

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 2014

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

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718



**First Meeting will be: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8  
due to holiday library closure**

***34th ANNUAL DUCKBOAT SHOW AND WATERFOWL FESTIVAL***  
***Sunday, October 26, 2014***  
***Raindate: November 2***

Cedar Beach Marina, Ocean Parkway, 9 am to 3:30 pm. See attached flyer for more information about the show. If you are a vendor and interested in getting a table, **read on**, then go to [sswa.org](http://sswa.org) and download the application or call Curt Matzinger at 631-661-0379 and I'll send you one.

**MEMBERS**, please copy the enclosed flyer and post it in your favorite stores, hangouts, and at work. Here is the annual call to come and help out the day of the show. The more people manning the show, the easier it is on all, especially ME. So come on down, half or full day, and help out YOUR club. You'll have a lot of fun doing it. Thanks in advance.

**VENDORS**, to avoid the usual confusion, I assign tables in the order I receive the checks, not when you call to say you're coming. First check, table 1, second check, table 2, and so on. If you were way in the back last year, it was because I didn't get the check till the day before, or you didn't send one and there was an available table, not because I don't like you. **ALSO** when you pay for a table, you get assigned **ONE** table. You don't get to spread your stuff out on all three tables, because there will be another vendor next to you. If you want more than one table, pay for more than one table. **OKAY**

**DUCKBOAT ENTRIES**. There have been some inquiries as to how the duckboats are judged, so here is a recap of some rules. If you won **BEST IN SHOW**, you *cannot* re-enter the boat unless **MAJOR** modifications were done to it.

First, choose the division your boat fits in. One-man grassboat, two-man grassboat, floating blind, layout boat, sea duck rigs, and miscellaneous. Second, you will be given 5 minutes to talk about your boat. You should talk about: Safety and lighting, is your boat store bought or homemade, show off the grass job, any modifications or improvements you made to it, blind setup (if applicable), paint job, boats internal layout or storage. Anything you want to brag about. **Talk it up**. Points are awarded for each section. The better you have each section, the more points you get. Points are minused if you are missing key stuff like safety or lights, or if things are just thrown in. Lastly, there will be ribbons given out for first, second, and third in each division. Then out of the first place winners in each division, a **BEST IN SHOW** winner will be chosen. So work on your boat, bring it down and show it off. Even if you don't or can't enter it, bring it down so other hunters can look at your boat and steal, I mean borrow, your ideas on how to rig out a duckboat.

**NOTE: ABSOLUTELY NO GUNS SHOULD BE IN THE BOATS.**

**REMEMBER TO BRING CANNED GOODS OR NON-PERISHABLES FOR OUR FOOD DRIVE**

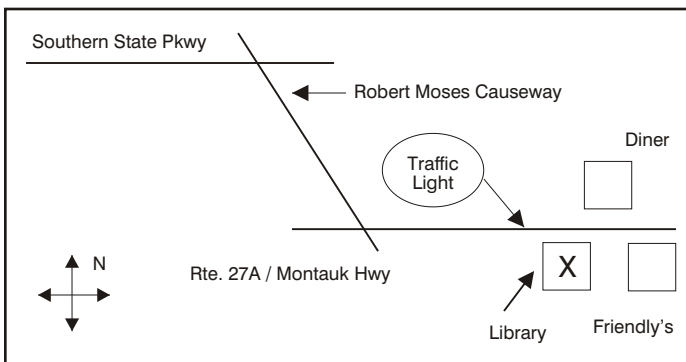
## South Shore Waterfowlers

### 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 . . . . . Erik Tallbe, Jr.  
516-799-6613
- Secretary . . . . . Ron Pliszak  
631-902-2220
- Treasurer, Newsletter Editor,  
Duckboat Show Chairman, Historian,  
Club Dinner & BBQ Chairman . . . Curt Matzinger  
613-661-0379
- Sergeant at Arms . . . . . Erik Tallbe  
516-799-6613
- Membership . . . . . Bob Dasch  
631-472-0683

## REMINDER

All Dues for SSWA expired memberships ARE NOW DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1. Check your label on back page for expiration year. Please mail your \$30 dues to **SOUTH SHORE WATERFOWLERS**, PO Box 217, Brightwaters, NY 11718.

## The President's Corner



On Saturday, July 12, the SSWA Board held its annual Summer meeting. In attendance were: President – Ron Sineo, Second Vice President – Erik Tallbe Jr., Secretary – Ron Pliszak, and Treasurer – Curt Matzinger. Attending Directors included: George Duguid, Fred Graham, George Grivas, Steve Schratwiesser, Ben Sohm, and Ed Wortmann. Advisors present were: Steve Jendricks and Kate Sohm. Attending Past Presidents included Bill Hartman and Erik Tallbe.

The first order of business was to try and set up our meeting schedule with anticipated guest speakers and topics. The Board recommended the following: Capt. Tim Huss on hunting regulations, a "How to Hunt Wood Ducks" presentation, a boat thatching presentation, a duck calling demonstration, a panel to discuss how to hunt Broadbill, a marine engine mechanic, a Live Birds of Prey presentation, a talk on gun maintenance, and a discussion about collectable decoys. We will try to schedule all of these topics and speakers during the next 8 general meetings between September and April.

Our annual raffle promises to be a good one, with some great prizes. Tickets are included in this edition of the newsletter. We encourage all members who receive these to buy them, or at least to sell them, so that the club can have a successful fundraiser. You can mail in the stubs and money, or you can bring them into the September or October meeting. The winners will be drawn at the Annual Duckboat Show & Waterfowl Festival on October 26, 2014. Due to the popularity of the "Al McCormick" T-shirt, the board has decided to offer them once again, this time in a different color. For all of you who expressed your disappointment this past year at not being able to buy a McCormick shirt in the right size, we should have a good supply by September. (By the way, buying a new T- Shirt for yourself or for someone else is another good way to support our club.)

Ron Sineo

## *Highlights of the Atlantic Flyway Summer Meeting*

by Ron Sineo

This year's Atlantic Flyway meeting was held in Charleston, West Virginia, from July 20-25. There were some changes from last season that were expected, and some that were unexpected. For the past 3-5 years, the FWS has been talking about changing the semi-annual meeting schedule. The reason seems to be that by the time the U.S. Service Regulations Committee convenes after the summer Flyway meetings, and then posts the results in the Federal Register, there is too short a time period for legal notifications. This is largely due to the early Sept. resident goose seasons that have been born from those Goose flocks that seem to stay put year round. In any event, this year's meeting was a perfect example. Changes were made that weren't anticipated, and the states have only 3-4 weeks to get the word out and to alter and print the bag limits and regulations booklets that are provided for hunters each season. It seems that the new calendar for Flyway meetings has now pretty much been set. The winter technical meetings will continue as before, but the summer meeting will be moved to the Fall. There will be one last summer meeting in 2015, and that will take place in NY State (probably Lake Placid). After that, the Fall meetings will be the meetings where the Council makes their recommendations to the SRC. So in the Fall of 2015, the Council will be looking to the 2016-17 hunting season. This implies that neither the mid-winter surveys nor the breeding population surveys will be available in as timely a way as they were before. The Council will be making recommendations based upon "last year's" data, as we move forward into the 2016-17 hunting season. What this will mean for season lengths and bag limits is not clear.

The Highlights of the DUCK changes from last season are as follows:

The limit on Canvasback is back to 1 bird/day

Brant is again in a restricted season of 30 days/ 2 birds per day and will be November 27th-30th (1st split), and then not re-open until December 31st, continuing through January 25th (2nd split)

There has also been a Canada Goose change. For the 2014-15 regular Canada Goose season, the Eastern LI zone has changed from a 60 day, 2 bird/day, to a 70 day, 3 bird/day season. As a result, the Eastern Zone season **THIS YEAR** will open on Nov. 27 and extend through Feb. 4. This change is based upon a breeding population of NAP geese that has increased enough to warrant it for the coming year. After the season, when the breeding population is once again surveyed, if the numbers fall, we may drop back into the usual restrictive season of 60/2 in the Eastern Long Island Zone.

## *The SSWA "Hunting Buddy" and Decoy Loaner Program*

by Ron Sineo

In the last issues of our newsletters, I reported on the past success of our "Buddy" program, and the likelihood that we would be continuing it. Ben Sohm will have a sign-up sheet at the September meeting for all "boatless" hunters who wish to buddy-up and try a boat hunt with an experienced hunter-mentor. Ben will be looking for both those who are boatless, and those who are willing to take a hunter in their boat.

I also reported on the generous decoy contribution of George Ruland, and I promised an update in this newsletter. I was pleased to report that the SSWA Board met on June 29, 2013 and, as an outgrowth of that meeting, Board members Ed Wortmann, Fred Graham, Ben Sohm, Steve Jendricks, Guy Soden, and myself met at my house to work out the "decoy details." We opened the 7 barrels of decoys and discovered that all are in "ready-to-use" condition. We sorted the decoys into 3 groups: puddle ducks, divers, and sea ducks. The puddle ducks are ear-marked for use at the handicapped-access blind #9 in Southaven County Park. But the other two groups of decoys will be made available to those SSWA members who wish to borrow them. The Board found that the **diver rig was made up of 35 broadbill decoys**. These are arranged on a 12 bird long line, an 11 bird long line, and 12 more birds on individual cords/anchors. **There is also a 35 bird seaduck rig**, made of 3 long lines (1 line of 12 long tail ducks, 1 line of 12 scoter, and 1 line of 11 scoter).

For the time being, these decoys will be stored at my place. As of the receipt of this newsletter article, SSWA members may sign up to make a loan request for either the seaduck or broadbill rigs. Wounded Warriors and returning Vets will have first priority. Youth hunters and beginning hunters/new members will have second priority, but all SSWA members in good standing will be eligible to borrow and use these rigs. Before you borrow either of these rigs, you will be asked to sign a simple agreement stating that you have received these in good shape, and that if any decoys are lost or damaged you are responsible to replace and/or repair them. If you are included in the priority categories, you may sign up by calling me at (631) 862-8518 (first come, first served). By the November meeting, if either decoy rig is still available, those members with no special priority may also take their turn by calling to sign out the rig. Those who are awarded the rigs on loan, must return them in a timely manner at the end of the regular duck season, and in the same numbers and condition.



## *The USFWS Has Serious Concerns Over Dwindling Sea Duck Populations*

by Ron Sineo

The year was 1990. Long Island's regular duck season was a 30 day split season, (Nov. 16–25, and Dec. 18–Jan. 6) with a 3 bird daily bag limit. That limit included no more than one hen mallard, one black duck, two wood ducks, two redheads, and one pintail. Canvasbacks were not open to hunt. Wow, only 30 days and 3 birds a day! No wonder a lot of guys hung up their decoys. That was almost 25 years ago. Since then, many duck populations have bounced back. Today we enjoy double the season, **and** double the daily bag limit! But back then it was bleak. That was when the USFWS offered us a new arena. At that time it was thought that there was an abundance of sea ducks, and the USFWS offered a "special season" of 107 days and a separate bag limit of 7 sea ducks in any combination. That special season and bag limits still exists today, and is still 107 days long. The bag is still 7 per day, excepting that for more than 10 years now the daily limit on scoters has been reduced to 4 birds.

Probably the most important message I took away from this Summer's AFC meetings concerned the declining status of Sea Ducks in the Atlantic Flyway. For the last 5 years or so, the Sea Duck Joint Venture (US & Canada) has been taking surveys of Sea Ducks in the Atlantic Flyway. The USFWS has begun to analyze the data from those surveys, and the results are not good. Eiders have become a prized species, but the data suggests that the population of Eiders is in trouble. The survival rates of eggs and newborn Eiders is pathetic. It seems that in much of the Southern part of the Eider's nesting grounds, the number one predator is the Black-backed Gull! Colonies of Eiders nest along the New England and maritime Canadian coast. Hundreds of hen Eiders often nest in close proximity to each other on the coastal barren rock outcroppings with poor cover. Black-backed Gulls congregate and hover, waiting for an opportunity. If the hen leaves the nest even for a short time to feed, the eggs are vulnerable to attack by the gulls. Surveys show that the productivity of Atlantic Eiders has dropped to alarming levels, due at least in part to the savage attacks by increased numbers of predatory Gulls.

Likewise, surveys have been done on Long-Tailed Ducks, and on the three species of Scoter. At the Flyway meeting, it was presented that there is a 37% chance that Black Scoter are being overharvested based upon their breeding population survival rates. *Please understand this does not mean that hunters are to blame.* Actually, we don't kill that many sea ducks each year. The problem is that the only thing that the FWS can do

to help the situation is to curb the hunter harvest rate. This means shorter seasons and reduced bag limits. The data hasn't been completely reviewed yet on the other two scoter species and on long-tailed ducks, but it probably isn't any better. The USFWS has put the Atlantic Flyway on notice that serious changes are coming down the pike on Sea Duck Regulations.

**There are no recommended changes for this year, and likely no changes for the 2015-2016 season either.** (This is probably because the Canadian Wildlife Service has switched to a 2-year interval for regulation and bag limit changes.) There was some talk about eliminating the "Special Season" status for Sea Ducks in the Atlantic Flyway. This would also mean no more "special sea duck zones." It is very likely that by 2016-2017 we will see the 107 day season disappear to be replaced by hunting sea ducks only during the regular duck season. (That's a 60 day season right now.) And if the special sea duck zones are eliminated, it means there will be no separate bag limit for sea ducks. In other words, your regular 6 duck bag limit will now include any sea ducks you shoot.

Well, while nothing has been decided yet, one thing is for sure. It looks like the hunting of Sea Ducks is bound to suffer some new limitations and restrictions in the near future.

*Post Script:* Here is what the Feds released about Sea Ducks on August 14, 2014:

Sea ducks are long-lived birds that have fairly low reproductive rates compared with other ducks. Therefore, sea duck population status is sensitive to harvest pressure. It is difficult to determine the status of sea duck populations because they breed in remote areas that are not covered well by current waterfowl surveys and they have not been banded in large numbers. However, recent analyses indicate that annual production is not sufficient to offset the annual mortality currently experienced by some sea duck populations, and this is causing declines in their numbers. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's obligation is to ensure sustainable populations of birds. So even though harvest rates are low for sea ducks, we believe that reductions in harvest levels may be needed to help stabilize those populations. The Service and the Flyway are working on a report that will be available in the near future that details the results of their assessment.

Over the next few months biologists will determine what annual harvest is needed to achieve sustainability. After that, we will consult with the sea duck hunting constituency (hunters and guides) and decide how to achieve the desired harvest goals.



Jon Swezey  
1877 New York Ave., Huntington Station, NY 11746  
(631) 271-4969 • Fax (631) 271-9621  
e-mail: campsiteli@aol.com  
*Your Source to the Outdoors Since 1964*

### Fisherman's Catch Restaurant



Tel: (516) 670-9717  
111 BAYSIDE DRIVE  
POINT LOOKOUT, N.Y. 11569

DANA LARSON  
Catering Manager



### *Summer 2014 Recap*

What a great summer the SSWA had. We hosted 4 shoots at Peconic River Sportsmen Club, a Fluke fishing trip on the FISH ON II, and a terrific BBQ at the WindSwept Marina Pig Roast.

The shoot turn-outs were very good this summer. From 12 to 18 shooters at each one. I guess our membership is finally taking advantage of the terrific sporting clays course offered at Peconic River. Special thanks to our SSWA/Peconic River members who set up these shoots and made it possible for us to utilize their facility. Ron Sineo, Warren Busch, Perry Iannacone Jr., John D'Avino, Bill McGinley, George Rigby, Joe Leggio.

The fishing trip saw 19 people head out for a day of fluke fishing aboard the Fish On II in Center Moriches. It started with a light rain but turned nice. Erik Tallbe Jr. took the SSWA pool. A 6-foot hero, chips, and some nice beverages kept everyone happy. Thanks to Steve from the Fish On II boat for a super day.

Lastly, we had the 2nd Annual SSWA BBQ. It is held in conjunction with John Adams' WindSwept Marina Pig Roast. Twenty-eight members and their families spent a sun-filled day at the BBQ. Held down on the water's edge, with cool bay breezes, TONS of food, and some nice cocktails, everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. The club picked up the tab as a thank-you to all our members for helping out their club. A picture is worth a thousand words. Look at all those smiling faces.

Check out pictures from all these events at the website SSWA.ORG in the gallery section.

### *GUN SHOW September 27-28*

**IBEW Local 25 Union Hall  
Motor Parkway, Hauppauge  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Come down and see the show. Tell your friends. Members please sign up to help out manning the table. It is a 2-day event and we can use some help. Call Curt to sign up (631-661-0379).

### *Delta Waterfowlers Long Island Chapter 5th Annual Banquet*

*September 28 at the  
Bocce Beach Restaurant, Fire Island*

Call John Ferguson at 631-807-9251 for tickets and info or e-mail at [jbronco20@aol.com](mailto:jbronco20@aol.com).

### **SASI's National Hunting & Fishing Day**

SASI is holding the Annual National Hunting & Fishing Day at Ridge's DEC Check Station on September 28, 2014 from 9 am to 4 pm. Check out the info on their website:

[www.suffolkalliance.org](http://www.suffolkalliance.org)

**Please sell them to support the SSWA**

**Enclosed are your Raffle Tickets**

### Quack's Tips

In the "old" days, with most decoy sets, all the birds looked alike. A raft of floating decoys, once set out, looked like clones of each other, with identical profiles. Finally, manufacturers began changing head and neck positions, and creating different poses for floating birds so that some were feeders, some sentries, some resters, and so on. The idea was to add some realism to the way they look, once set. If you have ever observed groups of ducks sitting on the water, you will see that there is a variety of poses and positions and while more than half will usually sit facing the wind, several will not. Since most production decoys today have a keel with a hole at either end, you can set some birds with their back to the wind simply by attaching the decoy cord to the hole at the back end of the keel. For even more realism, you can experiment by drilling a small hole closer to the center of the keel and attaching the cord to the new hole. This will cause the bird to sit at a different angle yet.

### Help Support Your Club

Please make an effort to sell your raffle tickets, help out at upcoming events, purchase merchandise for you and your family, recruit new members, and/or attend upcoming meetings (hopefully all of the above).

**IT IS YOUR CLUB.** The more effort you put into it, the greater the reward. Let's keep the SSWA the great duck hunting club it is.

## Waterfowler's Classifieds

### FOR SALE:

**DECOYS - DUCKS & GEESE  
FIELD AND FLOATERS + ACCESSORIES**

Call Butch at 631-924-5249

**RUGER SINGLE ACTION  
.44 Mag 7½" with Scope — \$675**

Call Curt at 631-355-6258

**14" BANDSAW — \$500 / 12½" PLANER — \$350  
TABLESAW — \$300 / All for \$800**

**2 — 3-MAN HAYBAIL BLINDS — \$250 each**  
Call Guy at 631-423-1492

**2-MAN STEVE SANFORD LAYOUT BOAT  
WITH TRAILER — \$700**

Call John at 631-618-5728



*We proudly support the Wounded Warriors*

## — South Shore Waterfowlers Association —

P.O. Box 217 Brightwaters, NY 11718

Membership Enrollment / Renewal Card (please print legibly)

Address Change       Address Correction       New Member       Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Dues: 1 year . . . . . \$30.00

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership expires in Sept.

Telephone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_

— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

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

- Sept. 8 — First SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library
- Sept. 27 — SASI National Hunting & Fishing Day, Ridge, NY (see p. 4)
- Sept. 27-28 — Gun Show at IBEW Local 25 Union Hall, Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY
- Sept. 27-28 — Ocean County Decoy Show, Tuckerton, New Jersey
- Sept. 28 — Delta Waterfowlers 5th Annual Banquet at Bocce Beach (see p. 4)
- October 6 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library
- October 18-19 — Annual Oyster Festival, Oyster Bay, New York
- October 26 — 34th ANNUAL DUCKBOAT SHOW AND WATERFOWL FESTIVAL
- November 2 — If Needed – Rain date for Duckboat Show (see p. 1)
- November 3 — SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library
- Nov. 14/15/16 — Easton, Maryland, Waterfowl Festival
- December 1 — SSWA Meeting Christmas Party, Brightwaters Library

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



SOUTH SHORE  
WATERFOWLERS  
ASSOC., INC.

P.O. BOX 217

BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

***Dedicated to Waterfowl Conservation on Long Island***