

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 .



JUNE 2015

Web site: sswa.org

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

SEPTEMBER MEETING is Tuesday, September 8, 2015

11th Annual "Curt M" Dinner Recap

April 11 was a night for the books. The annual dinner was at capacity, and from all the smiling faces I saw, fun was had by all. (Check out the photo gallery at our website to see some of the pics: sswa.org). Thanks have to go out to Bruce Larsen, owner of the Fisherman's Catch Restaurant in Point Lookout, and his band of lovely ladies, who continue to put on a great dinner for our members. Everything was excellent, as usual. That's why we continue to come back every year. They make it sooo easy for me to put on a great event. They served up hors d'overes and dinners to keep everyone happy. The room was set up lovely with tables arranged to meet our needs. The tables contained silent auction items, Chinese auction items, prints, and decoys. Everyone seemed to win something (except me...boo hoo). Jon from campsite generously donated a gun for our event. He continues to go way out to help our club. Thank you sooooo much Jon and Bruce.

Once again, I locked the doors and held everyone captive with a lengthy speech. But each year I need to thank those who go above and beyond for our club. I talked about what we did for the year – Penny Pond and feeding the waterfowl –



the direction we are heading in – social media – and what we need to do to keep the club fresh, interesting, and a place members and their families want to go and attend functions and events. The need for new and younger blood. More women and children in our ranks. Mostly to thank everyone for keeping the SSWA the great club that it is. It is a great night that everyone looks forward to. Can't wait to see what next year's dinner brings.



Jon Swezey

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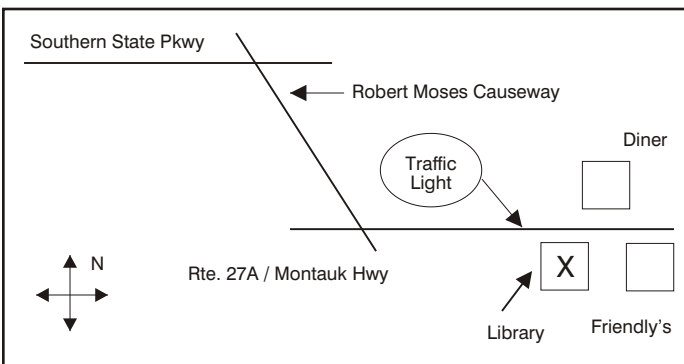
South Shore Waterfowlers

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 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.



South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

- President Ron Sineo
631-862-8518
- 1st Vice President John Adams
631-618-5728
- 2nd Vice President Ron Pliszak
631-902-2220
- Secretary Erik Tallbe, Jr.
516-799-6613
- 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

The President's Corner

At the April Meeting we held elections once again. I was elected President, John Adams was elected 1st VP, Ron Pliszak was elected 2nd VP, Erik Tallbe Jr. was elected Secretary, and Curt Matzinger was elected Treasurer. Congratulations to all who stepped up to serve on the Executive Board once again.

As we move into Summer mode, a few things of note have occurred since our April meeting.

On April 11, we held our annual Curt Dinner. It just keeps getting better every year. The food was excellent, the prizes were great, and the company was the best. If you haven't ever attended, you are missing a wonderful night out! Kudos to Curt for a great job as always.

On April 18th, the NYS Long Island Zone Waterfowl Task Force met to make recommendations for next year's season dates. See the report in our newsletter.

On Saturday, May 23rd, on behalf of the SSWA, John Adams hosted a successful fund raiser at the Windswept Marina. This was to help replenish funds which we spent from our Emergency Fund, when we voted to provide necessary feed for the ducks during this past winter's deep freeze. Read the article in this edition for more details on the fundraiser. My personal thanks to John for all of his hard work and effort to make this fundraiser a success.

Once again this Summer, we are able to be guests of the PRSC and shoot at their club. Here are the dates we have for SSWA members (Paid Up) to shoot sporting clays at Peconic. The fee to shoot is \$40.00 per person. You must bring 100 rounds of LEAD, TARGET LOADS ONLY. No high velocity or steel shells permitted (or you will be asked to leave). Eye and hearing protection is a must. Arrive at 9:30 at the gate. Shoots start promptly at 10. Lunch will be after the shoot. Either a BBQ (SSWA), Peconic cooked food, or lunch at the Triangle Pub (you will be notified when you call as to which lunch will be available and the cost). You must call Curt 631-661-0379 to be placed on the list. NO WALK UPS will be allowed. The dates are: SUNDAY, July 26–SATURDAY, August 8–SUNDAY, Sept. 13.

The (last ever) Atlantic Flyway Summer Conference will be held in Albany, New York this year, the week of July 19th. As usual, I plan to attend. Look for my report in the September newsletter.

Our Annual Summer Picnic will be held on August 15th. Contact Curt for details.

There may be some other events this summer, so check our website for updates, and send us your current e-mail address (if we don't have it) so we can keep you up to date, and notify you of any changes.

On a personal note, this will be my last year as President of SSWA. I will be stepping down at the end of this next season. As a past president, I plan to sit on the general Board of Directors of SSWA, and I intend to remain active with the club. I do believe, however, that for a club to remain viable and healthy it must be able to change with the times. This includes giving a chance for some of the many newer and younger members to step up and take more responsible roles within the club. In order for that to happen, the "old timers" have to step down and make room for new blood.

In closing, have a safe and enjoyable summer. I hope to see you all at our summer events.

SSWA BBQ and Pig Roast — August 15

by Curt Matzinger

We will be holding our 3rd annual BBQ at WindSwept Marina, East Moriches on August 15 starting 12 noon. We had fun the past 2 years and this year shouldn't be any different. Here's is how it works. Call me up at 631-661-0379, and give me a head count for you and your immediately family (not the whole neighborhood). Send me a check for \$25.00 made out to SSWA, mail to: 32 Magro Drive, N. Babylon, NY 11703. When you show up the day of the BBQ, I will give you back your check. It is free!!!! If you don't

show up, we cash your check because we had to lay out the money for the food you were going to eat. Got It!! We will supply the BBQ food, and the soda and waters. John, the dockmaster from Windswept, will be doing the pig roast. Other beverages can be bought at the restaurant bar, or bring your own. If you have a favorite BBQ dish feel free to bring it. The more the merrier. Soak up some sun (or sit in the shade), eat some food, have a cocktail, and enjoy some good company. Call me and I'll see you there.

Sporting Clays Shoots Scheduled

Once again this summer we are able to be guests of the Peconic River Sportsmen Club. The dates were/are: SUNDAY, June 21(Rained out) – SUNDAY, July 26 – SATURDAY, August 8 – SUNDAY, Sept. 13.

These are only for SSWA members who are PAID UP. The fee to shoot is \$40.00 per person. You must bring 100 rounds of LEAD, TARGET LOADS ONLY. No high velocity or steel shells permitted (or you will be asked to leave). Eye and hearing protection is a must. Arrive by 9:30 at the gate. Shoots start promptly at 10. Lunch will be after the shoot. It will be either a BBQ (SSWA),

Peconic cooked food, or lunch at the Triangle Pub (you will be notified when you call as to which lunch will be available and the cost, usually around \$10.00). You must call Curt 631-661-0379, to be placed on the list. NO WALK UPS will be allowed. We do this because we need Peconic members to accompany us around the course, so don't wait till the day before to call because we will not have enough time to round up another PRSC member. The dates again are: SUNDAY, July 26 – SATURDAY, August 8 – SUNDAY, Sept. 13. Call today to be placed on the list.

Waterfowl Fundraiser

by Curt Matzinger

On Saturday, May 23rd a fundraiser benefit was held at the WindSwept Marina. Past President, current 1st V.P. and dockmaster John Adams put on an amazing event to help raise funds to replenish the funds that were used during this past winter's waterfowl crisis. If you didn't know about it, last February the SSWA, along with many East End people, distributed over 41 tons of corn to help the starving waterfowl. This took place from the two forks on the East End to the Queens border. John and I were the SSWA distribution points for people to pick up feed. We really made a difference in helping the birds survive the winter. This, in turn, enabled them to head north to breed and raise their young. We spent approximately half of the money we had in the emergency fund.

John stepped forward and asked me to help him put on a benefit to return the money to the fund for future bad winters. I was happy to help, but John did the brunt of the work in acquiring **All** of the raffle items for the

event. What raffle items they were. All high end, quality items, all donated to him by like-minded folks wanting to help the birds. The restaurant cooked a BBQ, and John sold raffle tickets. Some money was raised, but due to the extremely light turnout, we were unable to replenish what was spent during February. I was surprised/disappointed that only 15 SSWA members attended the fundraiser. Word got out in the march newsletter, on the website, in the fisherman and boating news. I understand it was a holiday weekend, but everyone was so gung-ho to spend the money to feed the birds, but not to put it back. I tried so many places to spread the word of our issue and to raise funds, but not too many places wanted to help spread the word. Everyone was sympathetic to the cause, but after the ice melted, so did the thoughts on the issue. I guess we can only do what we can, and when the next crisis happens, when the money runs out, it runs out. I guess we need to bring back the buckets at the shows – CHUCK A BUCK FOR THE DUCKS.

Our Female White-Winged Scoter

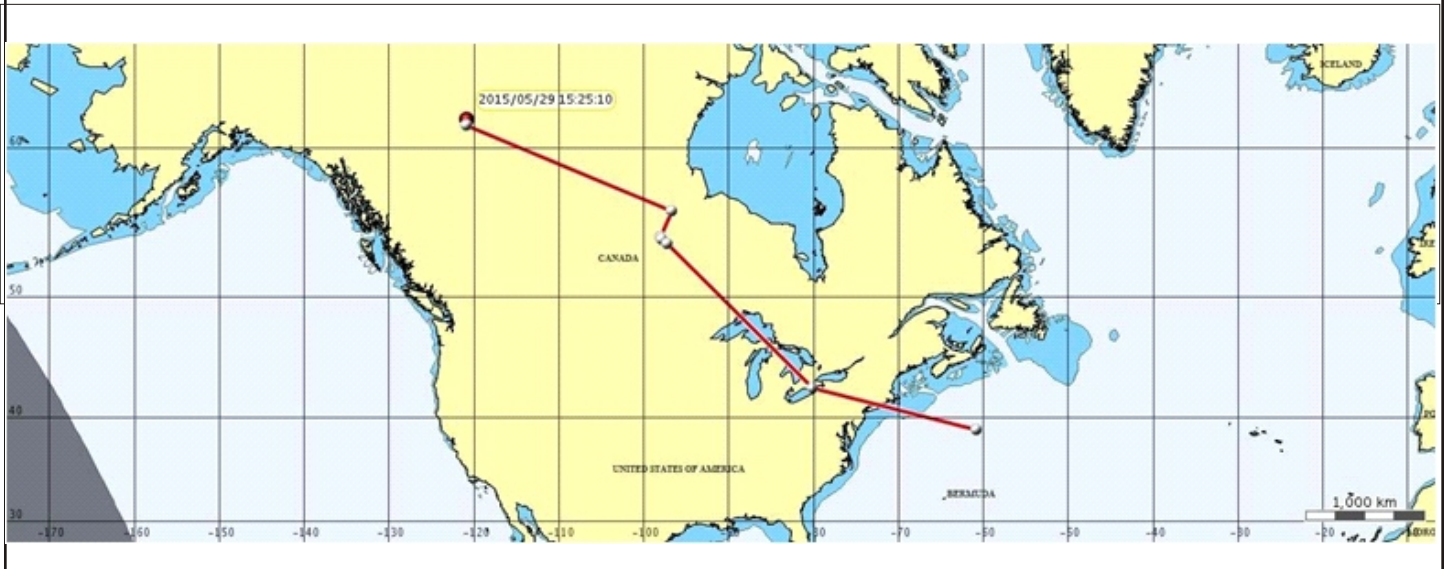
by Ron Sineo

Lucas Savoy is a waterfowl biologist who worked with the Sea Duck Joint Venture. He put radio transmitters on some wintering Long Island sea ducks in March of 2014 with the help of some SSWA volunteers. We were given updates in 2014, but sadly all but one of the birds, a hen white-winged scoter, died before last season began. Lucas identified that the surviving hen WWS had arrived in Moriches inlet this past November, and wintered with us once again.

Below is an update from the WWSC female we are currently still tracking from the March 2014 marking effort in Long Island Sound.

Between 4/16-4/22, this bird migrated from the ocean several miles off of Moriches inlet, to Lake Erie. This bird remained on Lake Erie until 5/20 – 5/23, when it moved from Lake Erie to Kiskittogisu Lake in central Manitoba (N 54.364874, W -97.966396). On 5/29, this bird signaled from a lake near Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories, Canada (N 61.642344, W -120.907475).

This bird used a similar migration pathway last year, and ended up breeding in the NWT. It will be interesting to see if it returns to the exact same breeding area this year. This last signal comes from the same general area, but we need to receive signal for a few more weeks to confirm its nesting location.



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(Editor wishes to thank Matthew for supporting the SSWA)

Talking About Dogs

by George Grivas

What does the responsible breeder do for the puppy buyer?

I had never bred a litter before. If I was going to do this I wanted to do it right. After all, I wanted a puppy from this litter. I also wanted to establish a good reputation.

My first step started four years ago when I started to obtain Buffy's health clearances. I wanted to get clearances for heart, eyes, hips, and elbows. These are not done in one day and are done over a period of time. It can be difficult to find veterinary specialists needed to do the testing. And one test needed a blood sample shipped to Cornell and then shipped overseas for the test. (Talk about difficult!)

Searching for a suitable stud dog was the next step. I located a few good prospects in Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and North Carolina. I contacted them and discussed breeding plans. I settled on a stud in Memphis, Tennessee. He had the genetics (pedigree), health clearances, and hunting style that I wanted. When Buffy went into heat I traveled to Memphis for the breeding. She was bred three times in six days.

Sixty-two days later Buffy whelped a litter of nine pups. The next day I made a trip to the vet with the puppies for a check-up and to have the dewclaws removed. Two days later I lost two pups— they were weak and couldn't survive.

The pups were with me for eight weeks. While I had them I made trips to the vet for vaccinations and check-ups. Puppies were dewormed three times. One puppy developed puppy strangles, an infection which had to be treated with antibiotics and hot compresses three times a day.

Feeding puppies was Buffy's job until it was time to wean the pups. I fed a high quality puppy food that would be easy for the puppy buyers to find. I think I went through four large bags of Purina Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed.

Training started while I still had the puppies. Puppy retrieves, introduction to pheasant and duck wings, and conditioning to the sound of a cap pistol was included in this early training. During this time puppies were temperament tested and daily notes were kept on each puppy's behavior. Additional conditioning for each pup was done according to his needs based upon temperament testing and my notes.

The litter was registered with the American Kennel Club. Each person received a puppy packet which included pedigree, health records, and a sheet of "breeder's advice." Each person got a contract which guaranteed the puppy's health. The contract stated that there would be a refund if there were health problems.

When it was time to place the puppies I matched the puppy to the buyer. After all not everyone had the same skill level as a trainer and of course there was quite a difference in personality among pups. The most experienced trainers got the pups that would require more skill in training. People who wanted a big fluffy house pet were turned away. I explained that these pups needed active homes. By doing all of this I hoped to avoid a situation where an owner wanted to return a puppy because he had difficulty training it.

The results: Puppy owners with well-bred, healthy, biddable dogs. I hear from them regularly. They are all happy with their pups. We all keep in touch because I started a Facebook page for our posts about our puppies. I also post other relevant material. I wanted to produce good puppies and make everyone happy.

Money was not a concern of mine. I just didn't want to lose money. My expenses for this effort were \$4000.

What does the responsible breeder do for the puppy buyer? Hopefully most of the above.

Spring Task Force Meeting

by Ron Sineo

Each spring, the *NYS Waterfowl Task Force, Long Island Zone*, meets to set the season dates for the following waterfowl hunting season on Long Island. The USFWS allows for each state in the Atlantic Flyway to hunt ducks for 60 days in what they call a “regular” duck season. It is the job of the Task Force to pick which 60 days on the calendar (sometime between 9/27/2015 and 1/31/2016). This 60-day period can be a consecutive 60 days, or it can contain one “split-season” (a first part and a second part to the hunting season with some closed period in between the two parts.)

In addition to these calendar dates, the Task Force is permitted to make “recommendations” about the calendar dates for the coming Canada Goose Season for the 3 Long Island Zones. Just as the USFWS dictates the 60-day length for the duck hunting season, it also dictates the length of the goose hunting season in each of the 3 Long Island Zones. The Task Force can only recommend in what month or months those hunting days occur. The final decisions lie with the DEC.

A third and final job for Task Force members is to select the dates for the annual Youth Waterfowl Weekend, a 2-day event (a Saturday & Sunday) usually occurring before the regular duck season starts. On that weekend, licensed youth hunters between the ages of 12-15 are permitted to hunt ducks and geese under the supervision of a

licensed adult mentor. (The mentor is not permitted to carry a firearm afield.) Each year, the DEC, the SSWA, and DU partner to offer a Youth Waterfowl Program on Long Island for youngsters in that age group. Contact the local DEC for specific information. On April 18th, 2015, the Long Island Zone Waterfowl Task Force met and made recommendations to the DEC for season Dates on Waterfowl in the Long Island Zone for the 2015-2016 season.

Here is a summary of those recommendations:

Waterfowl Youth Days: November 14–15.

Regular Duck Season: November 26–29, and December 7 – January 31.

Sea Duck Season: October 17 – January 31.

Regular Canada Goose Season:

Western Zone: October 10–25, November 26–29, December 7 – March 2.

Central Zone: November 26-29, December 7 – February 10

Eastern Zone: November 26 – February 2

Late Canada Goose Season on North Shore: February 11-15

Snow Goose Season: November 25 – March 10

NOTE: BRANT SEASON WILL PROBABLY BE CLOSED by the Feds this year. If the season does remain open, it will then be only a 30-day season, and will be the following split season: November 26–29, and January 6 – January 31.

(Continued from p. 7)

Part III – Organizing the Shop

Insure you have at least 200 amp service, as most large machines require 200 amp service. Adequate lighting at each work station is a must.

1. Table saw for cutting cork blocks out; 2. Band saw to refine the body, double cut overall top and side profiles; 3. Portable dust collector that can be moved to individual machines as they are used. 4. Overhead air cleaner in the central area of your shop. 5. First aid kit. 6. Fire extinguisher. 7. Keep the youngsters out! 8. Shelving to hold everything. 9. Never have a television, stereo, phone, or other electronic device on while using any saw, grinder, or while actually carving. Keep your attention on what you are doing at all times. It's hard to reattach a finger or other body part! 10. Ensure adequate ventilation. 11. Wear a dust mask and hearing protection.

This is a basic introduction to carving.

If you stick with it, it can become a lifelong hobby for you and your children. Enjoy!

Decoy Carving – by Guy Soden

Nothing is more satisfying than having ducks or geese coming into decoys you made. While the decoy carving process is satisfying, it can be quite frustrating if entered into without the proper tools or organization. The following is a primer.

PART I – Essentials and Sources

Safety Essentials:

Safety Dust Mask / Eye Glasses or Goggles / Dust Collecting System / First Aid Kit / Kevlar Gloves
 No ties or loose long sleeve shirts / New Tools: Read and re-read the instructions
 Install a bolt high up to prevent small children access to your shop

Sources for Supplies:

Highland Woodworking: 800-241-6748; The Hummul Flyer: 800-762-0235; Sugar Pine: 800-452-2738 (higher prices due to shipping from the West Coast); MDI: 800-866-5728; Wood Carvers Supply Inc.: 800-284-6229; Woodcraft: 800-225-1153 (ask for a catalog and copy of Fall 2010 issues of *Woodcarving Illustrated*. See the article on page 58 "Power Carve Canvasback Ducks" and article with pictures of roughing out bodies and heads. Also get a copy of the following issue, and see the article on "Painting the Canvasback"); Knotts Knives: 800-388-6759; Ronan Paint: Dead flat varnish, wood, and cork; Chesapeake Decoy Works: online; Delta Power Tools: saws and air cleaners; Lowes: band saws, etc. If you are going to buy a band saw, get the riser bloc kit and 105" blades so you can cut out oversize bodies or contact Delta directly. McFeely's: 800-443-7937 for stainless screws, tools, and heavy duty clothes. Check the web for additional suppliers.

Carving Supplies (2015)

Chipping Away Catalog 1-519-743-9008 – Tools; Colwood 732-938-5556 – Burners; Knotts Knives 800-388-6759 – Cork paint and draw knives; G. Schoepfer Inc. 800-875-6939 – Eyes; Wildlife Galleries & Supplies – Acrylics & oil paint sealers; Hot Tools 281-639-1000; Smokey Mountain Woodcarvers 800-541-5994; Dux Dekes Decoy Co. 800-553-4725 – Carving blanks; Woodcraft Shop Catalog 1-800-397-2278

PART II – Reference Material

The Art in Making Decoys, by Keith Mueller, published by K. J. Holmes Pub. Inc., 9 Stephens Path, Port Jefferson, NY 11777. (This was a limited edition with extremely detailed instructions and I highly recommend it.)

Decoys, 60 Living & Outstanding N.A. Carvers

Wildfowler Decoys, A History

Carving Duck Decoys, by Harry Shoruds and Anthony Hillman

Painting Duck Decoys, by Anthony Hillman

Decorative Decoy Carving, by Bruce Burk

Complete Waterfowl Studies, Books I, II, III

Decoys, by Richard LeMaster

Pioneer Decoy Carvers (Ward Brothers)

How to Make Working Decoys, by George Ross Starr, Jr., MD

Hunting & Fishing Collectibles Magazine: 336-593-9477

Decoy Magazine (www.decoymag.com)

Sugar Pine: 800-452-2783

Many of the companies listed under supplies have extensive listings of carving books as well.

Blue Ribbon Patterns, by William Vesey (patterns and painting)

Wildfowl Magazine carries listings of DVD's on hunting and dog training.

Making Decoys by Grayson C. Chesser and Curtis J. Badger (carving and painting ducks and geese)

If you have a small pattern and want to carve an oversize decoy, go to the Copy Center at a Staples store and have your pattern enlarged to the size you want. Get at least 2 patterns so that you can cut one out and glue it to a piece of plywood to make a permanent pattern. Be sure you label it as to type, size, and references.


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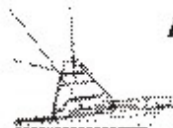
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Quack's Tips on How to Repair Plastic Decoys

We all have finished a hunt where we have noticed that our decoys have been raked by pellets, and leak.

When they become heavy or listing floaters, it is time to repair them. Before you start, you may need to get the water out of your decoy. Drill a 1/8" hole on the underside of the tail, and prop the decoy, tail down so that water can drip out. Leave it this way at least overnight.

There are a few different ways to repair your plastic duck decoy. Before using any of the following methods, start by washing the decoy. To do this, use a mild cleaner such as a citrus spray, as well as a scrubbing brush. Give the decoy plenty of time to dry before you get started. If you do not allow the decoy to dry, the primer and paint will not bind to it.

1st Method – Hot Glue: Hot glue is great for repairing cracks along the keel of the decoy as well as pellet holes. It has a high strength and it dries very fast. Give the hot glue gun plenty of time to heat up before using it, however. If the glue is not fully warmed up, it will not seep into the cracks and will only sit on the surface of the damage, leaving the source of the problem untreated. As a plus, hot glue is relatively low in cost as well. It only costs about ten dollars to buy a glue gun and some glue sticks. Even at this low cost, a hot glue gun is the second best way for you to repair cracks in a duck decoy and a quick, reliable way to fix pellet holes.

2nd Method – Soldering Iron: A soldering iron is the best way to fix a damaged plastic duck decoy. Essentially, the soldering iron is used almost like a welder, except that you are welding plastic instead of metal. This is the most permanent and most structurally secure method available. Unfortunately, it is also the most difficult and the most time consuming method as well. You must use the iron to very carefully melt and smear plastic over the damaged area. If done improperly, you can accidentally make the hole bigger or puncture the decoy with the iron. You might need to purchase a piece of plastic of

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2 — 3-MAN HAYBAIL BLINDS — \$250 each

Call Guy at 631-423-1492

a similar color to use as a filler. To keep from burning yourself, you should wear insulating gloves while using the soldering iron since they reach temperatures of about seven hundred degrees Fahrenheit. Also, it is better to do this outdoors, as the burning plastic smell can stink up your house, and is probably not great to breathe in. Do this in a well ventilated area.

Some folks have a favorite adhesive they like to use, and some will turn a small flat head stainless sheet metal screw into the pellet hole. No matter what you try, it will need to be painted over to seal it from water. Let the paint dry thoroughly before you put it back into service.

— South Shore Waterfowlers Association —

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— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —
CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- June 27** — Board of Directors Meeting
- July 26** — Sporting Clays Shoots, Peconic River Sportsmen's Club, sswa.org
- July/August?** — Fishing Trip (to be announced) (Check website)
- August 8** — Sporting Clays Shoots, Peconic River Sportsmen's Club, sswa.org
- August 15** — Annual Summer Picnic, WindSwept Marina (see p. 3)
- September 8** — First Meeting of the Season, Bayshore/Brightwaters Library (Tuesday)
- September 13** — Sporting Clays Shoots, Peconic River Sportsmen's Club, sswa.org
- October 25** — Duckboat Show and Waterfowl Festival



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