

SOUTH SHORE
WATERFOWLERS

ASSOCIATION, INC.



March 2019
P.O. BOX 217

Web site: sswa.org
BRIGHTWATERS, NY 11718

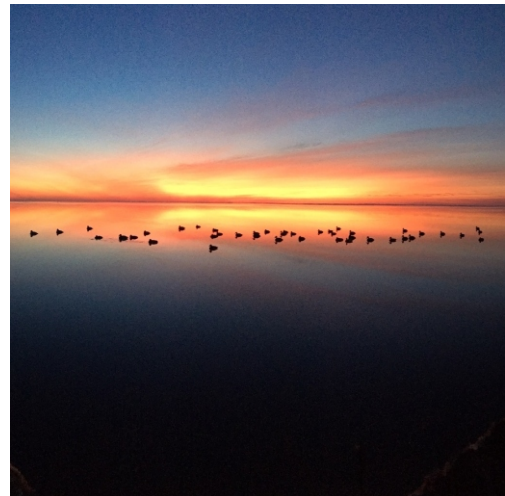
***If you are going to the SSWA "Curt M" Dinner,
please get your money to him by March 27, 2019***

SSWA Photo Contest Winners

The SSWA tried something new this year. It is our first Photo Contest. Members entered their photos from this past hunting season. There were three categories in which to enter their photos: Hunting, Nature, and Funny. The winners were scored by how many likes and comments they received on our Facebook and Instagram pages. This was a bragging rights contest but the winners did receive a year membership to the club. Thank you to everyone who entered photos. We loved seeing how you made out this season and what you saw while afield. And the winners are:



Hunting — Erik Tirpak



Nature — Steven Pliszak



Funny — Ashley Adams

Argentina Dove Hunt Raffle

(Retail Value \$9,960.00)

**Congratulations to Ken Veeck,
winner of the hunt.**

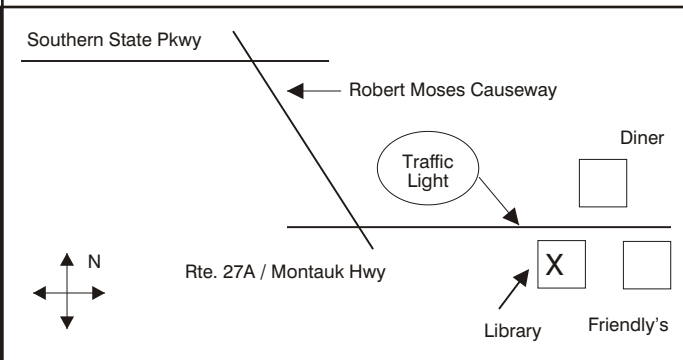
South Shore Waterfowlers

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.



South Shore Waterfowlers Association — Officers —

- President Ron Pliszak
631-902-2220
- 1st Vice President Kate Sohm
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- 2nd Vice President Erik Tallbe, Jr.
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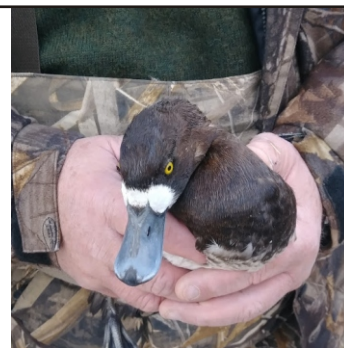
President's Corner

Even though the season is over and the decoys have been put away until next year, there are still plenty of ducks around to see and enjoy, it's not all about the harvest.

Recently a group of South Shore members went to check out the Broadbill banding project being done by The LI Wildfowl Heritage Group. Birds that had been captured in a trap were collected by club member Red Oster and given to members Curt Matzinger, John Adams, Dani Karam, Tom Gresser, Bill Spadafora, Frank Gentile, and myself to be brought to Syracuse graduate students Jake Chronister and Aidan Flores. They documented each bird's age, gender, recorded if they were Lesser's or Greater's, then attached a band. We released the birds as other members and onlookers watched. It was a great experience handling the live birds and watching the whole banding process take place.

The program has banded hundreds of Broadbill that hopefully will provide valuable research in the future. It will also be interesting to see if a lucky member of our club will harvest any of the birds we banded

Ron Pliszak





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You and Your Scattergun

How I Clean My Shotgun

by George Grivas

You have a nice day afield and now it is time to clean your gun. This is how I do it.

I start by making sure that the gun is unloaded. Then I disconnect the barrel, put a wad of toilet paper in the breech end and push it through with a cleaning rod with the brush attached. This is to sweep out any residue in the barrel.

Next I remove the choke tubes. Using a toothbrush and solvent I brush the threads of the choke tube. I then brush the threads inside the barrel. I then screw the choke tubes back in.

I have two guns with ported barrels. I use a pipe cleaner to brush out the ports. They usually do not have residue.

Now I am ready to scrub the barrel. I take a patch and wrap it around the brush. I saturate it with solvent and scrub the barrel. I now will repeat it with dry patches until they come out clean. I then run an oily patch down the barrel.

The receiver gets cleaned with a q tip. The receiver does get dirty. I make sure I also run a Q-tip over parts of the action that can get dirty. I personally do not like to oil these parts. In the field I have had grains of sand stick to the oil.

OK, time to reassemble the gun. I put the barrel back on the gun. From here on in I only use an oily rag in each hand because I don't want to leave anything on the metal of the gun. A German machinist once told me that he had seen metal start to rust within 24 hours after seeing someone handle the metal. He said that some people have acids in their skins which will start the gun rusting. So, to be on the safe side, I handle the gun only with oily rags. The whole gun gets a wipe down to leave a thin layer of oil.

Of course there are other ways of cleaning a gun. This way is what I have settled on and I am happy with it.

Talking About Dogs

by George Grivas

My Dog Buffy

This past October was a very sad October for me. I had to euthanize my dog Buffy. To make a long story short, she suddenly started to go down. Six o'clock Friday afternoon we were training and by six o'clock Saturday we were in the emergency vet. Diagnosis was pericarditis. A telephone conversation with my personal vet, I got this information.... "George, it looks really bad. If you do any of the procedures, she won't have a life and won't live much longer anyway." That was it, I couldn't make her suffer so I decided to euthanize her right there.

Of course our dogs are part of the family. However Buffy was special. I had traveled to North Carolina to get her. She was a rascal. Independent, wild, loved to run and earned the nickname "Crazy Buffy". Until the day she died, she never brought me something for her to retrieve. However she was a retrieving fool.

So now I have this dog that has all her health clearances. She is talented. I decided to breed her. I made the trip to Memphis, Tennessee to breed her to the stud dog Maverick. Old school contract, we just shook hands for a breeding contract. Sixty-two days later we have a litter of seven pups. Four go into performance homes: hunt test, field trial, and hunting homes. And then in 2016 one of the puppies earns the title of Top Golden Retriever Derby Dog (Young dog). This is the competition field trial title naming the top golden in the country. And the other three performance dogs are doing well in their venues. So Buffy was special, she produced very talented puppies.

Buffy is gone. However the main reason that I bred her was to get a puppy from her. His name is Thor. More about Thor next time....

Anti-Gun, Anti-Hunting, Anti-2nd Amendment

by Ron Sineo

Since the beginning of this legislative period, the state legislature has **passed 6 anti-gun bills, including the “red flag” bill. Dozens more are ready to be introduced.**

There are 62 Counties in NYS, and they are divided up into 150 Assembly Districts.

To pass a bill in the Assembly, a simple majority vote is needed. 76 yes votes to Pass or 76 no votes to defeat. By Party there are currently 106 Democrats, 43 Republicans and 1 independent who make up the 150 Assemblyman. Interestingly, 5 boroughs of NYC collectively have 65 seats in the Assembly. (63 Democrats, 2 Republicans). Long Island (Nassau & Suffolk) has 22 seats, (12 republican, 9 Democrats, 1 Independent) and Westchester County has 8 seats (7 Democrats & 1 Republican).

In all, there are 95 seats South of the Tappan Zee Bridge, of which 79 are held by Democrats. It follows that if they vote along Party lines, the Democrats from the 8 Southern most counties in NYS can Approve or defeat any legislation in the Assembly.

The NYS Senate is no better or worse ... there are 63 seats in NYS in the Senate.

The same downstate 8 counties below Tappan Zee bridge hold 38 of those seats.

In the Senate, the breakdown is clear. Long Island has 3 Republicans and 6 Democrats, NYC has 1 Republican and 24 Democrats, and the 4 from Westchester are all Democrats. In total, of the 38 seats there are 4 Republican and 34 Democrat. It only takes a majority of 32 seats to carry a vote in the NY Senate. ***It is essential that those who represent us in the Assembly and in the Senate hear from all of us frequently. They need to be reminded that they represent ALL the people in their district, not just those who voted for them!***

Here is a list of the Politicians from Long Island in the State Legislature. It is easy to find out which are from your district.

SENATE MEMBERS FROM LONG ISLAND

District	Senator	Party	First elected	Counties
1	Kenneth LaValle	Republican	1976	Suffolk
2	John J. Flanagan	Republican	2002	Suffolk
3	Monica Martinez	Democratic	2018	Suffolk
4	Phil Boyle	Republican	2012	Suffolk
5	James Gaughran	Democratic	2018	Nassau, Suffolk
6	Kevin Thomas	Democratic	2018	Nassau
7	Anna Kaplan	Democratic	2018	Nassau
8	John Brooks	Democratic	2016	Nassau, Suffolk
9	Todd Kaminsky	Democratic	2016*	Nassau

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ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FROM LONG ISLAND by DISTRICT

District	Member	Party	First elected	Counties
1	Fred Thiele	Ind	1995+	Suffolk
2	Anthony Palumbo	Rep	2013+	Suffolk
3	Joseph P. DeStefano	Rep	2018	Suffolk
4	Steven Englebright	Dem	1992+	Suffolk
5	Douglas M. Smith	Rep	2018+	Suffolk
6	Philip Ramos	Dem	2002	Suffolk
7	Andrew Garbarino	Rep	2012	Suffolk
8	Michael J. Fitzpatrick	Rep	2002	Suffolk
9	Michael LiPetri	Rep	2018	Nassau, Suffolk
10	Steve Stern	Dem	2018+	Suffolk
11	Kimberly Jean-Pierre	Dem	2014	Suffolk
12	Andrew Raia	Rep	2002	Suffolk
13	Charles Lavine	Dem	2004	Nassau
	David McDonough	Rep	2002+	Nassau
15	Michael Montesano	Rep	2010+	Nassau
16	Anthony D'Urso	Dem	2016	Nassau
17	John Mikulin	Rep	2018+	Nassau
18	Taylor Raynor	Dem	2018	Nassau
19	Ed Ra	Rep	2010	Nassau
20	Melissa Miller	Rep	2016	Nassau
21	Judy Griffin	Dem	2018	Nassau
22	Michaëlle C. Solages	Dem	2012	Nassau

Since the beginning of this legislative period, the state legislature has **passed 6 anti-gun bills, including the "red flag" bill.** Dozens more are ready to be introduced.

Here are some which are already sponsored in one of the houses (S for Senate, A for Assembly)

To read the full text of these bills, just find the NYS bill search website, and enter the bill number.

S 1412 additional requirements to purchase a firearm, shotgun or rifle

A 1007...no shooting programs in the public schools

A 1413...no raffles with guns as prizes

A 722 Bans hunting & fishing contests, and field trials with live birds

A 425 "children's weapon accident prevention act" elevates to crime of 1st & second degree

A 503 "Nicholas Law" Relates to the safe storage of rifles, shotguns, or firearms.

WE URGE YOU TO FIND OUT WHO YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE. FIND OUT THEIR CONTACT INFO. E-MAIL THEM, OR CALL THEM, WRITE TO THEM OR VISIT THEIR OFFICE. LET THEM KNOW WHERE YOU STAND ON 2ND AMENDMENT ISSUES!

AFC Winter Technical Meetings Report, February 24-28, Kitty Hawk, NC

by Ron Sineo

I begin this report by stating that New York and Vermont were not in attendance. Pennsylvania represented NY by proxy vote.

The meeting opened with a report from Paul Padding, USWFS who indicated that with the resignation of Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt has been nominated as the new Secretary. When Zinke was the Director, he initiated a reorganization of the Department of the Interior to consolidate regions and this is now on hold. The implications are obvious. They are in flux, and nothing is consistent.

The recent government shutdown has created a domino effect which has slowed down the progress of many necessary things. Important meetings which only occur 1x or 2x per year never occurred. This has backed up some things for 6 months or perhaps even 1 year. Even so, there are federal mandates which have deadlines that need to be met. So now these are the things that have been prioritized. Other issues have been put on the back burner (e.g., the Federal cormorant meeting was postponed until the last week in March). This may now have a negative impact on fish populations.

Information was also provided on harvest/age ratio determined by the wing bee survey on 4 species. The results are: Mallards ... above average 1.26, Black ducks above average 1.29, Common Eider (way above) 0.79, and Atlantic Brant (way below) 0.03.

Bill S47 Extra days for veterans and youth. Federal regs. allow a maximum of 107 days in the aggregate. So this could impact over all season (extra 2-4 days for each or both). More on this at the end.

There was an Environmental DNA presentation. Fascinating idea. Be able to collect soil or water samples and test for species from cells sluffed off from a particular species. Test a habitat area for eDNA and learn more about preferred habitat for a species. Also learn about past usage. Lots of possibilities. Still in its infancy.

Robert Wayne, NC law enforcement gave a brief presentation on *Camp Canvasback*. This is a 4-H center/DU/NCWRC for youth who get their hunter safety, etc. at this camp. A part of the program is water safety as it pertains to hunting (canoes, wader safety, etc). A unique and valuable addition to Hunter Education to be sure.

Mallards were a big part of the overall discussion at this meeting. The mallard adaptive harvest working group is wrestling with the why of the mallard population decline and even, is it a truly a decline? They have looked at issues like:

Urban vs suburban vs rural (decline is across the board)

Is banding representative? (yes – from a geographic perspective)

And yes, Eastern mallards are being banded.

Age ratios of harvest ... consistent across the board

Differential vulnerability. Anything strange? Nothing jumps out

Age may be misclassified by wing bees ... match banded birds to compare the aging based upon wings ... random checks show it is more than 95% accurate.



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Conclusions:

- The decline is real.
- Monitoring is pretty accurate.

The desire is to maximize harvest opportunity while sustaining eastern mallard populations, keeping multi-stock at 98% shoulder strategy, and maximize hunter opportunity in accordance with hunter responses.

Also, to minimize closed seasons, and minimize the frequency of annual regs. changes.

Hip registered hunters in the 17 states were surveyed. The goal was to survey 8% of the registered duck hunters in the Atlantic Flyway.

- Note: 38% of all listed duck hunting as #1, which is to say: 62% listed it other than #1
- 12% of those surveyed said Mallards were the most important duck.
- 42% said not the most important, but one of the most important.

This means that 46% didn't rate mallards as high on their list.

Mallard Committee Report:

- Based upon Banding data, 63-71% OF ALL MALLARDS HARVESTED IN NY originated in NY.

NEWS: South Carolina leads the way on Captive Reared Birds ... passed a law in state legislature with major changes.. Any group in SC that wants to release mallards, will now pay \$200 for a permit to release the birds. Each bird must be banded prior to release. ***During hunting season***, all harvest counts. In other words, any reared bird counts in the bag. No matter what they shoot, starting with 2019 season, 2 bird-limit during the hunting season! This will seriously impact those private clubs that release tons of birds for tower shoots etc., because this implies there will be no preserve status. The limit is 2 birds/day in the bag.



Min Huang reported that they were looking for a way to separate out the eastern mallards from the North Canada mallards, and they felt that stable isotope (deuterium) analysis was a possible way to do it.

Sampling protocol is to collect at least 60 wing feathers per harvest region in the flyway for males, females, and age cohorts, by state.

They have reached out to groups like Delta Waterfowl to try and get some funding for this isotope study. One way or another, I think this will gain momentum and will move forward soon.

SNOBS:



The Brant survey this winter was flown by Ted Nichols a few days late, but was completed during the same week. The results were not good, but I think it was better than was expected. In 2017, the total was 161,700 birds, In 2018 the total was 169,700, and this 2019 survey came in at only 120,109 birds. While this is depressing news, the numbers support a reduced season of 30 days but the bag limit remains at 2 birds per day. It will be very important for the Brant to have a good production year this breeding season, otherwise there may be a further reduction in the regs. next year. Brant was down 30% from 2018, and this was the lowest count since 2015.

Productivity was 90% below last year.

Continued from Page 7

Tundra Swans were also down. The 2019 count was 92,819 down from 111,000 which was the previous 3 year average. So, in our flyway, there will be a drop in the number of permits to a total of 5600 for the 20-21 season.

Greater Snow Geese populations have stabilized at @ 877,000. This is a bit higher the 500,000-750,000 which was the long-term goal, but since the population isn't growing, it is considered that the conservation orders will continue without any more changes.

Bruce Pollard CWS reported on their dissatisfaction over the lack of ability to secure a way to speciate Scoters and Scaup from an airplane. They are locating new areas in Newfoundland & Labrador to the east of their regular survey areas with higher scoter numbers, and to the west with bigger Scaup numbers. This program requires a shared expense between the US and Canada. The Canada \$\$\$ have been budgeted, the US \$\$\$ have not. The expected US budget share is \$ 125,000. Bruce Pollard also spoke to the alarming decline of Eider in both harvest numbers and in breeding populations in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. They acknowledge a shell fish resource depletion, and increased predation on the breeding areas by gulls and eagles. Some CWS reps are starting to float the idea of prohibition on shooting Eiders in NS and in NB. Bruce hinted that if that came about it might likewise cause some knee jerk response from USFWS for a token reduction in Eider harvest (perhaps 1 hen only or some such). The Sea Duck Joint venture is now looking at using genetics to try and identify harvest derivation to provide some answers.

The possibility of fecundity project testing by using photos of scoter in flight was discussed. NY, NJ, Virginia, and Maine were participants. The idea is that an observer can determine certain things like percentage of juveniles because of white underneath (bellies/wings) Only ducks which clearly have wings up or wings down would be considered. In this photo, I have inserted a juvenile. You can see the white on the belly by comparison. 101 action photos were selected for a study group. 371 birds in total. A 7-member group of bird Biologists were the test subjects. In each of the

101 photos used, they were asked to determine Species, sex, and age. The closest they came was 85% agreement on species. 40% agreement on age, and 40% agreement on sex. After more discussion, it was decided that the photos needed to have more standardization, and that they needed to develop better guidelines for ID.

The Canada Goose Committee voted to slightly change the criteria for band recovery for NAP totals for AFRP designations. I don't know how that might affect Long Island zones. There was a recommendation for a 3-yr. period 2019-2021 evaluation on migrant AP & NAP geese.

The House passed S47 and the bill awaits the President's signature. It includes all Vets, active military, National Guard etc., and can be concurrent with Youth hunting, or can be an additional 2 days, but cannot exceed the 107-day frameworks. This can become problematic. As you know, our Youth programs are strong on LI, but we rely on 2 Suffolk County Parks for their blinds on youth weekend. If the Vets days are concurrent, the Vets may end up competing for blind locations with the youth. If on the other hand, the state decides to make the Vets days separate, it could shorten the length of the regular season because it all has to fit within the 107-day framework. Could be a difficult call. More to follow.

Black River Valley Outfitter – New Sponsor

Great news members! Captain Ben Roggie, the owner, has offered to give SSWA members a break on hunting and fishing trips. They are up by Lake Ontario. Hunting website is www.BlackRiverValleyOutfitters.com and fishing is www.RiverValleyCharters.com. Phone is (315) 783-6679.

You must be an SSWA member in good standing to book at these rates (hunting or fishing buddies don't have to – but should be).

Ducks – Oct. thru Dec.: 150 pp Deposit 50
 Ducks & Geese – January: 525 Deposit 100
 (Full Boat) weekdays only party of 3
 Canada Geese – March: 150 pp Deposit 50
 Weekdays only party of 4 or more
 Spring Snow Geese – 150 pp Deposit 50
 party of 6 or more 125 pp
 Fishing – Half Day Lake Ontario \$500 (6 hrs fishing)
 4 people 50 each additional person up to 6
 Full Day Lake Ontario – \$600 (8 hrs fishing)
 4 people 50 each additional person up to 6

Lodging – They can get you discounted rates at local hotels.

Go to the websites and check it out. And thank you Ben for hooking up our members.

Summary of 2019 Task Force Meeting

by Ron Sineo

In 2017, DEC/Cornell U. took a random survey of 6,000 of the 18,000 HIP registrants in NYS: 2,791 responded. Of those, 350 responded from the Long Island Zone. From these 350 responses, they determined the following:

In the Long Island Zone, seeing and shooting Mallards and Black ducks was what they valued most. Next popular was seeing and shooting any ducks, then maximizing the opportunities to go hunting. Less important was to see and shoot divers, even less important to see and shoot wood duck and teal, and last was minimizing overlap of duck and deer seasons.

Based upon this info, Cornell input the data that coincided with average migration dates over the past 5 years, etc., and came up with a compromise season plan which is as follows:

Beginning with the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and extending 9 days to Sunday after Thanksgiving, with a second split running for 51 days opening on a Saturday and ending the last Sunday in January.

This season formula will be used for the next 5 years, barring no change in the Federal Frameworks

After 5 years, this formula will be re-assessed.

Task force members will still input on a yearly basis for Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Brant, and youth seasons, and if there are changes to the Federal frameworks.

At the meeting, the task force made the following recommendations for 2019:

Youth Weekend Nov. 9–10

Duck Season Nov. 23–Dec. 1, Dec. 7–Jan. 26

Canada Goose – Western: Oct 12 – 27, Nov. 23 – Dec 1, Dec 7 – Feb 24

Central: Nov. 23–Dec. 1, Dec. 7–Feb. 5

Eastern: Nov. 28–Dec. 1, Dec. 7–Jan. 31

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References Available

Quack's Tips

Here's a tip that may work best in the late season when many species are pairing up already. Their behavior patterns change when they are ready to pair up. Now is the time to use fewer decoys. Less is more. Take some of the hens out of your rig, and pay attention to placement.

Put a single hen out in front with 2, 3 or even 4 drakes a short distance behind, so as to imitate drakes looking to pair up with the hen. Repeat this placement technique taking care to keep your rig at a small size.

Lone drakes looking to pair up may indeed see this as an opportunity to vie for that hen out in front. It's worth a try.



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— *South Shore Waterfowlers Association* —

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

March 23-24 — **Gun Show at IBEW Local 25, Motor Parkway, Hauppauge – 9 am – 5 pm**

March 30 — **SSWA 15th Annual “Curt M” Dinner at Fisherman’s Catch**
If you plan on attending, get a check to Curt ASAP

April 1 — **Final SSWA Meeting, Brightwaters Library, 7:00 pm – Elections**

April 5 — **Sportsman’s Dinner – Brentwood Country Club – See pg. 9**

June ??? — **Board of Directors Meeting**

?????? — **Peconic River Sportsmans Club – Sporting Clays – TBD**

July ??? — **SSWA Picnic**

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

VOICE OF THE LONG ISLAND WATERFOWLER



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