



Ducks, Etc...



*Connecticut Waterfowl Association
Summer 2021 Newsletter*

President's Message



I hope you were all able to get outside this past season and “socially distance” yourselves in the marshes, ponds, or out on the big water! Obviously, the CWA’s “normal” course of events since the end of 2019 were in no way “normal” and many things had to be canceled or put aside. Hopefully, this newsletter is the start to the next chapter of the CT Waterfowl Association starting back up where we left off.

With that, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and also thank our last two Presidents, Chris Samor and Greg Chasko, for all they have done for the CWA over the years. They have both worked tirelessly to maintain the CWA mission, year after year. Whether you're an avid duck or goose hunter, a carver, collector, or just someone who wants to get involved, your time and dedication has helped us to continue enjoying the outdoors in the State of CT.

Chris Samor has especially kept the CWA afloat over the last few years wearing multiple hats and juggling the chaos of what the group has experience since 2018. Hopefully, I can continue where they left off.

For those of you who I haven't met personally; I am a former biology teacher and son of a retired game warden (from back in the day when they were still called “wardens”). Growing up, I probably had a closer relationship with our lab than I did with most kids on the street. I have spent most of my life out in the woods and water throughout nearly every season and learned to do a little cooking with the harvests along the way. Somewhere over the years dad and I started picking up a decoy or waterfowl print here and there while attending dinners and fundraisers which grew into an interest connected to wildlife and conservation before joining the CWA.

Skipping ahead, I now have a very patient wife who supports and understands my “disappearance” come October through the holidays with my two little guys in the early morning hours or when the wind or weather patterns are just right! I can honestly say I have countless cherished memories out on the water, woods, and coastal marshes chasing fish, deer, and waterfowl in solitude or with close friends and family. But that is enough about me for now, let's get back to the reopening of the state and the status of the CWA.

It is tough coming off of a year were telling someone to “stay safe” meant much more than wearing your PFD on the boat and knowing what is beyond your target when you pull the trigger. That was the reason we decided to postpone the spring fundraising dinner. The timing of vaccinations and the return to “normal” with restaurants, stores, and the like still wasn't in full effect. We still were not at the point of



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comfort amongst all membership and decided to postpone the event to a later time (while still trying to compile some great raffle items!) Luckily, we had already begun planning the event and putting together items for the auctions, raffles, and possible door prizes.

Take a look at the following sections with regards to the Sporting Clays event, the Annual Fundraising Dinner, as well as our next CWA Shotgun Raffle.

Finally, I want to congratulate Chris Zins who will be taking over the Vice President position, as well as welcoming Matt Babb as our newest member to the CWA board. Thanks also goes out to everyone that updated their membership in the CWA. As you know the CWA is the only CT-based waterfowl group where any and all funds raised through our dinner and events stay in CT and go towards conserving wetlands for the benefit of waterfowl and other wildlife.

Good Luck to all who are getting out for the September goose season!

Stay safe, buy your duck stamp, clean up your spent shells, and take a “kid” outdoors!

Tom Lewoc Jr. (TJ)
President
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The Sporting Clays Event is Back On!



**September 19th, 2021
Guilford Sportsman's Association**

SAVE THE DATE, MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

The annual sporting clays event will pick back up for 2021. After having to cancel our past shoot, we are now “booked” with the Guilford Sportsman's Association for the 19th of September, 2021. As in years past, it will be a 100 round sporting clay event set up through the multiple stations on the Guilford club lands. (Attendees must bring their own shells in #7 ½ shot or smaller). The event will be limited to 100 competitors in groups of 5 or less. You will be able to sign up as a group or individually (and put into a group) so don't delay to lock in your spots once we open up the event registration!

Each station for the shoot will be manned by a Guilford club member who will be electronically controlling throwers in random patterns throughout the 16 wooded stations on their course. The emphasis for the day is for fun and safety! Both brand new and



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veteran shooters are encouraged to participate in the event.

Lewis scoring will be used to select winners of the different levels as well the top Woman's and Youth shooters. After the event we'll have a catered lunch and some great raffles for the waterfowl hunter and shooter alike. Get your friends and fellow hunting buddies together to dust off the shotguns and have a great time while supporting CT Conservation!

We are currently working on finalizing the caterer and final setup for the day, at our next CWA board meeting Aug 11th, so stay tuned for final details on the CWA website for event registration.

Fundraising Banquet



2021 Fundraising Banquet

Sunday, November 7

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Westbrook Elks Lodge in Westbrook, CT

Adults \$55

Youth (under 12) \$40

With the cancelation of this past spring's event, we reached out to the Westbrook Elks with possible dates before the opener to the second half of the waterfowl season. It just so happened that Sunday, November 7th was open and a perfect fit for the CWA. The dinner will be family style, presented at each table, consisting of Beef Tenderloin, Chicken Marsala, and Baked Stuff Shrimp. This is the main fundraiser for the CWA and has been postponed for the last two years.

We are looking forward to a great turn out for this event to help us boost our fundraising efforts and give everyone the chance to get together for some great comradery! We'll have some GREAT raffle items from companies such as Tanglefree and YETI as well as collectable decoys and prints.

You do not have to be a CWA member to attend the event! Please pass along the information to your friends, family, hunting buddies, and anyone you think would be interested in attending.

Tickets for the event as well as bucket raffle tickets can be purchased on the CWA website at the link below:

<http://www.ctwaterfowlers.org/2021-fundraising-banquet.html>



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CWA Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus Raffle



With the great success of our last online fundraiser, we are running another raffle for a Beretta 12 Gauge Semi Auto Shotgun before the upcoming waterfowl seasons!

- Tickets are only \$20 each
- Only 200 tickets will be sold!!
- All sales are on-line through the CWA website.
- Winner will be drawn after all the tickets are sold.
- [Buy tickets HERE](#)

**Shotgun supplied by
Sportsman's Outpost
<https://sportsmensoutpost.com/>**

2022 Junior Duck Stamp Competition



CWA will return to presenting at the 2021 CT Art Teachers Conference with regards to the Junior Duck Stamp contest! This past year we saw an increase in the number of student entries even with many schools partaking in remote learning during this last school year. This past year's winning entry will grace the CT State Duck Stamp which will be available January 2022. Considering the turn out this past year (even during a pandemic) the Duck Stamp Committee will again be looking to use the winning student artwork as the chosen State Conservation Stamp.

The Art Teacher's Annual Conference is our singular chance to showcase the contest and highlight the connection between art and conservation to every Art Teacher in the State of CT. I can't stress enough the need to educate and get our next generation into the outdoors and looking at the world around them! They are the driving force in the years ahead to protect our environment and many of the spaces we enjoy. With that being said, you can also help to



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spread the word about the Junior Duck Stamp contest to friends, family, students, and any teachers you know! The competition is open to any and all school age students in grades K through 12 in the state. It doesn't matter if the school is public, private, home schooling, or even extracurricular at a local art studio. The competition is broken down into four age groups so that even the youngest kindergarten student has a chance to win! For more information check out the JDS section of the CWA website and help get the word out!

***All entries will be due next march 2022.**

Wood Duck Boxes



CWA recently received an email from Jim and Noah Wistman of Sherman, CT who reached out for further information about the CT Waterfowl Association and the wood duck box program. Under the guidance of Biologist Pete Piccone, they have been maintaining boxes built by the CWA for over 12 years! Year after year they have noticed successful hatches of wood ducks, buffleheads and mergansers using the boxes built by the CWA during our annual box building day, usually held in March.



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I reached out to CT biologist Kelly Kubik, DEEP coordinator of the box building day, who mentioned it is still too early to know if the State guidelines for programs will change for 2022 or if we can plan the box building day for March 2022. He also mentioned that there are some boxes left from our last build that are being used by biologist and volunteers to replace broken and damaged boxes from previous installations. If you are out and about this season let us know if you come across boxes in disrepair.

The success of the program depends on the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the boxes from year to year. I also wanted to thank Kelly for sending some data with about the success rate of the boxes as well as some of the species using the boxes!



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Results

A total of 437 boxes were checked in CT this season at various location types (Table 1). Boxes were inspected at 156 unique sites and on average three boxes were checked per site.

Table 1. Statewide box check location types, 2020 - 2021.

Location Type	Number of Boxes Checked	Percentage
Other Area	39	8.9
State Forest (SF)	238	54.5
State Park (SP)	44	10.1
Wildlife Management Area (WMA)	116	26.5
Total	437	100.0

Overall duck use (n = 329) was 75.3%.

The percent of boxes that were successful has been at or above 50% statewide for the past four years (Figure 3).

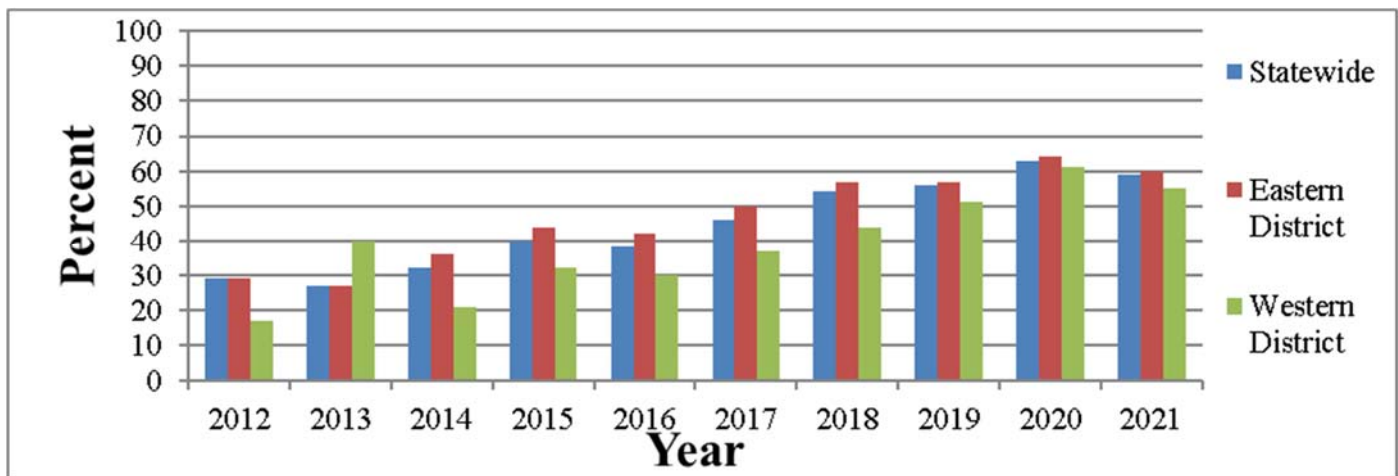


Figure 3. Percent of boxes that have been successful, 2012 – 2021.



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The percent of boxes that have had duck use and were successful has been above 70% for the past six years (Figure 4).

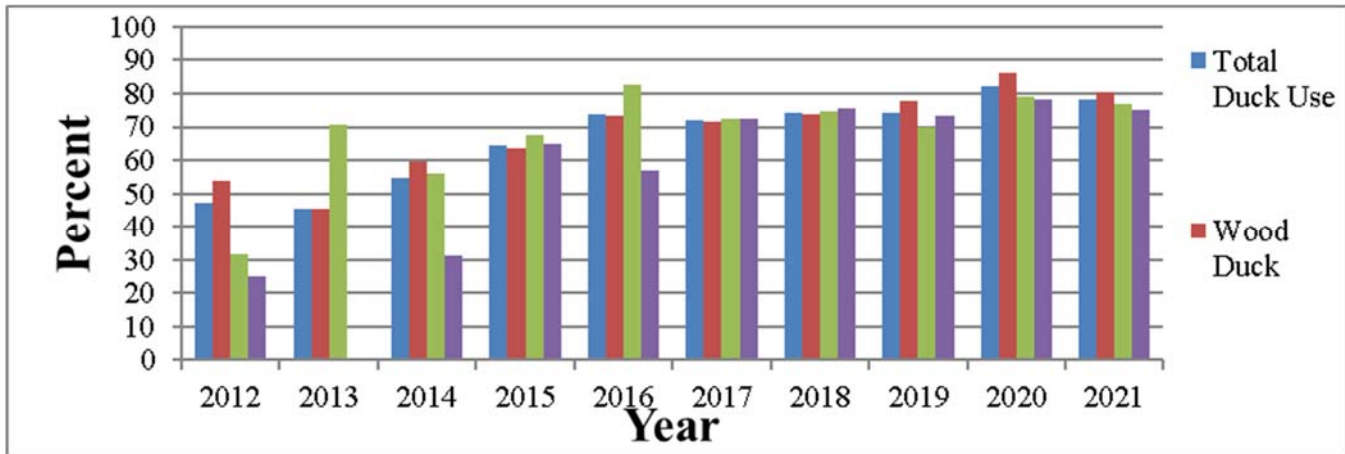


Figure 4. Percent of statewide boxes that have had duck use and were successful, 2012 – 2021.