

Connecticut



Waterfowl Association

First off, I must express my sincere apologies to the membership and supporters of the Connecticut Waterfowl Association (CWA) for the very long delay in getting this newsletter out. I have no excuse for the amount of time that has passed since our last correspondence, other than the chaos of life between working full time and having kids in nine million activities! With that being said, there has been a ton of things going on behind the scenes with the CWA, as well as some interesting things on the horizon in the months and years ahead. Before you know it, the waterfowl season will be upon us as well as our annual fundraising dinner in October! (More information on that below).

As we have mentioned in the past, we are trying to build the membership and support of the CWA to catch back up to the heyday we had years ago (as well as membership "Pre-Covid") when we had the involvement of 100's more waterfowl hunters and collectors. Luckily, our spring sporting clay event showed amazing movement in that direction with a phenomenal turn out (selling out completely for the day)! Along those lines, we have had a record number of individuals apply to be "mentees" this past year for the upcoming waterfowl season and unfortunately had to waitlist a large majority of the individuals due to the limited number of mentors and locations.

Returning to other events this past spring, we had a great number of entries into the Junior Duck Stamp contest (of which we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the CT Migratory Bird "Duck" Stamp). The artwork submitted, provided some tough competition (in all age groupings) from grades K-12 from across the State. The students did a great job highlighting many (if not all) of the possible species of waterfowl allowed for the contest. More pictures and information on that below.

Moving forward, we are looking to host another "all members" meeting later this year to hear from our members and supporters, as to where we can go with new ideas and interests as well as ways in which we can expose the CWA to more of the waterfowling public.

Within this issue, I want to truly thank some key supporters of the association for their ongoing contribution as well as a number of our Board and Volunteer members who step up to the plate time and time again to pull off our events. As a volunteer group, we could not continue to bolster our initiatives and ongoing work in the State of CT without the support of everyone involved! The turning of the calendar to August means that the colder temperatures are just around the corner. There is MUCH to catch up on and only a short time to go before the seasons begin! I wish you all good times this summer on your vacation(s), plans, and trips away from home before we put away the beach chairs and the leaves begin to change! I know I am counting down the days not only to the waterfowl season(s) begin but, more importantly, TILL THE KIDS GO BACK TO SCHOOL!

As always, stay safe on the water, clean up your spent shells, and take a kid outdoors!

Tom Lewoc Jr.

Board Ballot

CONNECTICUT WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION, INC

Due back by August 25, 2023

The Elections of Officers and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023-2024

The existing officers recommend the following officers and board directors. Please vote and/or write in your choices. Please send this back to CWA, 29 Bowers Hill Rd. Oxford, CT or by email csamor16@att.net

President:

<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Lewoc Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>
--	--------------------------

Vice President :

<input type="checkbox"/> Dieter Bromkamp	<input type="checkbox"/>
--	--------------------------

Treasurer:

<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Samor	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------------------	--------------------------

Secretary:

<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Gregonis	<input type="checkbox"/>
--	--------------------------

Board of Directors:

- ☐ Greg Chasko
- ☐ Rich Chmiel
- ☐ Pete Revicki
- ☐ Tom Entwistle
- ☐ Matt Babb
- ☐ Joe LaPorta
- ☐ Michael Linnen
- ☐ Joe Martin
- ☐ Gary Stango Jr.
- ☐ Chris Hayward

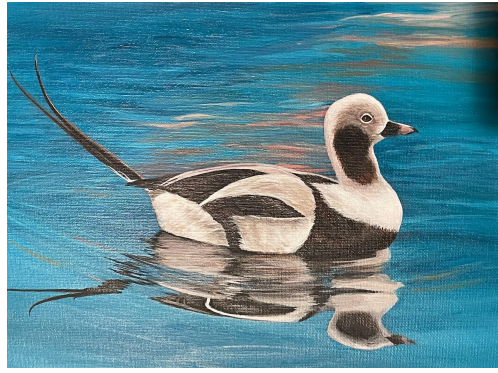
2023 CT Junior Duck Stamp Competition



On March 19th, representatives from the CWA, CT Department of Energy & Environmental protection (DEEP), Delta Waterfowl, and Ducks Unlimited all traveled down to the Audubon center in Milford, CT to serve as Judges for the annual CT Junior Migratory Bird Stamp contest.



As previously mentioned, this is the 30th anniversary of the State contest which has transitioned from the professional artist contest into the student centered competition 4 years ago. This year we again had over 120+ entries from both private and public schools, art studios, and individual students.



Congratulations! to Sulan Zhang, a grade 11 student from Tolland, CT who's depiction of a Long-Tailed Duck (pictured above) was the "best in show" for the 2023 State of CT Junior Migratory Bird Stamp competition. Sulan's artwork will be featured as the medium for the next CT duck stamp (which will go on sale January 1st, 2024). Likewise, this painting also served as the CT entry into the Federal Junior Duck Stamp contest. Over the next year this entry will be touring around the United States (with all of the other state Junior entries) to be on display for the public.



More information about the CT stamp history as well as the top three winners in each age grouping can be found at: [CT DEEP Migratory Bird Stamp](#)

Thank you to our Judges:

Bri Benvenuti - Ducks Unlimited
 Rick Chmiel - CWA
 Tom Entwistle - CWA
 Min Huang - CT DEEP
 Joe LaPorta - Delta Waterfowl
 Ken Metzler - CT DEEP
 Andrew Ocampo - CWA
 LuAnn Shaw - Delta Waterfowl

2023 CWA Spring Sporting Clay “Fun Shoot”



Congratulations to Jimmy Muller! - our top overall competitor from the Spring Sporting Clay event held on April 16th, 2023 at the Guilford Sportsmen's Association. We had a great turnout for the event and SOLD out all 100 spots for the first time in many years. The day consisted of 100 clays for each competitor spread amongst 16 stations at Guilford's amazing wooded facility.

Both new and veteran competitors showcased their skills throughout the morning before a wonderful lunch and some great raffles to round out the day! Thanks to Dave Tarducci, the trappers, and CWA Board members who all chipped in to run a very smooth event for the CWA!!





Keither Mueller Raffle Winners



Also on the 16th of April at the sporting clay event we pulled the winners to our "Keith Mueller Raffle". Congratulations to our winners below!

1st Prize Mueller LTD Decoy - Tom Reilly

2nd Prize 1998 RI Duck Stamp Print - Tom Entwistle

3rd Prize The Art in Making Decoys - Kathy Knapp

Special Thanks

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter; we could not continue our mission as the CT Waterfowl Association without the help and support of our members, volunteers, and donors! This past year was a phenomenal success for our fundraising events, raffles, and auctions. First off, I would like to thank a long time member and supporter of the CWA: **Keith Mueller**

Keith, is a world renowned painter and carver from the State of CT and long time supporter of the CWA. He is a multiple-year World Champion and still finds time to donate some unbelievable carvings and artwork to our association. On both the canvas, as well as with his waterfowl and bird carvings, individuals jump at the chance to possibly win a piece of his artwork. The Long Tail Duck decoy, RI Stamp Print, and the Art in Making Decoys book were highly sought after items in this past year's CWA raffles.



Next, I would like to thank one of our newer members and donors to our recent sporting clay event: **Michael Linnen**. Michael, is the president and lead call maker of veteran owned [Migrate Outdoors](#), right here in the state of CT. His expertise in call making is something that extends from his love of waterfowl and waterfowl hunting. Michael has been a fantastic addition to the CWA and supporter of waterfowling in CT. His donations of calls, as well as production of “duck stamp” calls are a great addition to the conservation efforts here in the State. Personally, his “old school” camo call, might be my new favorite on my lanyard!



Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to **Jimmy Muller** (as well as his wife Anuska too!) for his continued support of the CWA. Anuska's pictures from the day (which are most of the images in this newsletter!) helped us capture the true "fun" of the sporting clay fundraiser.

Jimmy reached out a few years back (as president of [Muller Chokes](#), one of the leading waterfowling and sporting clay choke manufacturers in the world) and literally asked "*how can we help?*" Right away, he donated Muller Choke gift certificates for one of our events and has been a phenomenal supporter of our efforts both as a donor as well as an attendee. After the competition, Jimmy took the time to talk with both new and veteran shooters and was nothing but a gentleman to answer questions, give advice, and help those around.



Mentor/Mentee Program

As mentioned in the opening message, we have received an ENORMOUS amount of mentee applications (from all over the State) for the upcoming waterfowl season. A component of our mission is to educate and mentor "new" hunters (both young and old) into the world of waterfowling. We strive to connect as many mentees with a mentor that can provide a safe, responsible, and educational perspective into the waterfowling world. Time and time again, mentees continue on with the traditions of hunting. Along those lines, please let us know if you know of any landowners, farmers, or interested new "mentors" that would allow for a day or two during the season to bring a new hunter into the field. We are not looking to expose anyones "honey holes" but rather give someone the experience of a safe, ethical, and rewarding experience in the outdoors. Please take a look at the CWA for more information, or email us at: ctwaterfowlers@gmail.com for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Connecticut Waterfowl Association Fall Banquet 2023

Sunday, October 29th

Elks Lodge - Westbrook, CT

Time: 6:30 pm– 9:30pm

**Beef Tenderloin, Chicken Marsala, Baked Stuffed Shrimp – Served Family
Style – Cash Bar**

Dinner Ticket Sales Opening Soon!

**We are ironing out the final details to the event and will update
the CWA website as soon as we go “live” with dinner ticket and
pre-raffle sales!**

