

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 .



SEPTEMBER 2011

Web site: sswa.org

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

*Attention all SSWA Members ...
Dues Increases to \$30 per year*

Back in 2006, the Executive Board of SSWA authorized the first dues increase in many years (the dues were increased from \$20 to \$25). Now, 5 years later, in keeping with our Constitution, the Executive Board has authorized another dues increase from \$25 to \$30. Even with this increase, you must agree that membership in the SSWA is one of the best deals around (\$30 per year dues is just 8.2 cents per day).

In keeping with our by-laws, the dues assessment will apply to all annual members, and will be assessed on the first day of September 2011. Those who had taken advantage of a multi-year membership payment will be assessed at the new rate of \$30 annually when their multi-year membership expires.

You will receive another reminder of this dues increase in the next issue of the newsletter, and your dues payment for September can be mailed to our P.O. Box, or can be paid at the September meeting.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Executive Board, SSWA

*Items Needed for U.S. Nationals
Display at 2012 Antique Decoy
Collectors Show*

It has been brought to my attention that the history of the U.S. Nationals Decoy Competition will be on display at next year's Antique Decoy Collector's Association show. A committee is being formed to get everything related to the Nationals collected so we can display it. The U.S. Nationals was the largest show of its kind in the country. The SSWA is very proud to be the organization that put on the show. It was a tremendous amount of work to do and it involved quite a large number of volunteers to make it happen. If you have anything that is from the U.S. Nationals Show and would like to display it, contact Curt at 631-661-0379 and I will arrange to get it and present it on your behalf. As the self-proclaimed SSWA club historian, I'd love to get my hands on these items to document them and copy them for our club history. Please go through your treasures at home and see if you have anything related to the U.S. Nationals and please contact me ASAP.

Membership Renewals

All renewals expire in September. Check the year of expiration on your newsletter label. Be sure to renew your membership to ensure that you are still an active member of the SSWA. Please include your e-mail address.

With your paid-up membership you will receive your quarterly newsletters and your log-in password which will enable you to access the member section of our new website. Pick up your new membership card and window decal at one of our meetings.

Your membership helps keep our organization strong and enables us to continue our projects.

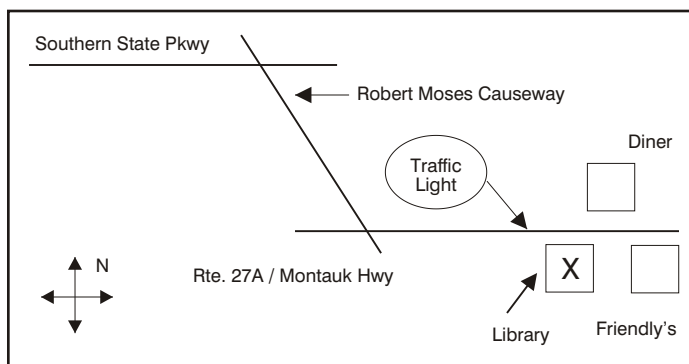
South Shore Waterfowlers

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 John Adams
631-618-5728
- 1st Vice President and
Membership Ron Sineo
631-862-8518
- 2nd Vice President. Richard Franks, Jr.
631-603-6295
- Secretary George Duguid
631-667-5886
- Treasurer Erik Tallbe
516-799-6613
- Sergeant at Arms, Newsletter Editor,
Duckboat Show Chairman, Historian,
and Club Dinner Chairman Curt Matzinger
631-661-0379

October 30, 2011 31st Annual Duckboat Show and Waterfowl Festival

(Raindate, November 6)

Mark your calendars and get the word out about our 31st Annual Duckboat Show and Waterfowl Festival.

Anyone interested in being a vendor for the festival will now have 2 options.

Option 1: Early bird will fill out an application and **enclose a check for \$30.00** (payable to SSWA) **per table/spot or \$50.00 per table under the tent.**

Option 2: Day of show, \$40.00 per table/spot if available.

Sign up early so we can get an accurate table count which will ensure we have a spot for everyone who wants one and save \$\$.

Applications are available at our website (sswa.org) or insert.

October 30 isn't too far away. Start working your dog so it can take top honors at our dock dog jumping contest. You might want to start grooming your secret salt hay spot so when you cut the grass for your duckboat it will be nice and long. The bragging rights that come from winning "Best in Show" will be worth the effort. Start looking through the attic, garage, and basement for stuff to sell so you can be a vendor at the show. Anyone with ideas to improve the show, please contact Curt at (631) 661-0379.

This is our major fundraising event for the year, so be sure to bring your family and friends to help support our club. **Please make copies of the flyer enclosed and post as many as you can.**



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Summer Atlantic Flyway Conference 2011

by Ron Sineo

Before I actually begin reporting on this year's flyway recommendations for season length and bag limits, I would like to mention that this year's youth days are November 12 -13, 2011.

I would also like to take a moment and put some things in perspective. By chance, I came across a 1992 DEC News release for the fall waterfowl hunting season. That was some 19 years ago. Here are some important facts: In 1992, there was a split hunting season, but a total of only 30 hunting days. The season was open from November 20-29, and then closed until just before Christmas. It reopened on December 22 and closed for good on January 10, 1993.

This was a total of only 30 days. Besides just a 30 day duck season, the 5 bird daily bag limit that had been in place for several years was reduced to a 3 bird daily bag limit in 1992! The season on Canvasbacks had been closed since 1986, and in 1992 they also closed the season on Redheads. For those who ventured out in the marsh, getting a 3 bird bag was very difficult since you could only take 1 each of the black duck, hen mallard, hooded merganser, pintail, and wood duck.

When I read this, I was floored. I had forgotten how really bad it was! It took me a while to realize how much more limited our hunting was just 19 years ago when compared to today. It follows that most of us who are reading this were surely around when these regulations and bag limits were in place in 1992, since a 12 year old who duck hunted for the first time in 1992 would be only 31 years old today. So let's see ... A 30 day season, a 3 bird daily bag limit, 5 species restricted to 1 bird per day, and a closed season on 2 more species. OUCH.

And here we are, some 19 years later. By comparison, we now have the most liberal duck season in several decades. For starters, our season is fully twice as long at 60 days. Our bag limit is also twice as big, at 6 birds per day. And there are a lot of success stories here. Where Canvasbacks were closed, we can now take 1 per day. Redheads, also closed at one time are now abundant enough to allow for 2 birds per day. (There is some talk that if the trend continues with Redheads, they may increase this to 3 birds/day by the 2012-2013 season.) Yes, we can still only take 1 black duck, but we can now take 2 hen mallards,

2 hooded mergansers, 2 pintails, and 3 wood ducks! Clearly, we are moving in the right direction. There have been a few set backs, here and there, but for the most part the birds are doing well.

Here is the duck season on Long Island for 2011-2012

DUCKS: 1st half of split, November 24-27. 2nd half, December 5 – January 29.

SCAUP: Same season as above, bag limit 2 per day.

SEA DUCKS: October 15-January 29. In the special sea duck zone, the bag is 7 per day, but not more than 4 scoter.

SNOW GEESE: November 24 – March 9 (25 per day)

BRANT: November 24-27. December 15 – January 29. 2 birds/day.

CANADA GEESE:

- Eastern Long Island Zone: Early Resident Season: Sept 6 – 30 (8 birds/day) Regular Season: November 24-27, December 5 – January 29 (2 birds/day)
- Central Long Island Zone: Early Resident Season: Sept 6 – 30 (8 birds/day) Regular Season: November 24-27, December 1 – February 4 (3 birds/day) Special Late Season North Shore (5 extra days)
- Western Long Island Zone: NO EARLY SEPTEMBER SEASON Regular Season: November 24 – 27, December 1 – March 10 (8 birds/day)

I saved the Canada goose season for last, so that you could compare, once again, what liberal seasons we have today compared to the 1992 season. Back then, All of Long Island was in the same zone, and we had a 70 day season, with days spread out in November, December and January. The bag limits were 1 bird/day during November, 2 birds/day during December, and 3 birds/day in January. There were no early or late or special seasons like there are today. As you compare what is to what was you will come to realize that we have more goose hunting opportunity today than we ever had.

Every year, there are those who complain about the regulations and/or the bag limits, and/or the season dates. While you certainly can't please everyone, it would seem that the biologists have certainly gotten it right. They obviously know what they are doing. After all, it is hard to argue with this kind of 19 year track record.

The Importance of Duckboats in a Duckboat Show

by Ron Sineo

I was looking through the 1992 fall edition of the SSWA newsletter, and the headline was *Twelfth Annual Duck boat Show, Sunday November 8th, 1992.*

Below the heading was an article written by Steve Sanford. The following is an excerpt from that article. Steve wrote, "Our most prized duck boats are usually the handiwork of professional boat builders. Ben Hallock and Oliver Howell made some of the finest scooters; Sam Perrine and his heirs still build the best sneak boxes. Today, modern commercially built duck boats work wonderfully well, but are beyond the economic means of many of us. As a result, many water fowlers build their own duck boats and floating blinds. I suppose some duck hunters have always built their own. The advent of plywood earlier in this century put this task within the reach of many amateur boat builders. In recent years the availability of discarded fiberglass hulls has made the job even easier. Most do-it-yourself gunners now convert existing boats into customized water fowling craft."

At this point, Steve digresses to discuss his presentation at the next meeting, but he eventually returns to this idea of customizing a boat for duck hunting. He continues, "I have set down a few thoughts about the design considerations involved in such an undertaking. Below is a list of the questions you must answer before you even start prospecting for an old boat."

1. How many hunters? One-man boats are traditional and easy to design, but I've seen some nice boats for two or even three gunners.
2. How will you shoot? Will you shoot over the bow, the stern, or broadside?
3. How important is a low profile? Will you lie down flat, or sit up comfortably?
4. How will you hide? How will you attach thatch?
5. How much sea-worthiness do you need? What waters will you use? Will you use it on or through ice? Flotation is a smart safety feature.
6. How little draft do you need? Is light weight critical?
7. How will you propel the boat? What will you do if your outboard quits?
8. Where will you store the decoys and other equipment?
9. Will you trailer the boat or leave it where security becomes a concern?
10. How important is appearance? What convenience features do you like? Shelves and gun racks make for drier and happier hunts.

As you begin to formulate an idea for a boat many more questions will have to be answered about the details..."

I am pretty well convinced that Steve wrote this stuff to encourage members to think about building their own boats, and also to encourage them to enter these home-made boats in the duck boat show.

This October we will be holding our 31st annual Duck boat show. The more boats we have on display the better the show will be. Please consider bringing you boat to the show this year. Enter it into the competition, or don't enter it. Either way, just having it there will give many others some new ideas for their own boats. Show off your duck boat whether it is store bought or home-made or a customized hybrid. Once you bring your boat, you can reconsider about entering it into the competition. Remember you have to be in it to win it!!

Food for thought ... some of the questions listed above might make great questions for the duck boat judges to consider when they make their decisions during the judging.

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Youth Pheasant Hunt Bill Signed into Law

by Ron Sineo

As many of you know, I have been involved with trying to get legislation enacted that would permit a youth pheasant hunting weekend here on Long Island. I am very proud to announce that the Governor signed the Youth Pheasant Bill into Law on August 3, 2011. This means that we are sure to have a pheasant hunting weekend dedicated to youth ages 12-15 that hold junior hunting licenses. Adult mentors will be able to take these youth afield to hunt pheasants on that weekend without the worry that they will be in competition with other pheasant hunters. Even the mentors are not permitted to carry firearms on that weekend ... only the youth hunters. Furthermore, because of the DEC 10 year pheasant management plan, Long Island will receive its share of pheasants to be released on the DEC managed properties in advance of the actual youth weekend. While the DEC has not yet done any organized public notices or press releases on this topic yet, I am confident that the specifics will be forthcoming within the next few weeks. Perhaps by the time you read this, it will already be public knowledge. I am taking an educated guess that this year, the first-ever youth pheasant hunting weekend on Long Island will be scheduled to occur on Saturday & Sunday, the 29th & 30th of October. Look for details to be released any day now, and check the DEC website, and the local DEC office in Stony Brook for more details.

There are many people who deserve thanks for their part in making this happen. But I would like to single out a few of our legislators and recognize their part in this. I can guarantee you that without their help and support this Bill would never have seen the light of day.

To begin with, thinking that the Assembly was the more difficult of the two legislative houses to get a sportsman's bill passed, I decided I needed to speak first with Assemblyman Bob Sweeney. Two years ago, he was the Chairman of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee. I met with Assemblyman Sweeney in his Albany office, and I spoke with him about the idea of a youth pheasant hunt on Long Island. I met with him first because I reasoned that any sportsman's Bill would have to cross his committee's path before it could ever go to the floor of the Assembly for a vote, and he indicated to me that if and when a bill would come to his committee, he would most likely support it.

Next, I needed to get our local Long Island State legislators on board. I made appointments with Assemblyman Mike Fitzpatrick (Assemblyman

from my district) and I met with Senator John Flanagan (also from my State Senate District). Mike Fitzpatrick had a lot of really great suggestions for me which I followed up on during the course of the next year. By the time that the Annual Sportsman's Awareness Day in Albany was held last January, I had already met with several other Assemblymen from Long Island. Now it was time to approach Assemblyman Bob Sweeney again. Again, I met him in his Albany office, and after a few pleasantries, Bob Sweeney announced to me that he was prepared to sponsor the youth bill himself. He actually showed me a draft of the bill, which proved to me that he and others had not been idle on this issue since I last spoke with him.

Thus Assembly Bill A4786 was born. It petitioned to change a section in the EC law which would then allow the DEC to schedule a youth pheasant hunting Weekend on Long Island. When I went online to check the progress of the Bill, I discovered that while Bob Sweeney was the sponsor of the Bill, Assemblyman Fred Thiele was listed as the co-sponsor, and Assemblyman Mike Fitzpatrick was listed as a multi-sponsor. I can guarantee you that Mike Fitzpatrick reached out (across party lines) to help make this happen. The advice he gave me ultimately turned out to be very instrumental in moving this along. The Bill finally went to the floor in May, and it passed by a vote of 130-11. Meanwhile, Senator John Flanagan's office was busy with the DEC both locally and in Albany, to make sure they were on board. With Ed Hessler's help, I got an appointment to see Ed's Senator, Ken LaValle. Senator LaValle seemed genuinely interested in promoting youth sporting activities in his district. By the end of our meeting he had agreed to sponsor a companion Bill for the State Senate. So Senator LaValle became the sponsor of S3421, which was basically the same as A4786. Senator John Flanagan was the co-sponsor on this bill. The bill went to the floor of the Senate on July 14, and passed by a vote of 60-1. The Governor signed the bill into Law on August 3rd.

So there you have it. As invested in this as I was, I can only stress that this would never have happened without the key people mentioned above. Special thanks to Assemblymen Bob Sweeney and Mike Fitzpatrick, and Senators Ken LaValle and John Flanagan. Thanks to their bi-partisan efforts, the youth of Long Island can look forward to increased outdoor sporting opportunities.

***Delta Waterfowlers
1st Annual Sportsman's Dinner***

Bocce Beach on Fire Island

Sunday, September 18, 2011 – 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

\$90 per person

Contact John Ferguson at 631-807-9251

Ducks Unlimited

Four Harbors Chapter 6th Annual Dinner

Friday, October 14 at Lombardi's on the Sound
Port Jefferson

Starts at 6:00 pm

Contact Donna at dcapp3@optonline.net – or –
Debra at 631-473-5138

SASI's National Hunting & Fishing Day

SASI is holding the 40th Annual National Hunting & Fishing Day at Ridge's DEC Check Station on September 24, 2011 from 9 am to 4 pm. Check out the info on our website (sswa.org or www.suffolkalliance.org).



We proudly support the Wounded Warriors

Magazines for Veterans

Starting at the September Meeting, Curt will be collecting used hunting & fishing magazines and books for the VA Hospital in Northport. Please bring your used items to the meetings each month and I will get them to the men and women in the VA Hospital. I have been bringing mine for a while now, and it seems they are flying off the shelves. L.I. Fisherman, American Hunter, DU mags, etc. Read them and then bring them to the meetings. Your wives will thank you for getting them out of the house. The veterans really appreciate them.

Northeast Waterfowl Festival – East Hartford, Connecticut

The Cabela's in East Hartford, Connecticut is having a Decoy Festival Sept. 10-11, 2011. For info call Craig Kessler at 516-639-8480 or go online at www.northeastwaterfowlfestival.com.

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Quack's Tips

"Location, Location, Location ... **Scouting**, and the gathering of information are more important than most hunters realize. It's been said that 10% of the hunters bag 90% of the game. This may be an exaggeration, but it is no secret that some hunters are more successful than others. With access becoming a bigger problem each year, more and more hunters are turning to hunt big water areas. Knowing where to go is an important element in being successful. Perhaps some of the "biggest" water hunted is off the coast of Maine, so let's see what some of the Maine hunters have to say. Joey Lucey, who guides along the coast of Maine says, "many variables come into play when deciding where to set your decoys. **Scouting** is vital to determining where the birds want to go naturally at all tide phases and various wind speeds and directions. This may sound simplistic, but it is important. While there are many traditional feeding and resting areas, these change daily, and sometimes hourly, so it's important to stay on top of things with good **scouting**." Getting others to help with the **scouting** can be a big plus. Ernie Spaulding, who guides on Pleasant Bay, Maine, says "I don't cover nearly as much water as most of the local fishermen. I talk to these guys on a regular basis and they have become very helpful in letting me know where the ducks are working. Sometimes they even give me a call when they see a new concentration of birds."

Setting up where the birds want to be will greatly increase your chances of getting fair shots at birds. Location, Location, Location!

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Name _____ Today's Date: _____

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e-mail: _____

Telephone No.: (_____) _____

— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Sept. 10-11 — Northeast Waterfowl Festival at Cabela's in East Hartford, CT (see p. 8)
Sept. 12 — First SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library
Sept. 18 — Delta Waterfowlers Sportsman's Dinner at Bocce Beach (see p. 8)
Sept. 24 — SASI National Hunting & Fishing Day, Ridge, NY (see p. 8)
Sept. 24-25 — Gun Show at IBEW Local 25 Union Hall, Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY
Sept. 24-25 — Ocean County Decoy Show, Tuckerton, New Jersey
October 3 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library
October 14 — Four Harbors DU Dinner, Lombardi's on the Sound (see p. 8)
October 15-16 — Annual Oyster Festival, Oyster Bay, New York
October 30 — 31st ANNUAL DUCKBOAT SHOW AND WATERFOWL FESTIVAL
November 6 — If Needed – Rain date for Duckboat Show (see p. 2)
November 7 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library
Nov. 11/12/13 — Easton, Maryland, Waterfowl Festival
December 5 — SSWA Meeting Christmas Party, Brightwaters Library

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



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