



Ducks, Etc...



*Connecticut Waterfowl Association
Summer 2019 Newsletter*

President's Message

As I am writing this the temperature is in the mid-50s with a light breeze and it's feeling faintly like fall – awesome! My dogs have a new “spring in their step” and the local geese are grouping up and waiting for corn to be picked! What a great time of year!

I'm sure many of you are organizing your waterfowl hunting gear in anticipation of the upcoming season! I recommend as part of the preparation process you pick up a copy of the Migratory Bird Hunting Guide from your Town Clerk's office (it's also available online at the DEEP web site). The Guide has evolved into a very informative document and it is worth reading. And don't forget to pick up a new Federal Duck Stamp!

If you want to “tune up” your shooting skills, I encourage you to register for CWA's Sporting Clays Fundraising Shoot to be held at the Guilford Sportsmen's Association (GSA) at Hart Road in Guilford on Sunday, September 22, 2019. This will be a great event, as the GSA's shooting course and grounds are excellent! Also, there will be a substantial raffle after the shoot. Remember that all the money you spend at this event goes back into waterfowl conservation in Connecticut!! You can find more details about the shoot later in this Newsletter and on the CWA web site (ctwaterfowlers.org). You can also purchase tickets on the CWA web site.

Wishing all a successful and safe season,
Greg Chasko
President, CWA

2019 Elections

In accordance with CWA's by-laws, Officers and Members of the Board of Directors have been elected. Because candidates for Officers were unopposed and the by-laws allow for more Directors than applied, ballots were not necessary.

The following members will serve from July 2019 to June 2020.

OFFICERS

President	Greg Chasko
Vice President	Rick Boucher
Treasurer	Chris Samorajczyk
Secretary	Wil Iturrino

DIRECTORS

Jacqueline Alix
 Joe Alix
 Rich Chmiel
 Thomas Entwistle
 Michael Gregonis
 Clint Herdman
 Peter Johnson
 Thomas Lewoc Jr
 Peter Revicki

Conservation News

Wetland Projects

The CWA is working closely with the DEEP's Wildlife Division (WD) on the planning process for several new projects. One is the restoration of a large marsh (about 70 acres) in Pomfret. The site is owned by the Windham Land Trust and



Ducks, Etc...



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formerly held such numbers of ducks, it is called “Duck Pond.” Other water-dependent birds such as Sora and Virginia rails and American bitterns have been documented at the site. The marsh’s water control structure has deteriorated resulting in the area no longer being able to hold water. Currently, the WD is assessing the logistics of getting the needed equipment into the site and if repairs are needed to the dike where the water control structure is located. Stay tuned! This would be an awesome project and would give CWA high visibility as a “Project Partner.”

Another project being considered would be the enhancement of a 10-acre parcel in the Nehantic State Forest in Lyme. The project would entail creating a small dike to impound water resulting in increased water levels that would benefit waterfowl and other water-dependent wildlife.

CWA Purchases Mower for the WD



The WD was in desperate need of a mower to maintain vegetation growing on the dikes of its 104 state-owned impoundments. Most of these

areas were impounded (dikes built containing water control structures) in the 1960’s to create beneficial habitats for waterfowl. The areas require maintenance to hold their value for waterfowl, including clearing of the dikes. If the dikes are not regularly mowed, trees become established and their roots pose a threat to the integrity of the dike. Due to the intense demand for mowers within the DEEP, the WD was not able to obtain one when needed. CWA remedied this by purchasing this mower for exclusive use by the WD’s Waterfowl Program.

Education News

CWA Assists WD and the Boating Safety Division in Developing a “Water Safety Video.”

To their great credit, the WD’s Conservation Education/Firearms Safety Program made certain that safety tips regarding waterfowl hunting using watercraft, were included in this video.

Longtime CWA member and current CWA Board member, Pete Revicki, made his TDB available for filming. Thanks to Pete! Look for the video in the near future, it will be posted on the CWA web site.





Ducks, Etc...



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Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest

Since the inception of the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Program in 1989, the CWA has coordinated the contest in Connecticut. The Junior Duck Stamp Program (JDS) uses a curriculum that combines science and art to educate students from kindergarten through high school about waterfowl and conservation.

Beginning in 2021, the JDS winning painting will be used for the Connecticut Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp. This is an exciting opportunity for young Connecticut artists! Over the years, Connecticut youths have produced some spectacular artwork with several winners placing in the top ten in the nationwide Federal contest!

While the artwork has been great over the years, what has been lacking is the use of the excellent conservation curricula developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for schools to use along with the art. To help remedy this situation, the Migratory Bird Conservation Stamp Advisory Board (MBSB) is working with a professional marketer to bring visibility to the program and to encourage better participation from schools and art studios. (The MBSB is composed of individuals knowledgeable in duck stamp art and includes several CWA members). A variety of outreach efforts (e.g., development of a JDS web site and Facebook page, meeting with teachers' associations) will be conducted. The CWA remains committed to wetland conservation in Connecticut including a strong focus on our future, Connecticut's youth!

2019 Waterfowl Hunting Seminar



**Sunday, September 8, 2019
Wallingford Rod and Gun Club
411 N. Branford Road, Wallingford, CT**

Sponsored by the CWA in cooperation with the DEEP, this seminar will provide participants with all the basic information needed to get started or become a more successful waterfowl hunter! Expert instructors will provide interactive presentations on various aspects of duck and goose hunting including: decoy spreads, biology, shooting, calling and hunting techniques.

There are two sessions this year, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The sessions are fully subscribed with 30 people signed up for each session.

<http://www.ctwaterfowlers.org/2019-waterfowl-seminar.html>



Ducks, Etc...



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2019 Sporting Clays Fundraising Shoot



September 22nd
Guilford Sportsmen's Association

Round up your friends and come enjoy a fun day of shooting and socializing at one of Connecticut's premier Sporting Clays courses. 100+ birds plus other shooting games. Bring enough ammunition! Breakfast at registration, shoot followed by lunch, auctions, raffles, and awards. Submit your teams to ctwaterfowlers@gmail.com and they will be posted on the web site as we organize the shoot. Tickets are on sale on the web site.

<http://www.ctwaterfowlers.org/2019-sporting-clays.html>

This year we are offering Plus 1 tickets for non-shooters at \$15 each. Come at 10:30 am to take a chance on winning a turkey at our Turkey Shoot, receive an annual membership or extension, and enjoy the barbeque lunch, silent auction and raffle.

We have some very nice silent auction items contributed by local and national businesses and individual donors. Artwork, jewelry, custom calls, carvings, a fishing trip and other desirable prizes. We will also be holding a raffle for a semi-auto 12-gauge shotgun for event attendees.

We could always use some more items for our silent auction and raffles to help raise more funds.

If you would like to contribute, please send an email to ctwaterfowlers@gmail.com and a member of the Sporting Clays Committee will contact you.

2019 Sporting Clays Sponsor Program



CWA is actively seeking sponsors for this year's Sporting Clays Fundraising Shoot. We have developed a program for sponsors to partner with CWA to support waterfowl habitat conservation in Connecticut. Sponsors will receive advertising on our web site for a full year in exchange and other benefits by supporting our event. See the web site for details on the Sponsor Program.

The purpose of this program is to establish partnerships with organizations that will contribute to CWA's charitable conservation fundraising efforts and gain a lasting, mutually beneficial relationship through advertising at our Sporting Clays Events and on our web site, this year and in future years. The Sporting Clays Sponsor Program identifies the exchange conditions at each sponsorship level.



Ducks, Etc...



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2019 Sporting Clays Fundraising Sponsorship Levels

Title Sponsor: \$2,500

Full size banner with your company logo displayed at the event and then displayed on our web site for the entire year. Program recognition. Ability to place advertisements/swag in check-in handout bag. Admission for 4 for Sporting Clays.*

Banner Sponsor: \$1,250

1/2 banner with your company logo displayed at the event and then displayed on our web site for the entire year. Program recognition. Ability to place advertisements/swag in check-in handout bag. Admission for 4 for Sporting Clays.*

Platinum Sponsor: \$500

Two yard signs with your company logo (or advertisement) displayed at the event and then displayed on our web site for the entire year. Program recognition. Ability to place advertisements/swag in check-in handout bag. Program recognition. Admission for 2 for Sporting Clays.*

Gold Sponsor: \$250

One yard sign with your company logo (or advertisement) displayed at the event and then displayed on our web site for the entire year. Program recognition. Ability to place advertisements/swag in check-in handout bag. Admission for 1 for Sporting Clays.*

Silver Sponsor: \$125

One yard sign with your company logo (or advertisement) displayed at the event and then

displayed on our web site for the entire year. Program recognition. Ability to place advertisements/swag in check-in handout bag.

Station Sponsor: \$50

Yard sign displayed at a shooting station. Program recognition.

*All shooters receive annual CWA membership or extension.

<http://www.ctwaterfowlers.org/sporting-clays-sponsors.html>

Win a Shotgun!



CWA wants to buy you a nice shotgun!

Participate in obtaining sponsors for our September Sporting Clays Event and earn a shotgun of your choice or accessory.

Anyone can participate. Any sponsors obtained earn at least an annual CWA membership or extension. But the potential rewards are much greater.

Sponsors are welcome to donate either cash or merchandise that we can auction or raffle.



Ducks, Etc...



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CWA 2019 Sporting Clays Rewards

Value	Reward Choices
\$20,000	Shotgun MSRP <\$6,000
\$15,000	Shotgun MSRP <\$4,500
\$10,000	Shotgun MSRP <\$3,000
\$5,000	Shotgun MSRP <\$2,000
\$2,500	Shotgun MSRP <\$800
\$1,250	Shotgun MSRP <\$400
\$500	Shooting Vest MSRP <\$100
\$250	Tanglefree Floating Gun Case
\$125	Annual Membership/Extension

After the winning ticket is drawn, the lucky winner will be notified and they will have the opportunity to select the Silver Pigeon model of their choice. CWA will order the selected model for the winner and notify the winner when the gun has arrived at our FFL. A CWA board member will meet the winner at the FFL's shop to transfer the gun and take an award picture to publish on our web site.

<http://www.ctwaterfowlers.org/shotgun-raffle.html>

Suggestions...

Shotgun Fundraising Raffle



Beretta Silver Pigeon Raffle

CWA members selected the Beretta Silver Pigeon for the CWA Fundraising Shotgun Raffle. The objective of this fundraising program is to raise twice the value of the prize to generate funds for waterfowl habitat restoration in Connecticut. Only 25 are left. The winning ticket will be drawn at the 2019 Sporting Clays Fundraising Shoot.

Tickets are \$20 each. Buy as many as you want. Tickets are on sale on our web site and the information from your order will be transferred to a physical ticket for you.

CWA members selected the Beretta Silver Pigeon for the CWA Fundraising Shotgun last winter. It's time to do that again for our next shotgun raffle. If you have an opinion on a gun we should use for our fundraising, please send us an email with your thoughts. We generally are looking for a quality gun anyone would be proud to own. An heirloom shotgun. We would likely hold the drawing at our Annual Fundraising Banquet on May 3, 2020 if sales happen like they did for this raffle. The Banquet will again be held at the Westbrook Elks Lodge.

ctwaterfowlers@gmail.com