo only 7-1/2, 8, 9 size lead shot. All ammo will be inspected.

Lunch will either be a BBQ on-site – \$10, or we will go to the Triangle Pub for lunch, usually \$10–\$15. If interested call Curt at 631-661-0379 and get him a check. He will let you know which lunch we will be doing. Thanks and let’s get together and have some fun!

In September, Peconic Sportsman Club will once again be hosting its annual “Take a shot at breast cancer” charity shoot. All SSWA members are invited to attend. Date, time, and registration “shooting” fees TBA at a future date.



## South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

- President . . . . . John Adams  
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Fund, and Fundraising . . . . . Curt Matzinger  
631-661-0379
- Sergeant at Arms . . . . . Erik Tallbe  
516-799-6613

## *2018 Long Island Zone Waterfowl Task Force*

On Thursday, March 29th, the 2018 Waterfowl Task Force will meet in Stony Brook. The purpose of this task force is to make calendar recommendations to the State regarding the coming duck hunting season. The state also requests input from the task force on the calendar dates for the fall youth waterfowl hunt, and for the dates for Canada goose and Snow goose hunting in the Long Island Goose Zones.

If you would like to give some input to this process, contact one of the representatives before the 29th to let them know what you think.

South Shore Waterfowl Members who are on this task Force include:

John Adams representing SSWA, Ron Sineo NYSCC, Curt Matzinger NCFGA, Bill Spadafora PRSC,

Ron Kee Smith Point Fish & Hunt Club, and Red Oster LIWHG.

## *Atlantic Brant Migration Ecology*

As part of a new, multi-agency research project, beginning in 2018, DEC will be marking Atlantic Brant. DEC will be collaborating with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), on this project. The objectives, of this project are to evaluate 1) migration chronology, 2) route and stop-over site usage, 3) fidelity to breeding, 4) staging, 5) Wintering sites and habitat usage in breeding, plus 6) staging and Wintering areas.

Staff will be capturing Brant, in various locations on Long Island, *using rocket nets and decoys*.

Once captured, staff will attach GPS telemetry backpack units, to up to 10 adult female Brant, for



each year of the study. With this data, the hope is to get useful information, pertaining to migration chronology and habitat use. In addition to the standard USFWS leg band, staff



will be attaching geo-locators, to an upper leg band, on up to 75 of the captured Brant. Geo-locators are extremely small but can record valuable information, such as individual breeding attempts.

However, geo-locators must be retrieved, for data to be downloaded; so, **this information will need to be recovered, via hunter harvest** or live capture, during banding operations, in a subsequent year.

With the information collected, biologists hope to answer some questions on Atlantic Brant, which are still poorly understood, such as Wintering area usage, key staging areas, relationships between nesting and migration, plus similarities, between breeding and non-breeding Brant.



## Waterfowl Report

by Ron Sineo

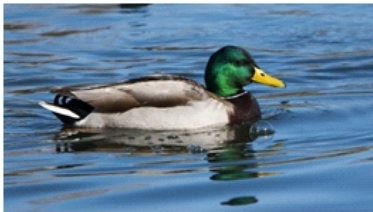
I attended the Atlantic Flyway Technical meetings which were held from February 25 through March 1st in Cape May, NJ. At these meetings, the last piece of the puzzle was put into place to determine the bag limits for the 2018-2019 Waterfowl hunting season. I am pleased to report that the mid-winter count on **Atlantic Brant** was @ 167,000 birds, which would allow for a third consecutive 60-day hunting season with a daily limit of 2 birds. This mid-winter count shows that the Brant population has seen slight increases now for the past 3 winters, and this year there were also a good number of juvenile birds included in that count.



To re-cap what the rest of the 2018-2019, 60-day duck hunting season, the bag limits by species are as follows:

**A daily total limit of 6 ducks including no more than:** 4 scoters, 4 eiders, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 mallards (only 2 hens), 3 wood ducks, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 black ducks, 2 scaup, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail. For all other duck species, the daily limit is no more than 6.

**MALLARDS:** The other big news from the flyway was that the declining Mallard populations in the Atlantic Flyway, will most likely result in a decrease in the bag limit on Mallards *beyond the next hunting season* **It is anticipated that in the 2019-2020 waterfowl season**, the limit on Mallards will be only 2 birds per day. There is currently a 2-bird hen restriction on mallards. It has not yet been decided whether there will be a further hen restriction come the 2019-2020 hunting season.

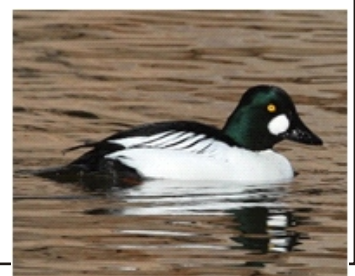
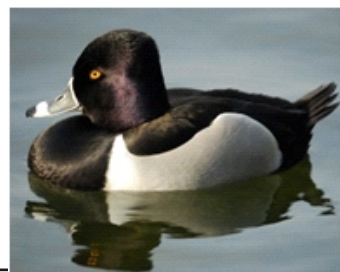
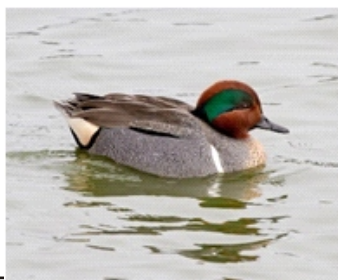


We know that this past season, the Black duck bag was increased to 2 birds/day. Additionally, the Feds. decided to go with "reward bands" for Black ducks. 885 reward bands were put on Black ducks (the goal was 1,000). All of the reward bands were placed on Canada Black ducks, last fall, and 104 of these bands were reported (also from Canada). This works out to about 12%. In related news, it was estimated that the new black duck bag of 2 birds per day caused an increase in harvest of about 40% more black ducks that are usually taken with a 1 bird daily bag limit. The Feds. anticipated @ a 30% overall increase, so this was larger than expected. Fear not, the bag limit for next season is still 2 birds/day for another season. Let's hope that the harvest rate levels off.



Lastly, there is an update on the Multi- Stock Adaptive Harvest Management Model being developed by the Atlantic Flyway Technical Section Biologists. Because of declining population trends, they have decided not to include the Mallard in the model any longer. The new model includes 4 other species.

## Wood Ducks, Green Wing Teal, Ringnecks, and Goldeneye



## *Talking About Dogs*

### SCENT

*by George Grivas*

We were training dogs on a dry morning. I watched several dogs run right by a marked fall without locating it easily. Why? To answer this we should take a look at scent.

A bird's scent depends on the molecules that come off the bird. The molecule's make it to the dogs nose. They enter the nostrils to make contact with sensory neurons. This triggers the neurons, sends messages to the brain and the dog "smells" the bird.

In the absence of wind a scent cloud will form around a bird. Increased distance from the bird results in a lower concentration of molecules resulting in a weaker scent. In the presence of wind this scent cloud now disperses downwind from the bird. The scent cloud will behave like the moving water in a stream. Obstacles will create turbulence. The area covered by scent will get bigger but weaker downwind and will have an unpredictable path. There will be swirls and eddies, just like you see in a stream. (Just watch what happens to water in a stream when it hits a rock).

Temperature and moisture also play a role. Cool moist days seem to provide better scenting conditions. Cool air seems to hold scent closer to the ground. Really freezing temps could inhibit scenting conditions. The scent molecules get trapped in the moisture that freezes. This is why dogs may have trouble scenting a bird in freezing temperatures, but have an easier time on cool damp days.

So why were the dogs running past the birds? Don't forget – dogs are color blind. We had poor scenting conditions that day. How should you handle your dog in this situation? You keep your dog in the area of the fall till he gets it.



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### ***ATTENTION MEMBERS***

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

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

We will be keeping you up to date on the progress of this project with e-mails.

Thank you for your support.



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## *You and Your Scattergun*

### **Does Speed Kill?**

*by George Grivas*

I am always examining the elements of my shotgunning. As I have said in the past, I did not grow up hunting, did not learn from family, and I am still learning about shooting. I make a lot of mistakes but I feel as I get older I am making fewer and fewer mistakes.

I decided to take a look at my ammo on a recent goose hunt. I got a chance to look at the ammo everyone else was using. I saw high velocity loads from several manufacturers. I also saw 3.5 inch shells which of course should put more pellets on the target. When I got home I decided to do a little research. The following is information from an article by Tom Roster.

One thing to consider is that the physics of pellets is not the same as bullets. A bullet has an aerodynamic shape and retains much of its velocity downrange. In other words if two bullets with different velocities are fired from the same gun, the faster bullet have a higher velocity and far more energy down range.

Shotgun pellets are a different story. From Roster's article:

"This not true of balls. If two balls of the same shape and mass are started with one ball having 150 fps greater instrumental velocity over the other ball, at 40 yards, for example, the 150 fps initially faster ball will have shed the majority of the 150 fps velocity and momentum muzzle differential advantage over the slower ball.

Why is this true? The answer is that with balls, the greater the velocity at which it is initially launched, the greater the rate at which it loses velocity. This is due to the poor aerodynamic shape of the balls. The net effect of increasing the initial launch velocity of balls is that greater air resistance is created ahead of them. They are forced to slow down more rapidly than balls launched at slower initial velocities. Since shotgun pellets are largely ball-shaped, this inescapable law of physics hugely inhibits the value of high velocity for shotshell loads."

I see, the supposed advantage of the higher velocity is lost downrange. Also from this article:

"My decades of lethality testing of lead and nontoxic shotshell loads for taking waterfowl and upland game birds have revealed the science-based reality that with lead and non-toxic tungsten-composite pellet hunting loads possessing lead shot equivalent pellet densities, all you need for effective lethal velocity is something near 1250 fps. +/- 50 fps. For steel loads, all that is needed is something near 1350fps +/- 50 fps. Lunch velocities in excess of these benchmarks have not proven to increase lethality, but do help some shooters with their leads and thus hitting success."

OK, now for the ammo I was using in that goose pit: Federal 12ga., 3", 1¼ oz., #2, 1400fps. I did not fire at every bird but chose close shots that I could make. I loaded number 2 in the chamber and BB's in the magazine. I never got to fire the BB's having killed my birds with the first shot. A combination of my ammo and my shooting style (not shooting beyond my capabilities), gave me my results. I must admit to one "Hail Mary" shot that I should not have taken but everyone unloaded on that group. PS, no geese fell on that one.

I recommend reading Tom Roster's article "Does Speed Kill?" for his full analysis. Finally what shells do you use and why? Food for thought.



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Eric Kreuter, Esq.



## *Turkey for 2018*

*by Ron Sineo*

Spring Turkey is around the corner, and so is Suffolk County's Youth Turkey hunt. The dates for the youth hunt are April 21-22, 2018. Youths ages 12-15 yrs old may take one Bearded Turkey. The same rules apply to mentors as for the other youth game seasons.

While we are waiting anxiously for a "regular Spring Turkey Season" here on Long Island, it is not going to happen this Spring. However, Elsewhere in NY State (regions 3-9), the season opens May 1, 2018.

A fellow hunter, friend, and longtime NYSCC member, Bob Brown, has written some valuable **What not to do's** when it comes to Turkey hunting. I have listed them below:

### **Do Not . . .**

1. scout earlier than one week before the season opener! Birds tend to get shy and change habits when the woods suddenly get traffic after months of quiet. Limit your observation to the roadside and quiet trails.

2. use turkey calls to locate birds before the season. Limit your calling to crow and owl calls to locate toms early in the morning or in the evening. These calls will make the birds "shock gobble" near their roost, giving you locations without teaching them what fake gobbles sound like.



3. set up your "early morning" decoys closer than 45 yards from the roosting site for fear of alerting birds to your location. Decoys should be facing toward the feeding area, not the roost site. The jake decoy should be further behind hens (as if in pursuit) within your clear view; your best shot should be two or three yards behind it.

4. be moving around and trying to see a tom coming toward you. If you hear him, that gobble is enough. (His eyesight and hearing is 18 times better than yours.) You do not need to see him until you identify and shoot him. Wait until he appears.



5. sit on the ground waiting for turkeys, since ticks will find you first. Keep a large garbage bag folded in your pocket and open it wide to sit on while waiting. After harvesting your bird, place it in the bag and transport it home. That way you won't get ticks in the car. After arriving home, I always hang the dead bird in a tree for a little while so ticks can jump off; do your plucking and cleaning outside.

6. shoot until you clearly see the tom and a clear background; everyone is in camouflage. Remember, a good turkey hunter sounds like a good turkey. I have called in several turkey hunters. That is why I always sit with my back against a tree trunk wider than I am and place a yellow ribbon behind me somewhere.

Continued from p. 7

7. shoot until the tom's head is high and his tail is down. I sometimes have to holler to accomplish this. I want a head shot and do not want to bust tail feathers or send pellets into a tasty turkey breast. The tom will always go to the jake decoy first.



8. move. You are set up and have made a few sleepy wakeup calls. The birds fly down but go in a different direction to feed and don't leave the general area. You feel you have chosen the wrong place to sit. Should you move or stay where you are? You are in a safe area. After feeding, the hens will go to nesting areas to lay eggs and the toms will wander back to their home area. It is best to wait for an hour and then start calling rather than take a chance and

bump returning toms. Take a paperback and read — but camo the cover!

9. forget to put the SAFETY BACK ON immediately after shooting. It is difficult to remember as you are excited and anxious to retrieve your bird. Calm down. If the bird is flopping, it's all over; he is a dead bird. If he lays quietly you may have knocked him out and he may wake up and take off. Remember — Safety On!




10. forget to thank the landowner and take someone else with you to experience the hunt. Fill out the tag. Save the feathers for artists and scout organizations, share the stories and the food.

Good luck this season. *Gobble! Gobble!*

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### Quack's Tips

Here's an idea that may catch on. Most of us have graduated to some kind of cell phone that is capable of taking a picture. So, when you are hunting, especially over decoys, how about taking a photo of the decoy spread. If you shoot some birds, include a photo of the birds, and maybe one with your retriever too. When you get home, print the photos, and put them in an album. If you do other kinds of hunting, you can continue to take the same kinds of photos. If you also go fishing from time to time take some photos.

In no time at all, you will have a great collection which will also be a picture log of your recent outdoor adventures. Then, when you are getting "cabin fever" you will have some nice reminders of your hunting and fishing adventures.

*(Editor's Note — We would love to show your pictures on our Instagram and Facebook pages. Send them to Curt and he will post them — tasterfully done only, no blown-off heads please.*

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— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

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

- March 29** — **Waterfowl Task Force Meeting (See p. 3)**
- March 31** — **Faz's Annual Sportsman's Dinner – partnering with Chef's for Vets  
Brentwood Country Club – \$100 pp – Call Pete at 631-926-3353**
- April 2** — **SSWA Meeting at Brightwaters/Bayshore Library — 7 pm – Elections**
- April 21** — **SSWA Annual (Curt M) Dinner – Fisherman's Catch (See p. 1)**
- May 6** — **Sporting Clays Shoot at PRSC (See p. 2)**
- June 9** — **Sporting Clays Shoot at PRSC (See p. 2)**
- June 10** — **SSWA Bocce Beach Dinner – Details to be e-mailed**
- July 8** — **Sporting Clays Shoot at PRSC (See p. 2)**
- August 4** — **Sporting Clays Shoot at PRSC (See p. 2)**
- August ??** — **SSWA BBQ – Date TBA**

**E-mails will be sent any time a date is confirmed.**

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



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