

The Leicestershire Wildfowlers' Association

Chairman: A.W.Warner.
Newsletter Editor: E.Gaten
e-mail eric.gaten@talktalk.net
Newsletter February 2012



Working Parties at Priory Water.

Just a quick update on the way work parties run at the reserve and a plea for a bit of help.

Work Parties are held once a month on a Sunday morning. These Sundays are set according to other commitments, holidays and activities occurring on the reserve so there is no pattern to them, you need to check the diary dates in the newsletter or Pintail to find out when they are.

Generally we meet at the field centre at about 9.00 am for a cup of coffee and then we begin the jobs planned for the day. These vary according to the time of year but will often include coppicing and hedge laying, burning of brush, fencing, grass cutting and general maintenance work.

The level of effort and skills needed depend on the attendees and we can always find something for you to do. They are always a lot of fun and very enjoyable. It is often helpful if you have a few hand tools with you such as loppers, bow saws and secateurs.

We are normally done by 12.30 but there are no set times and if you need to be away before then it is not a problem. The team are very friendly and helpful and it is an ideal way for new members to get involved and meet new friends who can point you in the right direction for your chosen interest.

All those attending work parties go on the list for the evening duck flighting at the nearby Kirby Lakes complex. These are organised by the Wildfowling section and some excellent shooting can be had.

At present we are battling with the willows growing in our reed beds and over the next few work parties that is where our efforts will be focused. It is with this job that I am appealing for a few extra helpers to enable us to make an impact on these willows before the summer visiting birds arrive and operations must cease.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact me on 07919 276726 and I will give you any information I can.

Tim Goodlife Priory Water Manager.

Sunday February 19th.

Work Party at Priory Water 9.00 a.m. for 9.15. a.m. start.

Sunday March 18th.

Work Party at Priory Water 9.00 a.m. for 9.15 .a.m. start.

WOOD PIGEON SECTION

A full programme of pigeon shooting will be on offer at the February monthly meeting with shoots arranged for both Thursday and Saturday evenings with aprox.200 places available.the cost per shoot is £4

Council has requested that all LWA club members are required to return a signed Risk Assessment slip which states that they have read / understood the Woodpigeon Risk Assessment and Code of Conduct. This must be done prior to participating in any arranged LWA Woodpigeon shooting activities.

Any member who has not yet had a copy of the Woodpigeon Shooting Risk Assessment and returned this confirmation slip back to me, needs to do so as this is a requirement to attend organised shoots.

Copies of the Risk Assessment and Code of Conduct leaflet will be available at the February meeting. The return slip requires your shotgun certificate number / expiry date, your signature and date of completion to confirm that you have received and read the information and hold a current shotgun certificate.

Confirmation slips need to be returned back to me, so please complete and return promptly, until returned slips have been received you will be unable to participate in any L.W.A. Woodpigeon shooting activities.

As a reminder to all members, if you have put your name down on a list and are unable to attend then please contact the shoot captain so that your space can be re-allocated to a reserve member.

A lot of work and time has gone into arranging these shoots for the membership so please support .

How to Book onto a Roost Shoot.

Woodpigeon roost shooting takes place on Thursday and Saturday afternoons and is put out to the membership at monthly meetings. Although some shoots are arranged in January the bulk of the shooting takes place during the months of February and March.

There will be a list made available for each venue, which is managed by a shoot Captain with places limited depending on the size and number of woods that we are shooting in.

To get your name on to a shoot list, you do need to attend the monthly meetings when the shoots are put out to the membership. Shoot venues and details will be read out, after the guest speakers have finished their talks, the cost per shoot is £4.00 , please bring the right change if possible as this will save time.

When booking onto a shoot please ensure that you take the following details:

Map Reference

Date and Time of shoot , Shoot Captains telephone number,

Check if dogs are allowed or not.

The map reference refers to the Ordnance Survey map for the area that the shoot is to be held and the maps that you require for the shoots arranged during the roost shooting are as follows:

129 Nottingham & Loughborough. 130 Grantham & Surrounding Area.

140 Leicester & Coventry

141 Kettering, Corby & Surrounding Area

Please remember shoot places are limited, so if you need to cancel you must contact the shoot captain and give him enough time to re-allocate your spot.

It is important you arrive on time and book in with the shoot Captain, sign the list and listen to the rules and requirements for the evening shoot (given by either the shoot Captain or the Game Keeper). "Don't forget your membership card"

It would be advisable to carry a copy of your gun licence also.

At the end of the shoot you will need to return back to the meeting place, sign out with the shoot captain, so that he knows that you are back and give him the details, for recording purposes, of what you have shot.

If you have not already done so you will need to obtain, read and complete the wood pigeon Risk Assessment (available at the monthly meetings) and return the confirmation slip back to me. Until this slip has been received you will not be able to participate in the LWA pigeon shoots.

Dave Flavelle – Woodpigeon Section Head.

FOR SALE

Zabala Side by Side 3'' 20 bore

½ & ¼ chokes

Silver side plates

Attractive looking gun in excellent condition. £575.00

Contact Dave Flavelle

0116 2702075 or 07595825141

A reminder to all officers that I need annual returns from all sections by February 15th and any information about the AGM like nominations or resignations.

Harold Hall-- Pintail Editor.

POST FROM ACROSS THE POND

Fellow Wildfowlers of LWA, Greetings from the USofA:

I really thought I was going to convey some excellent hunt stories for our 2011 – 2012 Early and Late Seasons. But it was not to be!

Two days before the Early Season starting in October, I scouted my favourite location – an island in the northern section of Barnegat Bay. Honestly, I believed this was to be the Season of Seasons. Over a period of 2 hours, I counted a raft of 24 mallards, 17 Canada Geese, 71 Dabblers flying into the Thoroughfare part of the island and then a flock of approximately 50 teal barreling into the western side of the island, visions of a full bag limits -days on end!

Opening day- the best looking decoy set that was picture book perfect

Four geese floaters off to the right of the duck set. A mix of black ducks,

pintails and mallards including a stick mount black duck on the water's edge and 2 seagulls for confidence decoys. Now the wait for the watch to reach a half hour before sunrise. Yes, and we have to pull the decoys at sunset. Not like when Kevin Wilcox and I were flighting the Eden Estuary on the backside of the 18th fairway of St Andrews and watching the jets roar down the runway at Leuchars Air Base ... until 10:00PM with a hurricane coming in from the North Sea. If memory serves me, we took a few pinks as they turned the corner into the Estuary that night. Kind of neat to see fire shooting out the shotgun barrel!

So how was my opening day hunt? Would you believe I got skunked and have no idea where the birds disappeared to.

For the rest of the Early and Late Seasons, I only hunted 3 additional days and the bag only held 1 drake mallard. Long story why I didn't get out more. There were other waterfowlers that did worse than me ... they were skunked for the whole season. Overall, from Sandy Hook at New York City to the Delaware Bay the waterfowl season this year was the worst that many of us can remember. Late migration, that just happened to coincide when hunting was closed between the Early and Late Seasons. The birds moved though New Jersey to the more southern States and what we were left with were: mallards sitting on the docks of waterfront home owners and Canada Geese roosting in ponds and bay coves all a stone's throw next to shopping centers or people's houses. And when they went to feed it was to the golf courses, school athletic fields and community parks. Yes, there were a few waterfowlers that scored nicely because they had secret 'honeles' and would rather be tortured than disclose the locations

Needless to say the 2011 – 2012 Waterfowl Season is now just a memory and what a bad memory it was. BUT, will the 2012 – 2013 be a bonanza? I'm hoping!

Cheers to all Fellow LWA Members. Hope your peg selection was productive and you bag was plentiful!

John Corney, Honorary Member

Treasurer-Trustee

New Jersey Waterfowlers Assoc.

If any of you are due to have your shotgun licence renewed in the next few weeks the turnround is running at 9\10 weeks. I know this as my licence expires on Saturday 29 January and I sent my renewal application in on the 5th December. I rang them again with my concern about the situation and they have since rang me to arrange a visit for Monday 31st January. But this is something they can't guarantee So be warned.

Scribe VIII.