



THE

DUCK



CALL

NORTHWESTERN PA DUCK HUNTERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER – STAY INFORMED & GET INVOLVED!



Sharpen Your Shooting Skills at the Waterfowl Warmup

COREY WOLBERT
MARCH 2025

As waterfowl hunters, staying sharp in the offseason is key to success in the field. Join the NWPADHA for our Waterfowl Warmup – Winter Event at Critter's Path Sporting Clays in Waterford, PA! This 100-round sporting clays shoot is the perfect opportunity to test your skills, enjoy some friendly competition, and shake off the winter blues.

Event Details:

Date: March 30th, 2025

Location: Critter's Path Sporting Clays, 3191 Wheelertown Rd, Waterford, PA

Entry Fee: \$50

Course: 100 rounds – Bring enough ammo!

Extras: Raffles, games, a hot meal, and more

Raffle Spotlight: Win a Ceramic Cerakote Vehicle Coating!

One lucky winner will receive a FREE professional Ceramic Cerakote Coating for their vehicle, generously donated by Nick Eltz of Woody Deets in Guys Mills, PA. This high-quality coating enhances your vehicle's shine, provides long-lasting protection, and makes maintenance easier—all with a 2-year product warranty.

Raffle Tickets: \$5 each or (3) for \$10

Open to the Public: You do not need to be present to win

Purchase Tickets Online:

<https://paduck.org/waterfowl-warmup-2025>

Why You Should Attend: Whether you're a seasoned waterfowler or just looking for a great day of sporting clays, this event is for you. It's a fantastic way to connect with fellow hunters, hone your shooting skills, and support the Northwestern Pennsylvania Duck Hunters' Association's ongoing conservation and education initiatives. **Mark your calendar and get ready to break some clays! See you there!**

COREY WOLBERT
MARCH 2025

The Northwestern Pennsylvania Duck Hunters Association is thrilled to introduce our newly redesigned website, **paduck.org**. This platform has been crafted to better serve the duck hunting community in our region, offering a wealth of resources and information. This website will soon be replacing our old website, which will be decommissioned sometime in 2025. The website is the perfect place to receive all the latest vision and initiatives of your club. Including (but not limited to) the following:

Our Mission

Since our founding, we've been dedicated to giving duck hunters a voice, especially concerning duck blind permits at Presque Isle State Park. We collaborate closely with park and state authorities to ensure hunting regulations are fair and align with our members' needs. Guided by our motto—*"To preserve waterfowling and protect the privileges of duck hunters"*—we remain committed to safeguarding the tradition of waterfowl hunting, especially at Presque Isle State Park.

Website Features

- **Duck Blinds:** Access detailed information on duck blind regulations, closures, and a comprehensive list of blind owners and co-owners at Presque Isle State Park.
- **Education:** Discover resources aimed at educating hunters of all experience levels, ensuring responsible and informed hunting practices. Including future banding partnerships, decoy making, waterfowl identification practices, etc.

- **Host A Hero:** Learn about our initiatives to honor and support veterans through special hunting events and how you can get involved.
- **Wing Ding:** Get details on our annual Wing Ding Dinner and Gun Raffle, a key fundraiser that supports our conservation and outreach efforts. **This event will be returning with a new look for the 2025 season!**
- **Store:** Explore merchandise and gear that supports our association's mission and showcases your pride as a member. Coming Soon!
- **Meetings/News:** Stay updated with the latest news, meeting schedules, and important announcements relevant to our community.
- **Projects:** Find information on ongoing and upcoming projects, such as the Duck Box Project and the Presque Isle Cleanup, aimed at preserving and enhancing our local habitats.
- **Membership and Donations:** Learn how to become a member or contribute to our cause, helping us continue our work in conservation and advocacy. Memberships and donations can now be made digitally on our website and is encouraged.

We invite you to explore **paduck.org**, stay informed, and get involved as we continue to advocate for the rights and opportunities of duck hunters in this region.

IN THIS ISSUE

ENHANCING PRESQUE ISLE:
CEMENT PAD PROJECT
STRENGTHENS PUBLIC
ACCESS AND WATERFOWL
HUNTING

STEVE DUNSMORE
MARCH 2025

The **Northwestern Pennsylvania Duck Hunters Association**, in collaboration with **Presque Isle State Park**, is excited to announce a significant improvement project benefiting both hunters and park visitors. The park is leading efforts to install and finish the **cement pads** at the locations of the **three public hunting blinds** managed by the club. These pads will serve a **dual purpose**—providing a designated area for hunters during waterfowl season while offering a **beautified picnic and recreation space** for the public throughout the warmer months.

This project would not be possible without the generosity of **Ryan Hornyack** of **Elk Creek Concrete**, who has graciously agreed to **donate and will deliver the concrete** needed to complete the work. Ryan’s commitment to the outdoor community and conservation is evident in his support, and we encourage our members to return the favor by considering **Elk Creek Concrete** for their next project. Whether you need high-quality concrete for **residential, commercial, or outdoor projects**, Elk Creek Concrete is a trusted local provider. To learn more, visit cscerie.com.

These improvements mark another milestone in our club’s ongoing partnership with Presque Isle State Park. By investing in **accessible, well-maintained infrastructure**, we’re ensuring that future generations of hunters and outdoor enthusiasts can continue to enjoy this unique natural resource.

We extend our gratitude to **Presque Isle State Park, Ryan Hornyack, and all those involved in making this project a reality**. Stay tuned for updates as work progresses in early May, and be sure to visit the improved hunting and picnic areas once the project is complete!



PICTURE CAPTION: Current Location of Public Bind 31. The new cement pads will improve the location and the means on how these blinds are secured when placed.



Preserving Presque
Isle: NWPA Duck
Hunters Continue
Commitment to
Conservation

SHAWN FEIOCK
MARCH 2025

The **Northwestern Pennsylvania Duck Hunters Association** remains dedicated to preserving and protecting **Presque Isle State Park**, and this year, our role in the **annual park-wide cleanup** is more important than ever.

Last year we took the initiative to organize an **additional cleanup effort** ahead of the park-wide event. With the **solar eclipse** set to bring thousands of first-time visitors to Presque Isle, owing to the eclipse, we saw an opportunity to give back and ensure the park looked its best. Volunteers from all backgrounds—including hunters, non-hunters, students, and community members—came together to **clear litter from the beaches and bayside areas**, removing debris left behind or washed ashore.

Presque Isle is more than just a hunting ground—it’s a vital habitat for waterfowl and wildlife, as well as a cherished natural destination for locals and tourists alike.

Join Us for This Year’s Cleanup!

The **Annual Presque Isle State Park Cleanup** is scheduled for **April 26, 2025**, and our club will once again **partner with park officials** to assist in this important effort. More details will be shared soon, but we encourage all members and supporters to mark their calendars and plan to participate.

By working together, we can help maintain the beauty of **Presque Isle** for both wildlife and future generations of outdoor enthusiasts. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved!



Learn to Carve Your Own Decoys

ERIC KRAUS
MARCH 2025

Interested in carving your own decoys? Our club now hosts periodic **decoy carving demonstrations!**

These events typically take place during one of our **monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in the basement of Syd’s Place**. Stay connected with us on **Facebook and Instagram** for updates on our next carving session, where you’ll learn how to craft your own dekes from foam, wood, and cork.

Our demonstrations are led by **resident artist Marty Mokwa**, who will guide you through the carving process.

Can’t make it to an event? **Decoy carving kits are available to take home!** Stay tuned for our next announcement on how to get yours. Don’t miss this opportunity to **sharpen your skills and connect with fellow decoy carvers!**



SUMMER 2024 – DUCK BOX PROJECT UPDATE

We are excited to announce the successful completion of the Wood Duck Box project, a months-long effort led by the Northwestern Pennsylvania Duck Hunters Association to support waterfowl conservation at Presque Isle State Park. This project wouldn't have been possible without the hard work, dedication, and generosity of our members and community.

The project began with Joel Stone and Daniel Snyder, who gathered materials and took on the construction of the wood duck boxes. While they handled the building, I had the pleasure of painting the artwork on each box. Special thanks go out to Corey Wolbert, who worked alongside me to secure donations by knocking on doors and rallying community support. We are also grateful to members like Art Curtze for donating PVC pipes to create the predator guards, as well as Shawn Lawrey for collecting steel generously donated by the Pymatuning Chapter of Delta Waterfowl. A heartfelt thanks to Shannon Christie, president of that chapter, for making this possible—your contribution was invaluable.

The final phase of the project was completed with the help of a fantastic group of volunteers. Special recognition goes to our president, Shawn Feiock, who supported this initiative from the start and helped with installation efforts. He was joined by Eric Kraus, Steve Dunsmore, Keith Edwards, and a particularly inspiring young volunteer, 15-year-old Konner Kraus, whose hard work and passion for waterfowl conservation were evident throughout the project. It’s truly heartening to see someone so young take pride in preserving our natural environment.

Thank you to everyone involved—your efforts have made a lasting impact, and the new wood duck boxes look fantastic!

-Marty Mowka (Board Member)



PICTURE CAPTION: Photo shows Marty Mokwa, board member, along with fellow board members and volunteers after successfully placing one of the new duck boxes placed at Presque Isle State Park.

KEYWORD

WING DING CHANGES NECESSARY

COREY WOLBERT
MARCH 2025

After careful consideration, the **Northwestern Pennsylvania Duck Hunters Association** is announcing some important changes to our **annual Wing Ding fundraiser**.

Rising costs and challenges with our former venue, Waldameer Park, have prompted us to move the event to a new location, as well as adjust the timing to make it more accessible and enjoyable for everyone. Over the years, **attendance at Wing Ding** has gradually decreased, and despite our non-profit status, Waldameer Park continued to charge us at the same rates as the general public.

Additionally, new rules and the increasing cost to rent the space made it difficult to continue hosting the event there. As a result, we've decided that a change in venue was necessary to ensure the continued success and growth of the event.

New Venue: Shriners Club in Erie
We're excited to announce that the **2025 Wing Ding** will be held at the **Shriners Club** in Erie, located at **6245 West Ridge Road, Erie, PA**. This new location allows us to **downsize** the event to meet our current needs while maintaining the **fun atmosphere** everyone looks forward to—complete with **exciting games, amazing prizes**, and of course, great company!

New Date: September 2025
In another exciting change, the **Wing Ding will be moved to September**, aligning with the same date as the duck blind lottery selection. This will allow us to combine two major events and make the day even more memorable for everyone involved. The new venue offers a more intimate setting, which means we can focus on providing the experience our guests expect—without compromising on fun or quality. We're excited about the future of Wing Ding and hope you'll join us for what promises to be a fantastic event! Stay tuned for more details, and we look forward to seeing you at the Shriners Club in September!

