



# *Ducks, Etc...*



*Connecticut Waterfowl Association  
Summer 2020 Newsletter*

## **President's Message**

It's hard to believe the present state of uncertainty we are living under currently. With different seasons open and others opening soon at least we can all get out in the field. Getting out and hunting hopefully can take our minds off the many difficulties we are faced with day to day during this crazy time. I would like to thank everyone again who helped out with CWA's last raffle. It was a huge success as we sold out all the tickets. This was a great boost for CWA as this was our only fundraiser for 2020. We are hoping to start another gun raffle within the next few months, so if anyone has any ideas for a model, please let us know.

It is more important now than ever to help support CWA. Think about getting someone you know to join. We also should be thinking about getting someone that's not as familiar with waterfowling out and signed up for our Mentoring/ Mentee Program. This program is a great way to get new people interested and involved.

One conservation news of note is the CTDEEP impoundment project has been going strong during the summer months mostly in part to the mower purchased by CWA. As the dikes become mowed and free of vegetation the impoundments can start to be properly used and the water can be drained and then flooded in the fall for migratory birds, as intended. More to come on this project over the winter months.

Hopefully, 2021 will allow us to get back and on track and be able to run things like the Annual

Fundraising Dinner and our Annual Sporting Clays Shoot. As you head out to various hunting spots this fall, look for areas that might need improvement or access and let us know. Maybe there is something that can be done.

As always feel free to reach out to any of us on the board with ideas and suggestions.

Good luck afield!

Chris Samorajczyk

## **Shotgun Raffle**



**Browning Cynergy Field**

We are excited to announce the winner of the drawing of the CWA Browning Cynergy Raffle this year. The winner is Wayne Sumner!

Congrats to Wayne and a huge thanks to everyone who participated in this raffle. Every dollar raised with each ticket sold goes to helping waterfowl and the tradition of waterfowling in CT!

Gun provided by  
Sportsmen's Outpost, Wolcott, CT

## **Annual Fundraising Banquet**

Our Annual Fund-Raising Banquet rescheduled to August 9, 2020 has been canceled due to the Covid situation. That's the "bad news" because it



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is our major fund-raising event. The “good news” is that CWA has enough funds to cover our current commitments to conservation projects.

This decoy is hollow cedar and painted with oil paints. One of his favorite species to hunt and carve is the black duck.

## CWA Board member recognized in the DELTA WATERFOWL 2020 HUNT ANNUAL

Reprinted from the 2020 Delta Hunt Annual

**Pete Revicki**  
Portland, Connecticut  
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## Founding Fathers The origin of CWA

Revicki began carving decoys in the late 1970’s for his own use after studying cork decoys that were for sale at a local sporting goods store. Revicki later met famed decoy maker Keith Mueller, who became a hunting companion and major influence on his carving. He carves mostly for his own gunning rig and friends, but trades birds with other decoy carvers. He also has entered a number of decoy shows and has won numerous ribbons. This decoy is hollow cedar and painted with oil paints. One of his favorite species to hunt and carve is the black duck.



Most of us never met them. Many don’t know the names. Kohler, Marshal, Oaks, Bull, Grape, Sales, Beeson, Tierney, Handy, Mitchell are just a few. They came from New Milford, Stonington, Fairfield, Darien, Old Saybrook. But what they did was most important.



In the late 60’s the words “wetlands” or “ecosystem” were not in use. Most of the public called these areas swamps and believed they were of no value. That’s why the Federal Government wanted to build the new Interstate 95 super highway right through the 600 acres of “swamp” in Stratford & Milford. The above names knew better. They got the new I95 pushed back &



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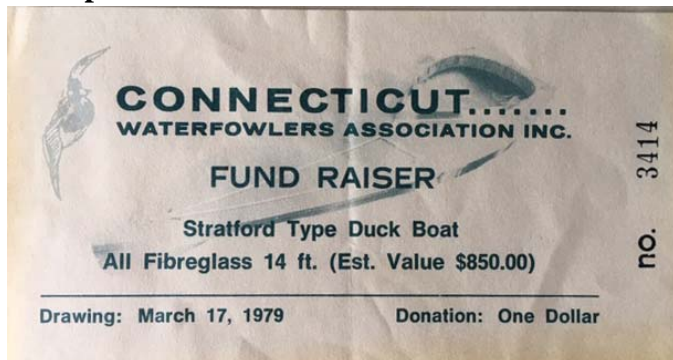
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preserved what is now the 625-acre Charles E. Wheeler WMU. They were the founders of CWA.

Jack Mitchell worked for Remington. Doc Kohler was a country dentist in New Milford who kept his shotgun in the office. Jack Tierney started delivering bread for Pepperidge Farm and became a Vice President and won the Ward World Championship Wildfowl Carving Competition in Maryland. Miley Bull Sr. worked on the floor for Raybestos. They were conservationists. They were waterfowlers.

The early meetings for CWA were held in CT Audubon's Birdcraft Museum, a small building in Fairfield that held the largest collection of Shang Wheelers decoys. Not a bad place to meet.

In order to promote waterfowling and protect wetlands, they needed money. The first fund raising dinners were in the New Haven area typically around St. Patrick's Day. The prizes were a bit different than today. Sure, it was common to raffle decoys, but once they offered a few handguns and even Lab puppies. The enclosed photos show a "Stratford type Duck Boat" built by the members and offered as the main prize in 1976. Ticket cost was \$1.00.



The timing of one dinner in the late 70s could not have been better. Chet Renneson was a guest the same time his art appeared on the cover of Outdoor Life and he was featured in the magazine.

With the funds raised from the dinners they started many of the programs CWA still does today. They purchased wood & made nesting boxes that were established statewide. Doc Kohler held a federal permit to raise waterfowl, so they bought mallards and pintails to release in CT. Perhaps not valid today, but that was 50 years ago. At the memorial service for Tom Marshall, they established the Tom Marshall Scholarship which has funded conservation minded students for more than 20 years. The early years saw CWA founders work with then Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP) to promote and fund "Turn In The Poacher" program.

They exhibited as summer camps, National Hunting & Fishing Day and any place where the "outdoors" was featured.

Except for Tom Marshall, whose ashes are in Charles E. Wheeler WMU (Nell's Island), they're all gone. But through CWA they live on.

Rick Boucher June 20, 2020



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Thought you guys may enjoy seeing some CWA hats from the past.



**Rick Boucher September, 2020**