

Washington Waterfowl Assoc.

HUNTERS FOR CONSERVATION

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MAY 15, 2023



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Letter from the President



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Greetings, Washington Waterfowlers!

You Too Can Find New WWA Members

This last week I was at my second home — AKA Kenmore Gun Range. Think **Norm** from *Cheers*. I noticed a guy in a *Minnesota Twins* cap and asked if he was a **Minnesotan**. He said he was, and then asked me if I was Waterfowler and an Upland hunter. Turns out he moved to **Washington** four (4) years ago, and did not know how to get started in **Washington**.

We chatted and found out both our **GSP** dogs are half sisters from a sire named **Rob** out of **Sequim, WA**. I had him contact me via the **WWA** website, and he's now officially a mentee for next seasons mentorship program! I also texted my hunting partner and asked him to sign up our hunt group guy, **Spencer**, as a member too.

I then had another lapsed **WWA** member from our **Pheasants Forever** hunt table renew this week.

And lastly this past last week my wife's co-worker informed my wife that her husband was also a transplanted waterfowl hunter that moved to **Washington** from **California**. My wife, **Heather** (infamous duck calling champ if you remember from the **Seattle Chapter Banquet** last October) recommended he look into the **WWA**.

All this to say, this is how it's done for recruitment and retention. Let's all make an effort to get more hunters involved in **WWA** membership this year.

For the Resource,

Paul McGovern

WWA President

MISSION STATEMENT

TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE WATERFOWL, WATERFOWL HABITAT, & WATERFOWL HUNTING IN WASHINGTON STATE

News for the Flock

2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

Sat, May 20	Puget Sound Decoy Carving Contest sponsored by WA Brant Foundation 9 am, Maiben Park, Burlington, WA See story on Page 5
Thurs, May 25	Lower Columbia Chapter Meeting Vancouver Trap and Gun Club
Sat, May 27	Family Fun Shoot at Quincy See Flyer on Page 13
Tues, May 30	SW Chapter Meeting Tacoma Sportsmen's Club New Location — Main Lodge
Weds, May 31	Last day of Spring Turkey Season
Weds, May 31	Seattle Chapter Meeting Kenmore Gun Club
Weds, June 7	WWA Board Meeting Online Only — 7:00 pm. All WWA Members welcome to attend. Contact Corp Secretary, Bob Taylor, for a <i>WebEx</i> online invitation. See Page 1
Thurs, June 1	Grays Harbor Chapter Meeting Evergreen Sportsmen's Club
Tues, June 13	Whatcom County Chapter Meeting Ferndale Public Library
Weds, June 14	NW Chapter Meeting Twin Cities Sportsmens Club
Thurs, July 15	Pheasants Forever Sporting Clays Habitat Fundraiser at Landt Farms Sporting Clays, Nine Mile Falls, WA
Sat, Aug 5	WA State Sanctioned Duck Calling Contest, Orting Station, Orting, WA See Flyer on Pages 14 & 15
Fri thru Sun Sept 22-24	Columbia Flyway & Wildlife Show Clatsop County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, Astoria, OR

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Evergreen Sportsmen's Club



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<https://shootevergreen.com>

News for the Flock

Northwest Chapter News

By: Rick Billieu

April Chapter Meeting

The chapter's April 12th meeting included guest speaker **Rob Wingard** – of the **WDFW Private Lands**



Program. Rob briefed the members on the **Private Lands Program** and the results of the 2022/23 Waterfowl Season.

Rob described the different types of land owner access agreements; future program changes; hunter feedback; and most importantly — locations that hunted well

last season! There was plenty of discussion by the members on that last topic, and opinions varied as to which site[s] provided successful hunts, and which sites didn't hunt that well.

Rob spoke about sites in **Whatcom, Skagit** and **Snohomish** counties, including new landowner lease sites. He provided information on all sites that had forage crops planted and the type of crops planted thanks to **Duck Stamp Funding.** **Rob** also discussed some of the future changes to the **Hunt by Reservation** process that will occur for the 2023/24 season.

The chapter members always enjoy **Rob's** attendance at our meetings! An excellent presentation and plenty of discussion / interaction with our members. **THANK YOU Rob** for attending our chapter meeting and once again providing us with this valuable information.

WWA Smith Island Cleanup

On, Saturday, April 15th members of the **NW Chapter** met at **Ebey Waterfront Park** in **Marysville** and at the **Private Lands Kayak Launch** in **Everett** for a coordinated post-season cleanup event on **Smith Island.**

Smith Island is in the **Snohomish River Delta.** The team was met by **Brad Otto (WDFW)** who brought a trailer to haul all the trash out. This was the chapter's second year for this event. Boaters cruised **Ebey** and **Union Sloughs** to access the area, while others accessed the dike at the **Private Lands Kayak Launch.**

This was another very successful clean up event that produced a full trailer of trash of all types.

Big thanks to **Tom Elliott** for coordinating the event and **Brad Otto** of the **WDFW Private Lands Program** for participating and bringing the trailer. Thanks also to all of the volunteers for attending and making this year's event another success!!

(Continued on Page 4)



The Fruits of Volunteerism — Sometimes you just get lucky!
On the Smith Island Cleanup someone found this survival suit with the name Brad printed on it.
WDFW's Brad Otto couldn't resist taking a photo with it.
Brad brought a trailer to haul away the 760 pounds of debris, and WDFW picked up the \$118 tab for dump fees.

NW Chapter News Continued



— More Smith Island Cleanup Photos —
 (Above) Tom Elliott and Jason Morgan.

(Above Right)
 Jason Morgan, Tom Elliott, Tobin Rippo, Matt Browder, Jason Bolser and unidentified canines!

(Below) Jason, Andrew, & Phillip VanRoeyen, Erik & Kathy Machowek, and WWA President, Paul McGovern

Jason Bolser, Matt Browder, and Tobin Rippo.



The Northwest Chapter meets on the second Wednesday each month. Our next meeting will be held on June 14th, at the **Twin Cities Sportsmens Club** (linked below in their Ad). Trap shooting starts at 6 pm, followed by our business meeting at 7 pm. Raffle at the end of each meeting. See you there and bring a friend.

Support your passion — Get Involved
 Rick Billieu
rgbillieu@frontier.com



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NW Chapter News Continued



Washington Brant Festival Decoy Carving Competition

When: Saturday, May 20th

Where: Maiben Park, Burlington, WA.

The **Decoy Carving Festival** and contest the **“Puget Sound Open”** is an opportunity for you to show off your carving skills or just have fun enjoying the hand carved decoys of others on display; the vendors, raffles, silent and live auctions.

The carving competition features entries from all across the U.S. Carving contest classes include, **Brant Division, Open Working Decoys, WA State Ducks Unlimited Carving contest, Novice/Youth** and a mini decoy swap.

This year’s special guests are master carvers, brothers **Rich and Ross Smoker**, from **Marion Station, MD**, and **Selinsgrove, PA**, respectively. Born into a family of outdoorsmen in 1952, the **Smoker Brothers** carved their first decoys with their father on the banks of the **Susquehanna River** in **Selinsgrove, PA**, their hometown.

Rich, the more widely recognized of the two, spends as many as many as 12 hours a day creating wildfowl decoy carvings out of his home workshop on the banks of the **Big Annessex River**, a tributary of the **Chesapeake Bay** on **Maryland’s Lower Eastern Shore**. After learning from his father, **Rich** continued carving while apprenticing for nine years as a taxidermist — a trade that sharpened his understanding of avian anatomy.

Later he learned from many masters, including **Lem Ward**, a 1983 **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Heritage Fellow**, and his brother, **Steve Ward**. The **Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art**, located in **Salisbury, MD** is named after the **Ward Brothers**, and is recognized as having the most comprehensive collection of wildfowl carvings in the world!



Master Carvers, Rich and Ross Smoker on the recent April evening where Ross was awarded the Living Legend Award from the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, in Ocean City, MD. They became the first brothers to be awarded this honor — Ross, this evening, and Rich in 2016. They will be the guests of honor at this year’s WA Brant Festival on May 20th.

Today, both **Smoker Brothers** are active artists, teachers, and outdoor enthusiasts who support many carving shows and conservation groups across the country.

Rich and **Ross** will be the guests of Washington’s premier **Master Carver, Tom Newell**, of **La Conner**, who may be persuaded to take them crabbing — something along with carving — that they all enjoy!

For more information or registration for the festival, use this active link: <http://www.wabrant.org/>

News for the Flock

Seattle Chapter News

By Nick Brown

To those in attendance at our recent meetings, this won't be much of a surprise, but with a heavy heart, I will be stepping down from the **Seattle Chapter** Chairman position. Unfortunately due to our new meeting schedule with the **Kenmore Gun Club**, I am not able to make it work out with my current employment schedule.

I would like to offer a brief apology for not being able to set up speakers and programs, as it has been difficult to schedule without me being present at the monthly meetings.

I want to thank everyone for your support over the last year. I really did enjoy the position and hope to continue the role at a different time in the future.

We were able to make some serious moves for the future of the chapter in the last year that I am incredibly proud of! I'm enthusiastic about passing the torch, but I will still be around so never hesitate to reach out.

Our next chapter meeting will be held, Wednesday, May 31st at the **Kenmore Shotgun Range**. Trap and/or 5 Stand Shooting (along with the public) will start at 5 pm with our business meeting down in the **Chalet** at 7 pm. Please remember the \$5 donation to the pizza fund.

Finally, just a reminder — If you get a chance please support those businesses that supported our Banquet last October. See **Flyer** on **Page 25**.



New Day and Location for Meetings

The Seattle Chapter has decided to meet the **LAST WEDNESDAY** of each month moving forward.

Unfortunately, this means we will no longer have the range to ourselves; we will be shooting with the public those nights beginning at 5 pm.

Following shooting we will move to the **CHALET** instead of the shotgun clubhouse for our monthly business meetings beginning at 7 pm.

James Ono with his first turkey ever, from the help of Harold Abell — May 2023, but he forgot the location! ;-)

Seattle News Continued

A Newbie's First Turkey Hunt

Editor's Note: I recently had the opportunity to introduce my nephew, **Mathew Brown**, of **Seattle**, to the shooting sports, and to membership in the **WWA**. Unfortunately it was too late for the waterfowl season. Not to be deterred, **Mat** and his cousin, **Calvin Livengood** of **Spokane** (maybe another new future **WWA** Member ???) headed out on their own the last weekend in April near **Calvin's** stomping grounds for some turkey hunting. Though their piscatorial pursuits were much more successful, they did manage to talk turkey with some gobblers on both days and had a great time!

This is **Mathew's** story:

Friday, I left work about noon and by that evening I rolled into **Odessa** and filled up on gas and got some ice. From there I continued to **Twin Lakes** where I met **Calvin**. The first evening there we went out in **Calvin's** kayaks he brought along and caught some very healthy trout.



Saturday morning we woke up at 3:30 am; made some coffee; and hiked out of camp using head lamps. About two (2) miles in we started getting close to the tree lines, and it was starting to get a bit brighter. That's when we heard the first gobble of the day!

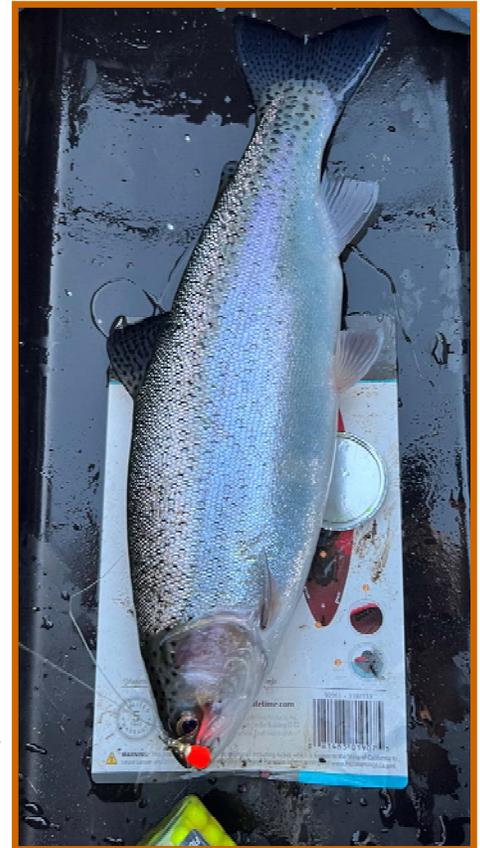
We went down in elevation towards the water where the turkeys were sitting around. We set up a little portable camo blind, and **Calvin** started calling to them. Over two (2) hours they kept getting closer and closer and ended up about 50 yards from us, down a small hill. Unfortunately after a long period of silence, we crawled out to the edge, and they were gone.

Calvin felt like maybe he over-called towards the end and also wasn't very confident in his calling skills so that might have spooked them.

After that we hiked to the other side of the valley so we could scope the hillside with our binoculars. From there we were able to see a couple massive turkeys out in a large open field, but were about a mile away. We also saw coyote's, bald eagles, and lots of deer and ducks.

Sunday morning our routine stayed the same. We hiked out, but this time we stayed high on the hillside and tried to go around the turkeys and set up on the backside where they escaped from the day before. We set up and some were responding to the calls, but the activity seemed to be much less today compared to yesterday.

Our lesson learned from this day was, we believe we might have made too much noise coming through some thicker brush and spooked them earlier on. Sunday was our last day for hunting so we headed back to camp around noon.



(Continued on Page 8)

First Turkey Hunt Continued



The Terrain...

We were pretty happy that both days we were able to get in close to the turkeys and have them responding to our calls.

Both days hunting I wore the lighter weight *Cabela's* bibs and zip up hoodie that you gave me, along with the full face mask. It was super comfortable, and I think it did the job keeping me hidden. Thank you again for the clothing and introduction to the sport. I'm even more excited now about duck hunting and getting out and being involved.



...The Hide. Calvin Calling (above)

News for the Flock

Lower Columbia Chapter News

By Doug Hargin

April Chapter Meeting Report

We had a good turnout at our April 27th Chapter meeting for **Arlan's Prime Rib Roast!** Thanks to all who helped us polish off the wonderful spread, and thanks once again to **Arlan Hackett** for handling the chef duties!

The **Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)** will be installing a new pit blind this summer and improving blind access to several other blinds. We've also got work to do at **Shillapoo Wildlife Area** this summer after the nesting season.

Private Lands Access

Monique (Ferris) Gray spoke at our January meeting. She is the **Private Lands Hunting Access Biologist and Coordinator** for the **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)**. She works with landowners in six counties to provide public hunting access for waterfowl, upland, big and small game. Member **Bob Taylor** did his homework and put the program to good use for some turkey hunting. We'll get a full report next month on how it went.

New Chapter Veep

Our newly minted **Chapter VP, Phil Proper**, has taken a new employment opportunity in **Idaho**. We wish **Phil** and his family well in their new adventure.



File Under: Can't Wait Until Next Season —

Rich Hannah pictured from a successful Dec 2022 hunt at Green Lake, with **Chessie, Daisy, and Doug Hargin's Lab, Riley**.

(Photo by Doug Hargin)

Vancouver Trap Club



11100 NE 76th Street
Vancouver, WA 98662
(360) 892-5005

[Vancouver Trap and Gun Club](#)

Always Looking For Your Input!

We need your input for the newsletter. Hunting stories, unusual experiences, recipes and/or photos. Where do you hunt? Did you have a good hunt or memorable event? New tech help and gear, advice and ideas you can share, experiences hunting other venues. Whatever would interest you to read about in this newsletter.

Please submit them to dlhargin@msn.com. Thank you!

News for the Flock

Grays Harbor Chapter News

By: Kurt Snyder

Hi all.

All of our Chapter nest boxes have been serviced in time for the season, and all of our goose nest platforms that had goose laying eggs have hatched! Four of our goose platforms out of six had successful hatches!

Our wood duck nest boxes at the **Scatter Creek Wildlife Area** (linked [here](#)) did well last year, and we are anticipating another good bunch of hatches there. Nine out of 16 of our woodie nest boxes had hatches last year — well worth the efforts and very good for the ducks.

FREE Youth Shoot Event to be held in August

The Grays Harbor Chapter 2023 Colton Smith Memorial Youth Target Shooting Event is scheduled and on the calendar! It will be on the 19th of September, 2023 at the **Evergreen Sportsmen's Club** (linked [here](#)). Shooting begins at 10:00 am.

This year will be a bit different without the duck blinds and decoys, but that will give us time to help the shooters improve their shooting! Those shooters age 15 and under are totally **FREE** — including target shotshell loads if you **RSVP** before the event date, so don't wait to sign up! Potluck lunch and a few take-homes for the kids too! If you can't attend the event, please pass this info on to those that might be interested! See the Flyer on adjacent **Page 11**.

Thank you all for your continued support,

Kurt Snyder

kurtsnyder@outdrs.net



One of four successful hatches via Goose Nest Platforms this year at the Cedarville Farms Hunt Club, though owner Jon McAninch reports nestings were about 3 weeks later than normal.

If the geese weren't using the Platforms, they were nesting on top of several of the hunt blinds at Cedarville.

An Eagle about 30 feet away was watching a pair of geese with their goslings gathered up between them in a protective mode. Ever seen a Gander tangle up with an Eagle? The Eagle keeps his distance knowing there is easier prey to be had!

(All photos by Jon McAninch)



News for the Flock



AUGUST 19TH 2023

COLTON SMITH MEMORIAL

Free youth SHOTGUN EVENT

Free for 15 years of age and under

Get the 2022 waterfowl season off to a great start with this **FREE** youth shot gunning event! Lunch and kids' prizes provided by the *Grays Harbor Chapter of the Washington Waterfowl Association.*

*12 Gauge loads provided **FREE** to the kids that RSVP

50 Target Course!

Limited instruction for inexperienced shooters.

Youth should bring their own shotguns.



***Military adults shoot for \$15.00**

Free to all
kids age 15 and
under! Parents
can shoot with
the kids for a
\$20.00 target
fee. *

Prizes for all kids!

***RSVP**

**Required to
get FREE
shotshells**

Hosted by the
**Evergreen
Sportsmen's Club!**

12736 Marksman St SW,
Olympia, WA 98512

**RSVP TO;
KURTSNYDER@OUTDRS.
NET**

360-485-9353

August 19, 2023

10:00 AM

News for the Flock

Moses Lake Chapter News

FREE Family Trap Shoot – New Format

This year’s first shoot will be on Saturday, May 27th, 2023, and it will have a different flavor. It will be a family event with the youth shooting for **FREE** as usual, and family members can purchase shells from the host for \$5 a box and shoot for **FREE** also!

As always **Tom O’Dell** will have a ton of free stuff for the kids, and **WWA-ML** will provide a lunch of hot dogs, chips, cookies, and water.

See Flyer on Adjacent **Page 13**.

Southwest Chapter News

Planning Continues for State Calling Contest

The **SW Chapter** is back on schedule for a Tuesday, May 30th meeting at the **Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club**. Once again the main agenda will be continued planning for the scheduled August 5th **Washington State Duck Calling Contest** to be hosted in Or^ong, WA.

Discount for Early Registrants

One update, **Calling Contest Chairman Bob Taylor** will be offering a 50% discount on entr^ee fees for those contestants who register early — before July 31st!

See Flyer on **Page 14**
Early Registration Form linked from Flyer.

We’re still looking for donations of prizes for the event, and have already secured a shotgun; electronic dog collar, and a matching set of custom made duck and goose calls

See Flyer for donations on **Page 15**

**Quincy American Legion
Gun Club**

14050 Road Q NW
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QuincyWAmericanLegionGunClub](https://www.facebook.com/QuincyWAmericanLegionGunClub)

Spokane Chapter News

Wenatchee Chapter News

Whatcom County Chapter News

Yakima Valley Chapter News

No News This Month

Midnight Valley Labradors

AKC Registered Labrador Puppies
Excellent Breeding, Great Temperament,
Wonderful for the Family or in the Field.
Puppies due Spring 2023. British Gun Dog Lines,
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Tacoma Sportsmen’s Club

16409 Canyon Rd. E.
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(253) 537-6151
www.tacomassportsmensclub.com

News for the Flock



FAMILY FUN SHOOT

MAY 27TH
10:00AM TO 3:00PM

Quincy Gun Club

American Legion Quincy Gun Club 14550 Road Q N.W.,
Quincy, WA 98848



Youth Shooters

Shooters under 18 years need to have a valid hunters safety card or hunting license and **MUST** be accompanied by an Adult. Ammunition & targets will be provided at no charge to those under 18. Youth shooters will receive an assortment of **FREE** merchandise & Prizes.



Shooting for Everyone

Targets provided free for all participants. Trap ammunition available for \$5 a box (1/2Price). There will be instructors available to teach you the amazing sport of trap shooting. Come out for a great family event with lots of prizes, giveaways, and tons of Fun.



Lunch Provided

Lunch of Hot Dogs, Chips, Cookies, & Water will be provided at no cost. (Donations Accepted)

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN US PLEASE RSVP TO:

Dick Price: dickhunt@hotmail.com

WWW.Columbiabasinpf0849.org or Facebook

Tom Odell tmodell@hughes.net 509-764-8557 / 206-465-6943



News for the Flock

Saturday, August 5th, 2023

9:00 a.m. Registration
Download Entry Form [here](#)
10:00 a.m. Competition Begins
at Orting Station

101 Washington Avenue NW
Orting, WA 98360



The 2023 Washington State Duck and Goose Calling Championships

Email Registration Form to bobtaylor15@icloud.com Before August 1st for Half Off Registration Fee!

Kids 12 and Under Duck – **FREE** (do NOT need to pre-register)
Novice Duck – 13 and up (have not previously competed) -- \$25
Washington State Sanction Duck -- \$50
Open Goose -- \$40

***** AMAZING 1st, 2nd, and 3rd PLACE PRIZES *****

Washington State Sanction Winner will receive \$1,000 for travel to World Championships

Fun Audience Participation Event: Old Coot (Decoy) Toss for MAD \$\$\$!! Youth & Adult Opportunity!

Any Questions, Please Contact:

Rob Strong at ruckusoutfitters@yahoo.com (206) 714-0178

OR

Bob Taylor at bobtaylor13@icloud.com (360)798-5342

Food and Drinks will be Available On Site

Hosted By:

Washington Waterfowl Association – Southwest Chapter
Chairman, Bruce Burns: (253) 961-8802

News for the Flock

Washington State 2023 Sanctioned Duck and Goose Calling Championships



Where: Orting Station, 101 Washington Avenue NW, Orting, Washington 98360

When: Saturday, August 5th, 2023

Notes: Four contests: Kids under 12, Novice Duck Calling (have not previously competed), Washington State Sanctioned Duck Calling (winner goes to Stuttgart, Arkansas, to compete in the World's Championship), and Open Goose Calling.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in all classes are awarded prizes to be disclosed prior to the contest.

Our State's champ will receive \$1,000 to help defray costs in attending the World's Championship Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart, Arkansas.

Contest hosted by the **Washington Waterfowl Association**.

Why we're asking for donations: The **Washington Waterfowl Association** stands all costs for this contest and the event's success is dependent on the generous contributions of those wishing to help with our conservation efforts and to instill a love of nature in our folk. We are a 501(c)(3) Non-profit. Your donations are tax-deductible, and we will gladly issue a Tax Receipt upon request. In addition, all donations will be recognized during the contest and in our newsletter. Our motto is "Hunters for Conservation" to which we've been true for 77 years.

How To Donate: please contact: **Bruce Burns** ~ (253) 961-8802

bwburns36@gmail.com or **Bob Taylor** ~ (360) 798-534 bobtaylor15@icloud.com

News for the Flock

Update on Nest Box Project at the ʕáʕʕadis (TI' awh-ah-dees) City Park in Kenmore

In April 2023, **WWA President Paul McGovern** met with the **City of Kenmore Parks Manager** to discuss nesting boxes in the new kayak launch park, called ʕáʕʕadis (TI' awh-ah-dees) on the **Sammamish River Slough — Swamp Creek shoreline**.

An aerial view of the park is shown below. The **Sammamish River Slough** is seen in the upper right, for orientation. The **City of Kenmore** have built an incredible new park that's loaded with water-fowl.

Shortly after opening **Paul** and **WWA** member **Patryk Kowlaski** prominently installed two (2) brand new wood duck nest boxes at the park in Kenmore with the **WWA logo**.



Paul McGovern installing a Box in Kenmore



News for the Flock

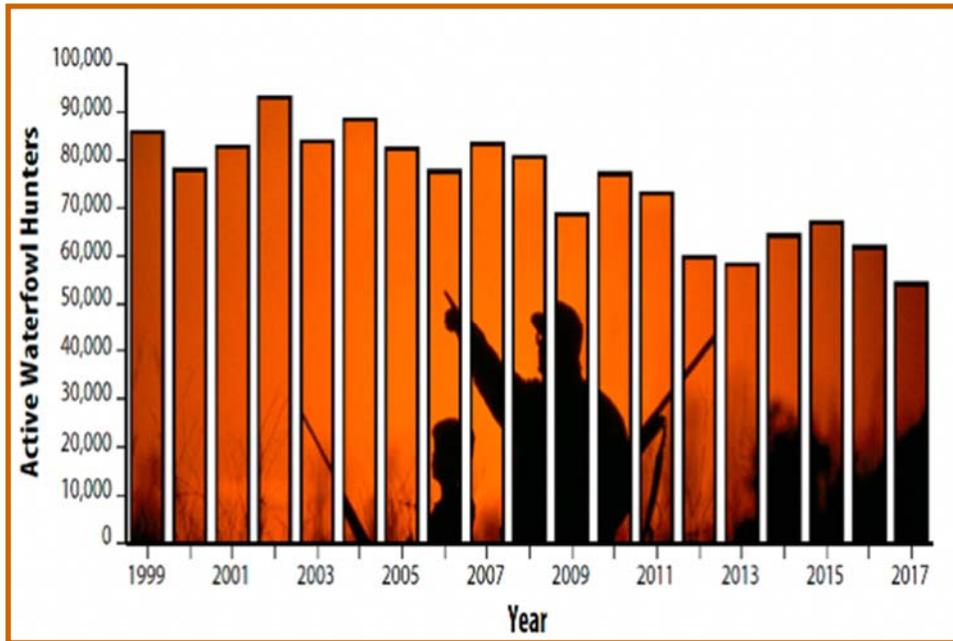
Waterfowler Relevancy in a Changing World

By Bruce Ross
 Executive Director, Wisconsin Waterfowl Assn.
 Published with Permission

This article originally appeared in **Wisconsin Waterfowl Association's (WWA)** February, 2023 Newsletter.

From the perspective of the **Wisconsin Waterfowl Assn., (WWA)** we wouldn't be serving the future interests of state waterfowlers if we overlooked the reality that most waterfowlers – at a greater percentage than **Wisconsin** society at large —

- Are white.
- And male.
- And aging.



With that stark motivation, this month **WWA** is launching a pilot program to explore strategies to attract and retain persons from under-represented communities as waterfowlers. This focus area will supplement our traditional, ongoing and expanded **Learn-to-Hunt** programs under our **Waterfowlers Academy Initiative**.

The challenges are considerable and program design will be important to any success. But if we are serious in our commitment to the future of waterfowling and wetland conservation, there is no alternative.

Want to play a role?

That white, male and older demographic is shrinking in our society. Combined with overall reduced hunting participation rates, what does that trend mean for the future of **Wisconsin** waterfowling?

While I can't quote precise numbers, we might all reach similar conclusions based on our own anecdotal observations: If left unaddressed, these shifting societal demographics will reduce future levels of waterfowler-led conservation (think: license fees, stamp dollars, equipment purchases, **Pittman-Robertson funding**, etc.). And waterfowler-led **advocacy efforts will have fewer voices** to speak on behalf of state waterfowling issues.

I'm led to the conclusion that if we don't expand the legion of waterfowlers into traditionally under-represented communities, our collective voices and conservation impact as waterfowlers will wither.



Some of WWA's past Learn to Hunt Program Participants

WWA Legislative News

WA Legislative Report

By Mark Pidgeon
President, Hunters Heritage Council

Editor's Note: This article is written entirely by the **Hunters Heritage Council (HHC)**, a Washington State based organization dedicated to political action on behalf of the hunting and related communities of Washington. The **Washington Waterfowl Association (WWA)** had no input into this article. This article is in this newsletter is because of **WWA's** membership in **Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation (WWC)**. **WWC** is a member organization of **HHC**. The opinions contained in this article are entirely those of the author, and the **Hunters Heritage Council (HHC)**.

The Truth will set you Free!

"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."

--Thomas Jefferson

Last month, **Washington** legislators handed **WDFW** some \$23 million for new biodiversity work in the recently passed 2023-25 state operating budget. However, they also snuck in an unsettling *proviso* requiring the agency's governance, mandate and more to be reviewed and possibly reformed. It centers on a \$300,000 grant to a university think tank to review:

- **WDFW's** governance structure,
- funding model,
- mandate,
- the commission,
- the "influence on the **Department** by special interest groups,"
- how it uses "science and social values in its decision making,"
- how it complies with state laws such as **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)**,
- how it "(fulfills) its obligations as the trustee of state fish and wildlife on behalf of all current and future Washingtonians," and more.

As things stand, **UW** and **WSU's Ruckelhaus Center** "must provide options for making changes to the **department's** mandate and governance structure as deemed necessary to improve the **department's** ability to function as a trustee for state fish and wildlife," according to the operating budget's language. Its report is due back

to the Legislature by June 30, 2024. This was covered in a report by **Northwest Sportsman Magazine** linked [here](#).

Let's look at this through realistic eyes. This caveat was added at the last minute by **Senator Christine Rolfes (D -23, Bainbridge Island)**, **Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair**. **Senator Rolfes** is an ardent **animal-rights (A-R)** person.

Q: Is this a good thing that this passed? **A:** No.

Q: Would we be better without the caveat in the budget?

A: Yes.

Q: Is this an unmitigated disaster? **A:** Nothing close to it.

In some ways, this caveat may even help us.

The sheer dishonesty of caving into the **animal-rights (A-R) extremists** — while many hunting and fishing groups supported the \$23 million for new biodiversity — slaps every one of them in the face.

In the future, hunting and fishing groups will have trouble signing letters of support for **WDFW**. This will hurt the **Department** in the long run. These groups will not trust the legislators in the budgetary process. We also see who the **Democratic** leadership in both caucuses side with — the **radical animal-rights (A-R)**. Not all the **Democrats** are in this boat. We have some very good **Democratic** friends, and some in high positions — just not in the budgetary process.

The amount of damage from possible recommendations through the **Washington Administrative Code (WAC)** is minimal. The **WDFW Commission** has already tried to change the mission from conservation to preservation, and they failed. This was in violation of the legislative mandate in **RCW 77.04.040**, linked [here](#).

RCW 77.04.012 linked [here](#) titled **Mandate of the Department and the Commission**, states among other things that: "Wildlife, fish, and shellfish are the property of the state... and in mandatory "shall" language goes on to say, "The commission **shall** attempt to **maximize the public recreational game fishing and hunting opportunities of ALL citizens**, including juvenile, disabled, and senior Citizens. (**Emphasis Added**).

Any radical changes in the **WAC** will be nullified by **RCW 77.04.012**. If they want radical changes to **WAC**, this think tank will have to propose changes to **RCW** statute[s]. This **Commission** doesn't need any help limiting hunting by the powers they currently have; they have done this without any think tank's help. They have already

(Continued on Page 19)

Legislative Report Continued

eliminated a spring bear hunt season and did everything they possibly could within the confines of the legislative mandate, so I doubt highly that this thing can do that much more damage.

The Ruckelhaus Center Group

I am almost certain that there will be proposed changes by the **Ruckelhaus Center Group** (see their website linked [here](#)) to change **RCW 77.04.012** to make a non-consumptive mandate.

As I said earlier, here is where we may benefit. There will have to be people who sponsor this radical information, and their names will be in black-and-white supporting the radical **animal-rights (A-R)** movement. Then we can see on a roll call vote who voted for this nonsense.

There isn't a prayer in the world of these changes passing, and nothing will get through the **House Natural Resources Committee**. We have at least one solid **Democrat** vote in lifetime hunter and fisher **Debra Lekanoff**, a previous **HHC** "Legislator of the Year." That's all we need if we hold every Republican vote, which we will. There are at least two other Democrats who are highly probable votes, so getting anything through this Committee will be tough.

The **Ruckelhaus Center Group** process will be a sham. I can say this because I served on the leadership team of the original **Ruckelhaus Center Group** six years ago — formed to make changes to the **Discover Pass**. I said no originally to being in this group, but my arm was twisted so hard that it nearly broke off.

There were two groups in the last **Ruckelhaus Center Group**: the Leadership Team, to set policy; and the Working Group, to work out how that policy will be achieved. The **HHC** had representation on the Leadership Team, me; and **WWC** had representation on the Working Group. We were the only hunters in the **Ruckelhaus Center Group**, and fishers had the same token representation. Everything we proposed was shot down. I knew the group was going to be like this, and that's why I didn't want to be in it in the first place. I am sure that this current **Ruckelhaus Center Group** will be the same, or worse, with no one even invited to represent hunters.

The other big player in this fight is the tribes. They will go ballistic to any changes in the legislative mandate. This sleeping giant is very much awake, and they don't like the **animal-rights (A-R)** groups. They will fight to stop this agenda. With the coalition against any changes to **RCW**, I give the **animal-rights (A-R)** groups about zero chance for success. Their lack of honesty will be their downfall.



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News for the Flock

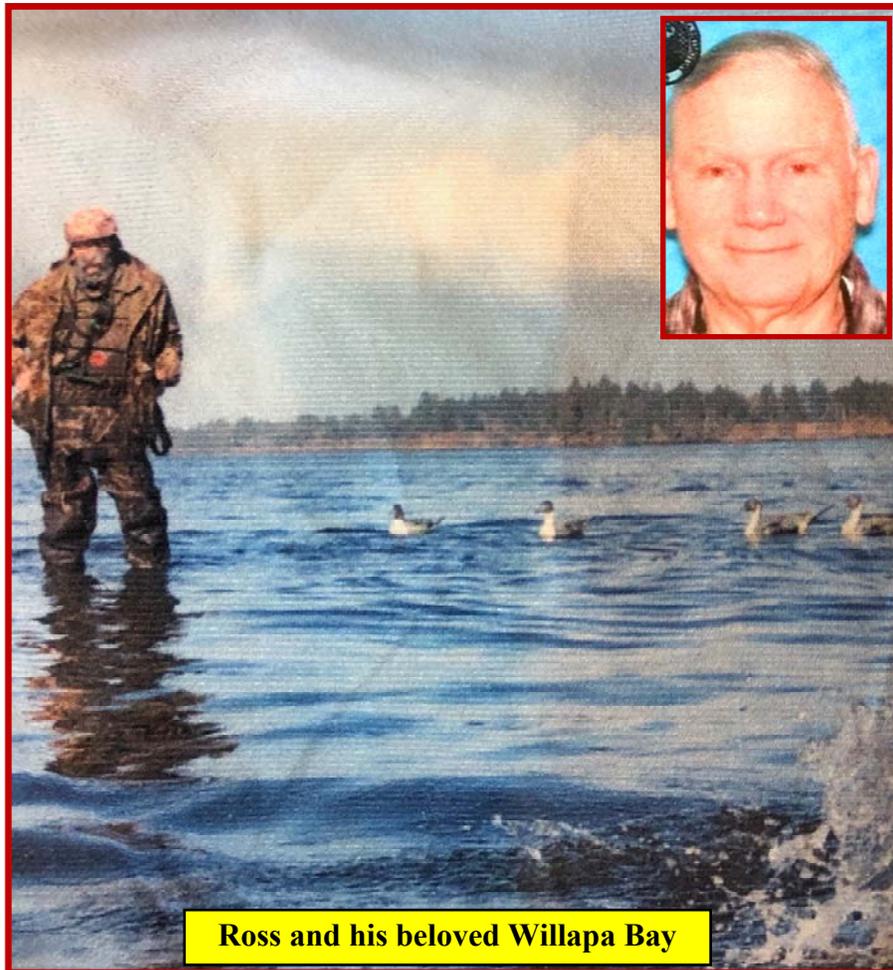
Ross Barkhurst, Put his Knowledge, Experience on the Commission

Since at least 2015 **WWA Board** and **Life Member**, **Ross Barkhurst**, has been sounding the alarm about the deteriorating ecosystem in his back yard of **Willapa Bay**. He has previously written extensive articles on this issue in the **WWA Newsletter** — *“Life in the Dead Zone—The 2015 Eelgrass Die Off”* in September of 2015 linked [here](#), and *“Continuing Eelgrass Issues in Willapa Bay Affect Waterfowl”* more recently in January of 2022 and linked [here](#).

The **WDFW Commission** is well acquainted with the science talents of **Ross**. In 2019 used his major degree in **Oceanography** to study and understand circulation and effects of water in **Willapa Bay**. At request of the **WDFW Commission Chair**, **Ross** formed the citizen’s advisory group **Willapa Basin Ecosystem Review Team (WBERT)** which in turn the submitted the **“WBERT Report”** with seven (7) recommendations for habitat improvement in **Willapa Bay** based on the best science available. Unfortunately there was no response by **WDFW** to the **WBERT** reports, and subsequently the waterfowl numbers in **Willapa Bay** have crashed.

Ross has frequented **Willapa Bay** since the late 1970’s when he purchased land there. He has lived on the bay full time since his retirement in 2002. Despite his efforts over the years as **Vice Chair** of the **Columbia County Oregon Planning Commission** and serving on the **Pacific County Marine Resource Committee**, he unfortunately has continued to witness the slow, ecological degradation of the bay. *“On the Commission I would be better able to apply my experience, education, and knowledge not only to Willapa Bay, but to the entire Outer Washington Coast in Toto,”* **Ross** says.

Education & Employment Background: Born in March of 1945, **Ross** grew up in southern Oregon; graduated the **US Naval Academy** in 1967 followed by six years in **US Navy Nuclear Submarine Service**. **Ross** spent his civilian working career in the nuclear industry from system engineer at **Trojan Nuclear Plant**; to **Plant Manager** and **Vice President** at the **Waterford Three Nuclear Plant in Louisiana**; to **President** and **CEO** of the **Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.**



Ross and his beloved Willapa Bay

Fishing and Hunting Background:

Ross describes himself as “a conservation and habitat person first — a fishing and waterfowl observation and hunting person, second.” While working in the South, **Ross** was **President of Louisiana Tarpon Club** where he successfully advocated for *“tag and release”* **Tarpon** contests, not just kill and weigh-in.

Ross has fished the **Lower Columbia River, Multnomah Channel, and Willamette River** “since age 15.” While stationed in **Idaho** in the **Navy**, **Ross** learned a lot about **Sage Grouse** and other upland birds “which need to be kept in the **Commission’s** mind in **Eastern WA.**,” he says.

Please take a few moments to express your support of **Ross** to the **Fish and Wildlife Commission** using the **WA State Government Portal** linked [here](#).

Click on **Fish and Wildlife Commission**, then follow the prompts. When it asks for the Applicant’s email address, **Ross** has given his consent to use his email at: rp.barkhurst@hotmail.com

News for the Flock

The Hunter's Table

By James Ono

Biscuits and Wild Game Gravy

So, there are a few ways to come at this recipe. First you need to have some duck breakfast sausage. The recipe below assumes you already have some. If you don't have some already, we have previously published a recipe for making ground duck on pages 14 and 15 in the **WWA June 2020, Newsletter**, linked [here](#).

I typically mix 5 oz of pork fat per 1 lb. of duck. Once I have my ground duck, I use a pre-made breakfast sausage mix from **PS Seasoning**, but you can make your own mix by searching for a recipe online. I have found that duck breakfast sausage will not taste the same as pork sausage, plain and simple. Once I got over that, breakfast sausage has become a staple in my freezer.

I also went the easy route here and used canned biscuits. If you have a good recipe for making your own biscuits and have the time, of course use those.

Some other variations for this recipe:

- Milk; you can use heavy cream, whole milk, or 2%. I like the consistency and richness of higher fat content milk. It is also less likely to curdle or break.
- Sausage; you can add more sausage if you like a more meat heavy meal.

You can also store the leftovers and reheat the gravy by adding a little milk to it in a pan and bringing it back up to temp.

Ingredients

1. One can **Buttermilk Biscuits**
2. ½ lb. duck breakfast sausage
3. ¼ cup of flour
4. 2½ cups of milk
5. Salt and Pepper to taste

Directions

1. Preheat your oven then cook your biscuits per directions on the package
2. Heat a large skillet over medium to medium-high heat
3. Add your sausage
4. Use a spatula to break into small chunks

5. Cook the sausage until nicely browned and cooked through, about 5 minutes
6. Mix in the flour coating the sausage
7. Gradually pour in the milk while continuing to stir
8. Once the gravy begins to boil, lower your heat to medium-low
9. Add salt and pepper and taste, add more if needed
10. Continue to simmer for 2-3 minutes or until you have reached your desired thickness, and
11. Split your biscuits and top it with the gravy



News for the Flock

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P-Platinum Level — \$5,000; G-Gold Level — \$2,000; S-Silver Level — \$1,000; B-Bronze Level — \$500

H-Honorary Member; D-Deceased

WWA Life Members

#1 Gary Talbert P	#2 Paul Bunn S	#3 Austin Addicoat S	#4 Rone Brewer S	#5 Fritz Kiemle S
#6 Jim Cortines S	#7 Neco Villella S	#8 Roger Bennett S	#9 Bruce Feagan S	#10 Larry Gordon S D
#11 Rich Greenshields S	#12 Mike Lovelace S	#13 Larry Voeks D	#14 Jack Westerfield S	#15 Bud Hufnagel S
#16 John Arrabito S	#17 Jenny Lutz P	#18 Mike Lutz P	#19 Reserved on Time Payments	#20 Brett Stark S
#21 Earl Mikkelson S	#22 US Rep Jaime Herrera Beutler H	#23 Ken Packard P	#24 Jan Sabin S	#25 Lance Kintrea
#26 Jim Kline	#27 Leon Kollman	#28 Derek Melton S	#29 Dan Stearns S	#30 John Hanson
#31 Mark Hackett	#32 Logan Sanday	#33 Mickey Clary	#34 John Otto P	#35 Jason Otto P
#36 Doug Graef S D	#37 Robb Stack P	#38 Rod Boyer	#39 Paul Sullivan	#40 Jessica Dunn Kant
#41 Dave Farley	#42 Will Goldsmith	#43 Shaunie Cochran	#44 Claudean Talbert	#45 William Dunlap S
#46 Analise Arrabito	#47 Robert Zeka	#48 Ron Watkins D	#49 Ken Boyer S	#50 Henry Field
#51 Ric Wray	#52 Rich Phillips	#53 Ross Barkhurst S	#54 Michael Bess	#55 In Memory of Anne Grichuhin
#56 Frank Gallo S	#57 David Irons S	#58 David Ragsdale	#59 Tim Koehler G	#60 Brad Davis
#61 James Ono	#62 Ann Bullard	#63 Vance Boyer	#64 Albert O'Connor	#65 Dick Smith
#66 Marc Bruno	#67 Todd Teeters	#68 Bob Taylor S	#69 Jon McAninch P	#70 Colonel Thomas O'Dell

History of WWA Life Membership

In February of 2010 **WWA** first established a Life Membership program with two (2) levels of Life Membership – *Regular* at \$500 (with the emolument of a **WWA** logo'd belt buckle); and *Sustaining* at \$750 (with the emolument of a **WWA** embroidered Life Member jacket).

Effective June 1, 2021, **WWA** converted its Life Membership Program to three (3) different levels of Life Membership acknowledging that **ALL WWA** Life members are "*Sustaining*" to the organization. Those three (3) new levels along with their respective emoluments are:

Bronze Level Life Membership — \$500.00 (USD)

Includes one **WWA** Logo'd Belt Buckle **OR** one **Pacific Calls WWA** Logo'd Duck Call.

Silver Level Life Membership — \$1,000.00 (USD)

Includes one **Pacific Calls WWA** Logo'd Duck Call **AND** one **WWA** Logo'd embroidered "Life Member" Jacket.

Gold Level Life Membership — \$2,000.00 (USD)

Includes one **Pacific Calls WWA** Logo'd Duck Call, **AND** one **WWA** Logo'd embroidered "Life Member" Jacket, **AND** one guided Duck or Goose hunt for one.

At its monthly meeting of May 4, 2022 — at the request of **Gold Life Member Benefactor**, the **WWA Board of Directors** voted unanimously to create a **new Platinum Life Membership** at the \$5,000 level. **The Benefactor** then immediately donated of \$7,000 to **WWA** to establish a **Life Membership Endowment Fund** challenging existing **WWA** members to step up and become new Life Members at any level, and the Fund will pay the first \$200!

News for the Flock

The **WWA** is based on volunteer efforts and donations from folks that care about the waterfowl hunting heritage. Our success rides on the shoulders of these volunteers and generous benefactors. Below in **red** is a listing of recent contributions to the five (5) primary funds established by the **WWA** since publication of the **April 2023 Newsletter**.

WWA General Fund — \$1,882

WWA Habitat Fund — \$1,640

WWA Legal Fund — \$21,753.52

WWA Youth Fund — \$2,810

You can contribute in so many ways to the **WWA**, from locally in your Chapter, to statewide, helping the **WWA** carry on! Many donations are tax deductible.

TWIN RIVERS BIRD TAXIDERMISTRY

Basic quotes for the mount are set. The customer is tasked with deciding a habitat and pose for their bird and a final quote can be decided once the habitat scene is narrowed down.

Bases are entirely custom, and the cost is also custom, by quote only!

Regular prices for the bird mount only (**without a base**) are:

- Duck mount is \$350.
- Seaducks & Mergansers are \$380.
- Goose mount is \$500.
- One pheasant mount is \$320.

Other Terms and Conditions:

- Bird sent in before Thanksgiving **NEED TO BE FROZEN** and **SHIPPED OVERNIGHT**. Afterwards two (2) day mail is OK.
- Birds **MUST** be placed in double ziplocks, with a filled out federal tag in the outer bag, so as not to leak ink.
- A list of other requirements will be sent and is to be signed by the hunter **PRIOR TO** any shipping and engagement of my services.
- I will not be held responsible for a bird that is lost to rot, extensive damage, heavy amounts of pinfeathers, dog bite or slobber damage, freezer burn nor any other damage caused by improper storage by the hunter prior to my receipt of the bird.



Conflicting Pair of Woodies

loran.navarro@yahoo.com

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Active Link to >>>: [Twin Rivers Bird Taxidermy FB Page](#)

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Classified Ads – For Sale / Wanted

Wanted



FREE WWA Classifieds

WWA is dedicating a page in the newsletter for WWA Members to sell hunting related items to their fellow members. **No business ads please.** That extra shotgun, waders, decoys or boat could get you some cash or trade for something another member has on hand.

Rules are simple:

- 25 words or less.
- Members only may advertise.
- Wanted and For Sale items only, not for business ads.
- Submit your classified ad each month (*we have no way of knowing if you sold/purchased your item or not*).
- Include your contact info. Phone and/or email.

Check out this active [link](#) to a reputable FB Site "Youth Waterfowl Gear, Reviews, Swap and Sell"

**If You Are
a WWA Member,
place your
FREE Classified Ad Here!!!**

"LOOKING" for a layout blind, or two, preferably in good shape. Located in Bellingham; travel weekly to Skagit County for work.

Contact Andy at 320-267-2471

For Sale

Used Beavertail 1600 Series Boat Blind w/ grass. The blind was installed and used 2 or 3 times. Stored under cover in garage. Meet up in the PDX / Vancouver area. \$500 – OBO

Contact John at 503-502-2184

Kershaw Volt Stainless Steel Speed Safe Knife. Brand new and in great condition. Asking \$60;

Contact Bradley at 360-941-9903

Sun is out and the weather is getting warmer, all since the opening day of boating season on May 6th, which = more quality time on the water.

HP Nissan short shaft outboard. Only 10 hrs, \$650
Contact Dan,
425-286-7768



Classified Ads – Firearms For Sale



(Above)

Beretta A 400 Extreme Plus, 12 gauge. Realtree Timber. 26 inch barrel, 5 chokes with assorted shims and hard case. **\$1400.**

Contact John at 425-356-9205



(Left)

Benelli Montefeltro, 20 gauge, 26 inch barrel. Includes **Boyt** case and no drill sling & ammo. Everett area. **\$1100**

Contact Tim
303-345-7052

(Right)

Lee Turret Press Reloader & misc., attachments.

These items were donated by **GH Chapter member, Tony Yaklich,** and are being put up for sale to benefit the chapter. **\$50.00 or OBO** for the whole lot!

The reloading press needs rust removal and TLC but looks fully functional.

Contact Kurt
at 360-485-9353



News for the Flock

In Memoriam



If you have someone you would like to honor in this column, please contact newsletter editor John Arrabito (jarrabito@comcast.net) before the 12th of the month you would like the memorial to appear.

We would prefer a note written by the contributor.

A picture is also requested.

There is no charge for this service, but donations at your discretion are always appreciated.



Photograph of the Month



John Pleau, of Gig Harbor, WA

Nikon D7200, 17mm; f2.8 with flash (6:02 a.m., PST)

Thanks for Your Support

TREASURER'S REPORT

At its February 27, 2018 Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting, the WWA Board voted to stop publishing our monthly financial report in the Newsletter which is available to the general public on our website [www.waduck.org].

However, in an effort to maintain and continue our history of financial transparency with respect to our membership, the monthly Treasurer's Report will be emailed to not only the BOD, but also to each and every Chapter Chairman to be made available for inspection and review by the Chapter membership or any individual Chapter member in good standing with dues paid current at any regularly scheduled Chapter Meeting.

2023 Spring Turkey Regulations are Linked [Here](#).



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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family (immediate family up to age 18) — | \$ | 35.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular — | \$ | 30.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bronze Lifetime* — | \$ | 500.00 | (New, 6/1/2021) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Silver Lifetime* — | \$ | 1,000.00 | (New, 6/1/2021) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gold Lifetime* — | \$ | 2,000.00 | (New, 6/1/2021) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Platinum Lifetime* — | \$ | 5,000.00 | (New, 5/4/2022) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ** Please check box if you do not wish to receive a gift. | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (65 or over) - | \$ | 15.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Junior (under age 18) -- | \$ | 15.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2-Year Regular | \$ | 50.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2-Year Family | \$ | 60.00 | |
- (2-year memberships NOT available online)

Chapter & Newsletter: (Please specify your preferences)Newsletter by email or hard copy

- Grays Harbor/Chehalis Valley Chapter** meets the 1st Thursday of the month (Feb – Oct) at the **Evergreen Sportsmen's Club**, 12736 Marksman Road, SW, Olympia.
- Kitsap Peninsula Chapter — VACANT**
- Lower Columbia Chapter** meets the last Thursday of the month (Jan – Oct) at the **Vancouver Trap Club**, 11100 NE 76th Street in Vancouver.
- Moses Lake Chapter** – Dates and Places Quarterly TBD.
- Northwest Chapter** meets year round the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the **Twin City Sportsmen's Club**, 26933 64th Avenue NW in Stanwood.
- Peninsula Chapter — VACANT**
- Seattle Chapter** meets the 4th Monday of the month (Jan – Oct) at **Kenmore Shotgun Range**, 1031 – 228th Street SW, Bothell.
- Southwest Chapter** meets on the last Tuesday of the month (Feb – Sept) at the **Tacoma Sportsmen's Club**, 16409 Canyon Road E., Puyallup.
- Spokane Chapter** — Dates and Places TBD.
- Tri Cities Chapter — VACANT**
- Wenatchee Chapter** – Dates and Places TBD.
- Whatcom County Chapter** meets the 2nd Tuesday of the of the month (Jan – Nov.) at **Ferndale Public Library**, 2125 Main Street in Ferndale.
- Yakima Valley Chapter** — Dates and places TBD.

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A few facts about the WWA:

- Established in 1945
- Non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
- Nine (9) active chapters throughout Washington
- We spend all of our resources within Washington State

Our projects include:

- Working on behalf of Hunter's Rights issues to keep public access open and available
- Administration of the WA Migratory Bird Stamp and Print Program
- Hosting and sponsoring the Washington State Duck Calling Championships
- Wood Duck Nest Box & Mallard Nest Tube, Goose Nest Pot & platform construction, installation, & maintenance
- Working with the Boy Scouts of America on Eagle Scout projects
- Hosting Youth Mentor shotgun shooting one-on-one instruction events
- Conducting Hunter Mentor one-on-one waterfowl hunting activities for those new to the sport
- Conducting NRA sanctioned Hunter Education classes for Youth & donation of funds to offset WDFW printing costs for youth gun safety classes
- Donation of funds to support high school shooting teams in Washington
- Teaching adults and youth, decoy carving arts
- Working with thousands of children at Sportsmens' Shows painting decoys, and with seriously ill youngsters on a decoy painting project
- Providing full scholarships for boys and girls to attend a week at Youth Conservation Camp on Orcas Island, WA
- Working with the WDFW in the creation of premium quality waterfowling hunt areas
- Building and rehabilitating blinds in public hunting areas
- Distribution and planting of thousands of pounds of donated corn seed for waterfowl consumption
- Working with the Yakama Tribe in banding upland birds and waterfowl, and building duck "blinds" on tribal lands
- Goose and duck nest counts and banding of both with the WDFW and USFWS
- Working with the WDFW on dove counts & planting WDFW food plots in Eastern WA with WWA owned tractor and farming implements
- Sponsoring of the Annual NW Decoy Collector's Show
- Participating in multiple Sportsmens' Shows annually
- Donation of funds and volunteer man hours for Swan Mortality Mitigation Studies
- Donation of funds and volunteer man hours to WDFW for goose banding and satellite tracking
- Litter pickup projects at public hunting areas, boat ramps, and along highways; and conducting multiple fund raising banquets annually to pay for all of these "hands on, boots on the ground" conservation projects.