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President's Message

Congratulations to all CWA members who made the effort to contact legislators and express opposition to Connecticut Senate Bill 109 that would have closed all waterfowl hunting on the Quinnipiac River in New Haven between Interstates 95 and 91. Testimony from the CWA opposing this bill was presented to and well received by the Connecticut Legislature's Sportsmen's Caucus. Fortunately, the bill never came up for a vote. I know from speaking to legislators and pro-hunting lobbyists that the sponsors of this bill heard from many concerned sportsmen and it had a large impact on their decision not to push harder for the passage of this bill! This issue garnered national attention! Legislators received a well-crafted letter of opposition jointly signed by CWA, Delta, DU national, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, National Deer Alliance, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Quality Deer Management Association, Safari Club International and the Sportsmen's Alliance. The Connecticut Conservation Advisory Board sent its own separate letter. We owe all these groups our thanks and support! Be assured that CWA will continue to monitor and react to any legislation that affects waterfowl hunting in Connecticut. Information about this bill is here:

[AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN STATE REFUGES FOR WILDLIFE](#)

The CWA can be a more powerful voice supporting Sportsmen's interests if we have more members! Several months ago, we reviewed our

membership list and after cleaning it up discovered that we only had 84 dues paying members. So, we sent out renewal notices and encouraged current members to recruit their friends. This worked well! We're now up to around 130 members, but we have more work to do! There are about 5,000 waterfowl hunters in Connecticut – they should all be members of CWA! We plan on developing as many membership benefits as we can (e.g., lower prices for members for the Banquet and Sporting Clays shoots and asking our corporate donors if they can provide discounts to CWA members).

Anyhow, when you are dog training, fishing or whatever with your hunting buddies this summer, please ask them to consider joining up!

Hope you all have a great summer!

**Greg Chasko
President, CWA**



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Handicapped Hunting Blind At Babcock Pond WMA Restored

Written by Kelly Kubik and Ann Kilpatrick
DEEP Wildlife Division

Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area (WMA), located in Colchester and East Haddam, is the largest WMA east of the Connecticut River. One unique feature of this 1,500-acre WMA is the handicapped accessible hunting trail that is located through a portion of the property. This trail is accessible from a parking lot on Miles Standish Road and winds through a variety of habitats, including old field, mature forest, and an abandoned apple orchard. The area adjacent to the trail is stocked with pheasants each fall. Due to the trail's proximity to Standish Pond, a handicapped accessible waterfowl hunting blind was constructed there in the 1980s. This blind provides further hunting opportunities for those who use the property's handicapped accessible hunting trail.

Due to recent incidents of vandalism, the blind was in need of numerous repairs, which included

replacing the asphalt roof, multiple floor and side boards, posts, railings, and a door. The Connecticut Waterfowlers Association (CWA) offered to supply the Wildlife Division with the materials necessary for the blind's renovation. Without this generous donation, the blind could not have been renovated in such a timely and efficient manner.

This is not the first time CWA and DEEP have worked cooperatively together. Over the years, CWA has partnered with the Wildlife Division to protect and enhance wetlands throughout the state, recruit new hunters into the sport, and supply volunteers for many of our projects. More information about CWA can be found on their website at www.ctwaterfowlers.org.

Questions about Babcock Pond WMA can be directed to the Wildlife Division's Habitat Management Program at the Eastern District Headquarters in Marlborough at 860-295-9523.



This article is reprinted from Connecticut Wildlife Magazine with the permission of the DEEP Wildlife Division.



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NEWS TO QUACK ABOUT

CWA Banquet

We had a very enjoyable and successful Banquet this year! We had 110 attendees and raised over \$10,000 for conservation! Thanks to all of you who attended!

The highlight of this year's Banquet was selecting the winner of the original Reneson painting. The lucky winner was CWA member Jim Curcuruto. Congratulations to Jim and to all who purchased raffle tickets. Over \$3,000.00 was raised for wetland and waterfowl projects in Connecticut!

This was only made possible through the incredible generosity of Chet Reneson! Chet has always been kind to the CWA, but his donation of a full-sized original painting was beyond our wildest dreams! All CWA members owe Chet an enormous debt of gratitude. Thank you Chet!

held at the Westbrook Elks Lodge on April 14, 2019. This is a very nice facility located centrally on the coast and it is literally on the coast – a stone's throw from Long Island Sound!
<http://westbrookelks.com/>



The CWA Board of Directors has decided to discontinue using the Aqua Turf for our Banquets for a couple of reasons, one being their decision to no longer host the NRA. The 2019 Banquet will be

Scenes from the 2018 Banquet

Examples of our fine live auction items.





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Rick Boucher (right), Vice-President of CWA won this fine black duck decoy carved by Wil Iturrino (left) Member, CWA Board of Directors.

Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RACA)

The RACA is proposed federal legislation (H.R. 4647) that would provide the necessary resources for proactive conservation nationwide. It is a bipartisan bill that would be funded by using a small percentage of existing revenue generated from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters. There is strong support from the affected industries for this bill. It is a win-win!

There is an excellent article in the May/June 2018 issue of Connecticut Wildlife about the program. You can also find more information about it by Googling it. CWA members are encouraged to contact their Congressional members and express your support for this bill.

An Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife has been created to generate support for this effort. Conservation organizations, businesses and other groups can join the Alliance to help send a strong message that a wide diversity of organizations support proactive conservation. The CWA has already joined up. You, your business, club or any other group can show your support by visiting

<http://www.ournatureusa.com/>



Folks enjoying the banquet.





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Connecticut Federal Junior Duck Stamp 2018

The 2018 contest judging was held on March 28, 2018 at Cabela's in East Hartford. The winning image featured a pair of widgeon painted by Lixing Counsilman of South Glastonbury. Lixing's painting was the overall contest winner and judged as the best in grades 10-12.

CWA received 125 paintings from over 30 schools this year and wants to thank everyone for their participation!

Group 1 Grades K-3

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st: Cody Bailey | Hampton Elementary School |
| 2nd: Maggie Whritenour | Barn for Artistic Youth |
| 3rd: Jillian Hintze | Barn for Artistic Youth |

Group 2 Grades 4-6

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st: Nola Slubowski | Barn for Artistic Youth |
| 2nd: Samara Liz Ramos | Barn for Artistic Youth |
| 3rd: Avery Cabaniss | Barn for Artistic Youth |

Group 3 Grades 7-9

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st: Sophia Archer | Home Schooled |
| 2nd: Samantha Geshel | Barn for Artistic Youth |
| 3rd: Isabell Gesino | Barn for Artistic Youth |

Group 4 Grades 10-12

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st: Lixing Counsilman | Wildlife Art Studio 8A |
| 2nd: Regina Caggiano | Wildlife Art Studio 8A |
| 3rd: Hec Won Chung | Barn for Artistic Youth |



Second place overall went to Sophie Archer's rendering of pintails. This painting was awarded first place in the grade 7 – 9 category.





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An Opportunity for CWA Members to Participate in A Waterfowl Management And Research Project!

The DEEP Wildlife Division will be banding resident Canada geese in late June and early July this summer. Volunteers are welcome to work with professional wildlife biologists as they round-up the geese, identify their age and sex and apply aluminum leg-bands. Banding data provide important information on survival rates and movement patterns of these birds. If you want to spend a fun day outside and contribute to this important effort, please contact Wildlife Biologist, Kelly Kubik at kelly.kubik@ct.gov.



2019 Connecticut Duck Stamp Contest Winner

The Citizens' Advisory Board for the Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp program ("Duck Stamp Board") selected the winning painting that will be used for the 2019 stamp at its annual may meeting.



The brightly colored painting depicts three Buffleheads in flight. It was created by Jeffrey Klinefelter of Etna Green, Indiana. This is the second time Jeffrey has won the Connecticut



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Duck Stamp Art Contest. He won the 2015 contest with his rendering of Atlantic brant flying by the old New London lighthouse. An avid outdoorsman, Jeffrey hunts with his camera, taking photos of many of the subjects of his artwork. He has been the winner of many other state duck stamp contests including his home state of Indiana, Delaware, Nevada, and South Carolina.



2018 Nominations Officers & Board

The CWA Nominating Committee offers the following nominees for Officers and Board members for a term that runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.



Connecticut native Melissa Barker came in second place with her unique painting of Canada geese near the East Haddam swing bridge.

Officers

President	Greg Chasko
Vice President	Rich Chmiel
Secretary	Wil Iturrino
Treasurer	Chris Samor

Board

**Jackie Alix
Joe Alix
Rick Boucher
Dakota Flis
Clint Herdman
Peter Johnson
Pete Revicki**

Honorary Directors

**Keith Mueller
Milan Bull
Paul Capotosto
John Larkin**

Votes can be cast by emailing Rick Boucher at:
boucherrj1@aol.com

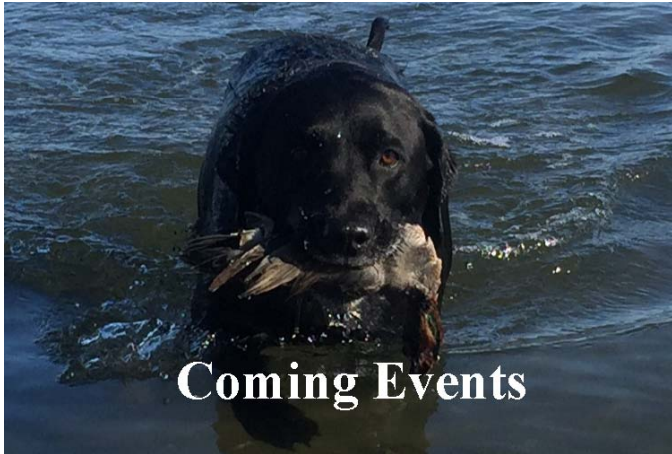
All votes must be received by June 30, 2018.



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Coming Events

- September 9, 2018 - [Annual Waterfowl Hunter Training Day.](#)
- October 7, 2018 - Sporting Clays Shoot [Guilford Sportsmen's Association](#)
- April 14, 2019 – CWA Annual Fund Raising Banquet – [Westbrook Elks Club](#)



Sporting Clays Shoot
Sunday, October 7, 2018

Rain or Shine
Guilford Sportsmen's Association
Hart Road, Guilford, CT

We need 50 shooters! Please come and bring a squad of your buddies!
Registration from 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.



100 Sporting Clay Targets

\$75.00 Adult
\$65.00 Current CWA members
\$55.00 Youth (under 18 years)
Late registrations after September 1st adds \$5.00 to the fee.

Continental breakfast and lunch is included.
Lunch will start at approximately 12:30 p.m.
Awards ceremony and raffle, including limited edition prints, hand carved decoys and more, afterwards.

More details soon.



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CWA would like to thank the Sponsors of 2018 Fundraising Banquet.

O.F. Mossberg & Sons, North Haven CT
Baron Technology, barontechnology.com; Trumbull CT
Chet Reneson, Reneson Art Studio; Lyme CT
Peter Revicki, Revicki Decoys; Portland CT
Framing By Gordon, LLC; South Glastonbury CT
Rich Chmiel, Chmiel Decoys; East Lyme CT
Keith Mueller, Mueller Art Studio; Killingworth CT
Michael R. Braun, MRB Decoys /LZ Decoys: Blackwood, NJ
Hank Sprouse, Sprouse Wildfowl Carvings; Stratford CT
Peter Johnson, PJ Decoys; Shelton, CT
Bill Embacher, Embacher Decoys, East Hampton CT
John Bean, Bean Decoys; Westbrook, CT
Sitka Gear, www.sitkagera.com: Bozeman, MT
Beardsley Zoo-Don Goff, www.beardsleyzoo.com; Bridgeport, CT
Wil Iturrino, Iturrino Decoys; Amston, CT
Daniel Montano, Instagram.com/mr.feathers_; Spring Valley, CA
Saybrook Point Inn, Spa and Marina, saybrook.com; Old Saybrook, CT
Tanglefree, www.tanglefree.com; Concord, CA
Clint Chase, Clint Chase Decoys; Monroe CT
Eddie Gagne, facebook.com/edgagnedecoys; Enosburg Falls, VT
Wild Edge, www.wildedgedgeinc.com; East Haddam, CT
Carl Weston, Carl's Custom Calls; Oxford, CT
Chris Samorajczyk, Samor's Taxidermy, Oxford, CT
Close-Calls; Ron Clough, closecalls@hotmail.com; Centreville, MD



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Sponsors of 2018 Fundraising Banquet(cont.)

David Hochman, Avery Pro Staff, Orange CT

David Harris, Dave Harris Decoys; Louisville, KY

Rizzoli Books, www.Rizzolibookstore.com; New York, New York

Warren Speh, M&B Sports, North Stonington CT

Connecticut Science Center, Hartford CT

Mitch Schultz, Gunsmithing LTD, Southport CT

James Prosek, Prosek Art Studio; Easton CT

Wild Wings Collections, MN

Frank Katkauskas, Higganum, CT

David Footer, Footer Art Studio, Lewiston ME

Conquer the Call, www.conquerthecall.com; Killingworth, CT

The Connecticut Audubon Society



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Open Waterfowl Seasons and Bag Limits

(Changes from 2017 are highlighted in bold)

(All Dates Inclusive - Except Sundays)

NORTH ZONE: The portion of the state north of Interstate 95; **SOUTH ZONE:** The portion of the state south of Interstate 95.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, **EXCEPT FOR THE SEPTEMBER GOOSE SEASON, WHEN SHOOTING HOURS END ½ HOUR PAST SUNSET.**

SPECIES	SEASON	NORTH ZONE	SOUTH ZONE	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
DUCKS, MERGANSERS, COOTS	Early	Oct. 6 - Oct. 13	Oct. 13 - Oct. 17	DUCKS 6 ^{A,B}	18 ^{A,B}
	Late	Nov. 10 - Jan. 10	Nov. 16 - Jan. 19	COOTS 15	45
SEA DUCKS (Scoter, Oldsquaw, Eider) ^C			Nov. 12 - Jan. 19	5 ^D	15 ^D
CANADA GEESE ^E					
	September Early Season	Sept 1 - Sept 29	Sept 15 - Sept 29	15	45
REGULAR SEASONS	AP Unit ^F	Oct 13 - Oct 20 Nov 24 - Jan 12		3	9
	AFRP Unit ^G	Oct 6 - Oct 13 Nov 10 - Dec 1 Dec 15 - Feb 15	Oct 6 - Oct 13 Nov 10 - Dec 1 Dec 15 - Feb 15	5	15
	NAP H-Unit^H	Oct 13 - Oct 20 Nov 10 - Jan 10	Oct 13 - Oct 20 Nov 10 - Jan 10	2	6
	Special Late Season		Jan. 15 - Feb. 15 ^I	5	15
SNOW GEESE (includes BLUE GEESE)		Oct. 1 - Jan. 14	Oct. 1 - Dec. 1	25	^J
		Feb. 21 - Mar. 9	Jan. 9 - Mar. 9		
BRANT		Nov. 2 - Jan. 10	Nov. 12 - Jan. 19	2	6



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- A Includes all species of ducks, with the following restrictions: MALLARD: daily limit 4 and may include only 2 HENS. WOOD DUCK: daily limit 3. BLACK DUCK: daily limit 2. REDHEAD: daily limit 2. **PINTAIL: daily limit 2.** SCAUP: daily limit 2. CANVASBACK: daily limit 2. HOODED MERGANSER: daily limit 2. Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit. SEASON FOR HARLEQUIN DUCKS IS CLOSED.
- B MERGANSERS ARE INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL DUCK BAG OF 6.
- C In coastal waters and streams seaward of the first upstream bridge.
- D Daily bag limit for sea ducks may include no more than 4 SCOTERS, 4 OLD SQUAW, 4 EIDER, 12 in possession.
- E Daily bag limit includes white-fronted geese.
- F AP Unit: Litchfield Co. and the portion of Hartford Co., west of a line beginning at the Massachusetts border in Suffield and extending south along Route 159 to its intersection with Route 91 in Hartford, and then extending south along Route 91 to its intersection with the Hartford/Middlesex Co. line.
- G AFRP Unit: Starting at the intersection of I-95 and the waters of the Quinnipiac River excluding the east shore, north on the Quinnipiac River to its intersection with I-91, north on I-91 to I-691, west on I-691 to the Hartford County line, and encompassing the rest of New Haven County and Fairfield County in its entirety.
- H NAP H-Unit: All of the rest of the State not included in the AP or AFRP descriptions above.
- I That portion of the South Zone east of the Quinnipiac River.
- J There is no possession limit for snow geese.

Woodcock Season

October 22, 2018 to November 17, 2018 and November 19, 2018 to December 12, 2018.

Daily bag limit 3

Possession limit 9

Rail and Snipe Season

September 1, 2018 to November 12, 2018

Sora and Virginia rails

Daily bag limit 25

Possession limit 75

Clapper and King rails

Daily bag limit 10, only 1 King Rail

Possession limit 30

Common snipe

October 22, 2018 to November 17, 2018 and November 19, 2018 to December 12, 2018.

Daily bag limit 8

Possession limit 24