



words on  
**waterfowl**

Newsletter of the Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Society and the International Wild Waterfowl Association

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## friends of sylvan heights

**Nancy Winslow**  
President, FOSH



The Visitor Center lights up for *Moonlight in the Park*

The Friends of Sylvan Heights (FOSH) are committed to “Raising funds, awareness and community support for Sylvan Heights “. Sometimes we’re planning fundraising events, like our annual Chili Cook-off and Moonlight in the Park, other times we’re selling seed sticks in the Landing Zone, working in the gift shop or pulling weeds on the grounds, and all the time, we’re spreading the word about our community treasure Sylvan Heights Bird Park.

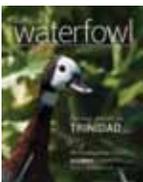
We’re excited to share information about our new event sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorship levels ranging from \$250 - \$2500 include company signage for up to eight events for a full year. Event sponsorship information can be found on the Park website, [www.shwpark.com](http://www.shwpark.com).

A beautiful star-lit night set the stage for this year’s 4th annual Chili Cook-Off on March 16. The Cook-off was so much fun

and a successful project for FOSH. Participants set up their tables just outside the Landing Zone, a perfect location for an evening of friendly competition, great music and delicious chili. Plans are already being made for next year’s cook-off, March 15, 2014.

**Moonlight in the Park:** This annual dinner and auction will be held November 16th. The event grows every year, as do the unique items donated to our auction. Be sure to check the website for the latest online bidding information and early ticket reservations. If you have an item you’d like to donate to the auction, e-mail [ali@shwpark.com](mailto:ali@shwpark.com) or call 252.826.3186.

Please consider joining the Friend of Sylvan Heights. We continue to add friends who are interested in volunteering at the Park and helping with fundraising events, and we’d love to add YOU!



**ON THE COVER:** A White-faced Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) is one of two species that Sylvan Heights is helping to restore on the island of Trinidad.

Photography and design by Katie Gipple Lubbock



## the director's report

Sylvan Heights Bird Park is just beginning its 7th year of operation. While each year has been exciting and challenging at the same time, I feel that this year Sylvan Heights will excel in many of the goals we set out to achieve. The opening of the Landing Zone has given us a new perspective and a special interaction with everyone that enters the exhibit. The park has added many fascinating new birds but, at the same time, we have not diverted from our goals of giving both our growing number of members and our new visitors a beautiful place to visit.

In this report, I'd like to introduce the park's dedicated staff. In order for Sylvan Heights to run as smoothly as possible, it is made up of various departments, which are overseen by the Park's operational manager Ali Lubbock and myself. The park and the birds within are managed by Brad Hazelton and his Assistant Curator Dustin Foote. The Sylvan Heights Avian Breeding Center's Curator is Nick Hill, with Nathan Bawtinheimer as his Assistant Curator.

The Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Society is headed by Brent Lubbock and the Zoo Society. Brent also runs the Marketing department. Our Education department is run by Lee Peoples. Jo Ann Josey not only runs our gift shop but also keeps up with our day to day finances. There are also other hard working staff that help in all those departments.

We rely heavily on our volunteers, lead by Claudia Harrell. We have a very important volunteer group called FOSH (Friends of

Sylvan Heights) that is chaired by Nancy Winslow. Many of the people above wear many hats and help in the various departments if needed.

I am personally excited that Sylvan Heights is now the home of the International Wild Waterfowl Association, an organization that I have been very involved with for 45 years. Sylvan Heights members will now also be members of IWWA. As a member of both organizations, you will be able to attend the annual IWWA meeting, which is held in different venues each year; two years in the U.S. and the third year in Europe. These meetings are not only a lot of fun, but educational and a good way of making new friends. As an IWWA member, you now have the opportunity of visiting collections and zoological parks that otherwise you might not have been able to see, and this year is no exception.

I want to recognize Murphy-Brown, LLC who has sponsored the month of June at the park. Thanks to their generous contribution, all Murphy-Brown employees and their families can get free entry into the park during the month of June. We are so grateful for the support of Murphy-Brown, LLC, our corporate sponsors and our members.

*Mike Lubbock*  
**Executive Director**  
Sylvan Heights Bird Park

# waterfowl conservation in TRINIDAD

by Mike Lubbock



Four years ago, the U.S. Embassy in Trinidad requested our help in restoring the populations of White-faced Whistling Ducks and Bahama Pintail. Through hunting and habitat loss, these birds are facing near-extinction on the island.

The Embassy asked that we work with the Pointe-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust in South Trinidad, and create a plan to help save these birds. The Pointe-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust, headed by Molly Gaskin and Karilyn Shephard, was founded in 1966. They are completely dedicated to the conservation of Trinidad's wild waterfowl. Through breeding and release programs, they have helped boost the populations of several of Trinidad's native species. I have known Molly for more than 30 years, and this project was a wonderful opportunity to support the goals and mission of both Sylvan Heights and the Pointe-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust.

In 2012, we began the complex process of exporting 12 White-faced Whistling Ducks (pictured on the cover of this issue) and 12 Bahama Pintail (pictured left) from North Carolina to Trinidad. All of these birds to be exported were hatched and hand-reared at the Sylvan Heights Avian Breeding Center earlier in the year.

After many months of planning, stacks of paperwork, and several veterinary examinations, all 24 birds were given a clean bill of health and the green light to go to Trinidad. I would accompany the birds to the Trust to oversee their arrival, and to advise Molly and Karilyn on the best practices for breeding and rearing these species.

On December 7th, 2012, the birds and I arrived in Port of Spain, Trinidad and were met by Molly and Karilyn from the Point-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust. We retrieved the birds from airport customs, and they were finally on the last leg of their journey. Using the last light of the evening, we released the birds into their temporary quarantine aviaries at the Trust. We were so relieved to see the birds come out of their shipping crates looking healthy and energetic!

The next morning, I got up at first light to check on the ducks. Every one of them looked strong and healthy, and were beginning to settle in to their new home. After all of our hard work, it was so satisfying to finally see these birds here in Trinidad. Later that day, I discussed aspects of breeding these birds with Molly and



Top: A Wattled Jacana at the Point-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust. Above: Mike Lubbock, Molly Gaskin and Karilyn Shephard discuss the husbandry of White-faced Whistling Ducks and Bahama Pintails at Pointe-a-Pierre.

Karilyn, such as ideal nest boxes, and which of their aviaries would best suit each species. We will continue to advise the staff at the Trust and provide any support necessary to ensure they are able to breed, rear, and eventually release the offspring of these 24 birds into Trinidad's wetlands.

Projects like this are why we do what we do at Sylvan Heights. When our birds can directly contribute to the health of a wild population, our mission is accomplished. In addition, the Wildfowl Trust will use our birds to educate the people of Trinidad about the critical importance of waterfowl and wetland conservation – much like we do here in North Carolina at Sylvan Heights Bird Park.

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks at the Point-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust in Trinidad.





# intern spotlight:

## James Loveridge

Hertfordshire, United Kingdom

A big part of my childhood, I stayed with my grandparents in the countryside during the summer holidays, where my grandfather kept birds. He had a small collection of chickens, peacocks, macaws or parrots. As part of my 'chores', I would help Granddad look after those birds. I suppose that's where my interest in birds came from. Coming to Sylvan Heights, certainly has improved my bird knowledge, even though I still have trouble remembering the names and the identification of these birds! I find that with the diverse range of species when it comes to birds to be quite fascinating, such as with the different types of bills and sizes.

I had worked here previously in the summer of 2009 as a Breeding Centre intern which had been a fun-filled 3 months where I learnt how to care for birds (especially doing the Specials run – this is where I learnt more about parrots with their care and diet). I had my eyes truly opened to the amazing collection of birds here at Sylvan Heights. Prior to that I had heard about Sylvan Heights from my cousin Phil and his wife Ellie (Mike Lubbock's niece is Ellie). Fast forward a few years later, I found myself with an opportunity in the schedule to come back to Sylvan Heights again for 2 months but in a different role. I jumped at the chance then.

During my internship this time at Sylvan Heights, I have been assisting Brent Lubbock in the Marketing department with the website optimisation, alongside with the social media on the Internet such as Facebook, Twitter and implementing a weekly blog designed to showcase some attention at a particular species that is

currently on display in the park. The list is currently over 250 different species, so I don't think this blog will run out of content any time soon! I also helped Brent with various other pieces of work such as the IWWA website redesign, which is still ongoing in collaboration with Katie Gipple Lubbock. I have also compiled a list of the species that are in the Landing Zone. This particular page on the website I'm quite proud of because it informs the visitors (ahead of time) what is currently in the Landing Zone. Other than that, I provided some help for the lovely ladies that work in the building with moving heavy things around.

I quite like the Landing Zone, having some interaction with the parakeets is quite an intriguing experience in my own view. Also seeing a flock of Budgerigars flying back and forth over your head occasionally is quite immersive especially with my deafness. My hearing aids amplify the sounds that I am able to hear – I can hear some of the birds' sounds but there are exceptions like the whooping swans, where I will turn my aids off when I walk past them as the noise can be quite loud for my own taste.

With the birds and the people at the park, they do add a lot to each day, and every day is completely different from the day previously. Having a White-faced Whistling Duck perching on your hand is certainly unheard of and something that I thought I would never get to experience. Seeing not one but two rehabilitated Loons being released back into the wild was also a bonus, since it is always very nice to see birds returning to their natural habitat.

# the curator's report

It is nice to be able to say that the Landing Zone is finally opened and seems to be a huge success. We were a long time getting to this point and it wouldn't have been possible without the help of several donors, numerous volunteers and our great staff here at Sylvan Heights.

Completion of the Landing Zone allowed me and the staff to finish off several smaller jobs that have been dragging on around the park, as well as focus on the impending breeding season. Every new breeding season is an opportunity to start fresh and at that one point in time every species that you desire to breed is still a possibility for the coming year. As I write this letter, it would seem that this year is getting off to a very good start. We have a lot of ducks, geese, swans and shore birds laying around the park and we are very hopeful for the flamingos to have a good year. Be sure to come out to the park and follow the progress with us.

Before the doors were even officially opened on the Landing Zone people were already asking me what was next. That is a good

question but it is not very easy to answer. Mike and I have a list of exhibits that would take a lifetime to build if we had the resources. It is probably a good thing that our financial situation keeps us grounded in reality. Most of the time, it is necessary for us to locate a donor before we are able to start construction on another exhibit, and even then the exhibit that we want to build has to align with what the donor wants to fund. If a donor wants to give us \$10,000.00 to build a new 20 bird ostrich enclosure we are probably going to try to steer him in a different direction since neither Mike or I have a great desire to work with 20 ostrich. We have already written a grant to build a new Bateleur eagle exhibit with an attached walkthrough aviary. Other exhibits that would be nice to see in the future include a large raptor exhibit, a Red breasted goose aviary, an African finch aviary, an air conditioned eider exhibit, an aldabra tortoise exhibit and an alligator exhibit with underwater viewing (to name just a few). I cannot tell you which one will be next, but when the right person or company comes along we will be off and running.

*Brad Hazelton*  
**General Curator**

Sylvan Heights Bird Park



American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) in The Landing Zone



# international wild waterfowl association



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This is the first combined newsletter since forming the alliance between Sylvan Heights and the International Wild Waterfowl Association. I hope that you find the newsletter interesting, informative and educational. This IWWA section includes an overview of the 2012 Conference in England and list of the 2012 award recipients.

Also included is information about the upcoming conference in October. This year Paul Dickson will be hosting us at his Pinola Preserve. Paul's collection is a must see and an opportunity that you should not miss. We will also be visiting Caldwell Zoo and the Dallas World Aquarium. Both of these places are indeed worth a visit. I have been to the Dallas World Aquarium before and I am anxiously looking forward to a repeat visit. Additionally, there will be two speaker sessions providing interesting and valuable information.

If you are member of Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Society please remember that you are also a member of IWWA. The IWWA encourages and welcomes everyone to attend our annual conference. These conferences are an opportunity to meet people that share your bird interests, see excellent collections and support the research and educational goals of the IWWA. As most of you

know, we hold a raffle and auction. This is our best fund raising opportunity to raise money for our domestic and international conservation efforts. Your contribution to its success is greatly appreciated.

Our past funding support has allowed us to provide money for White Headed Duck habitat preservation in Spain, Tule Goose Breeding Grounds Protection, White-Winged Wood Duck captive breeding program support, Nene O Molak'I by providing predator protection to enhance breeding success, Torrent Duck Project in Soth America and Orinoco Goose Nest Box Project to name a few. Last year the IWWA provided a grant to help support the study of the Effect of the Net Trophic Structure on Botulism in Aquatic Birds in Wetlands in the State of Guanajuato, Mexico.

You will be receiving a separate mailing with conference registration information sometime this summer. We hope to see you at the conference.

On a sad note, we lost some great friends and supporters of IWWA this past year. Those that I know of are Wick Comer, Jane Dawson, Lynn Hall, Forest Lee and Raymond Sawyer. I feel privileged to have known these people and have fond memories of enjoying conferences with them. We send our condolences to their families and friends.

*Arnold Schouten*  
**President**

International Wild Waterfowl Association

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BELOW: 2012 IWWA  
conference attendees

# 2013 IWWA CONFERENCE ITINERARY

*Group will fly to Shreveport, Louisiana and stay at Sam's Town Casino.*

## **Wednesday October 30** **Arrival in Shreveport, LA**

1:00PM - Board Meeting  
5:00PM - Registration  
6:00PM - Happy Hour - Cash Bar

## **Thursday October 31** **Visit Pinola Preserve/Paul Dickson**

8:30AM - Bus leaves hotel  
12:00PM - Lunch  
5:00PM - Bus returns to hotel  
6:30PM - Group dinner

## **Friday November 1** **Speaker Program & Caldwell Zoo**

9:00-11:00AM - Speaker Program  
11:30AM - Bus leaves hotel

Lunch at Caldwell Zoo  
Bus leaves for Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dallas  
Dinner on own in area

## **Saturday November 2** **Dallas World Aquarium & Speaker Program**

9:00AM - Dallas World Aquarium  
12:00PM - Lunch  
1:00-3:00PM - Speaker Program  
Dinner at hotel - Auction to follow

## **Sunday November 3** **Fort Worth Zoo, Awards & Banquet**

10:00AM - Bus leaves hotel  
Lunch on own at zoo  
3:00PM - Bus returns to hotel  
6:30PM - Awards Banquet at hotel

visit [www.wildwaterfowl.org](http://www.wildwaterfowl.org) to register.





# IWWA CONVENTION 2 0 1 2



U N I T E D K I N G D O M

BY ANNIE LEMENAGER

The 2012 Convention in England was a treat to be a part of. Mark Rubery, Paul Hales along with Will and Libby Harrison put together a marvelous 5 days of great birds, food, lodging, experiences, and above all – fantastic weather. I mean, really fantastic. One afternoon of rain in the UK in October? Remarkable.

Wyboston Lakes in Bedford was our first meeting spot and reunions and good cheer were the order of the evening. The next morning we arrived at Arnold and Daphne Zwetsloot's place called Kazarka. The grounds were immaculate, the ponds were full of waterfowl and the tour included a "ringing" (banding) demonstration and inoculation of wild waterfowl and a real live demonstration of the punt gun. That afternoon we traveled to Tally Ho – the home of Paul and Veronica Zwetsloot. The collections there were fantastic, as was the lunch. The hospitality of the Zwetsloots is much appreciated.

Thursday morning the bus navigated the winding roads and driveway to Sir Christopher Marler's home and ranch. Estate would be more like it. The animals and birds and museum are exquisite and Sir Christopher is the most enthusiastic tour guide/historian/cattle expert/pelican owner on the planet. It was on to Crewe Hall that afternoon for the board meeting and trip into Chester for shopping and touring for the non-board members.

"Hillside", Mark Rubery's home, complete with waterfalls, gardens, ponds and great birds was the first stop on Friday morning. Perhaps the most unique attraction at Mark's place was the guinea pig collection. Hundreds of the top prize winning guinea pigs in the UK (possibly all of Europe) were all on display in pristine cubbies. Truly a sight.

A trip to the UK would not be complete without afternoon tea and the place to go for that would be the home of Will and Libby Harrison. Their farm is called Pym's house and if you Google earth the place, you will get a glimpse of the gorgeous landscape and surrounding country side. Their home is so welcoming and warm and a lot of fun. That evening Crewe Hall morphed into IWWA Auction mode and approximately \$3,200 was raised to support projects such as the white winged wood duck breeding at Sylvan Heights, and internships for young aviculturists and scientists.

The main attraction and sponsor of the convention this year, based on the mug, mouse pad and other goodies that I am using right now, was Blackbrook Zoological Park. Mark had handed us all an essay on the history of Hillside and Blackbrook which was a fascinating read. Seeing the Park in person was great. It is expansive and has recovered from the global recession that has impacted all areas of wildlife management and facilities. Thank you to Mark for being such a wonderful host. After lunch, Roger Cattermole gave a slide presentation on his life's work with African pygmy geese.

The final day of the conference took us out to parts of Northwest England with stops at wetlands and sanctuaries and a great lunch at a pub called the Boat House. The first stop, where the annual convention group shot (page 9) was taken, was on habitat restored

by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. It was acres of wetlands and trails and an example of reclaiming territory for wildlife. After lunch the ride through Liverpool inspired thoughts of the Beatles and the destination was Martin Mere, The Wildfowl and Wetland Trust property that is host to thousands of birds. The noise was incredible and the sights just breathtaking. And migration had just started!

The IWWA convention is one of the most enjoyable experiences I have every year. The people, the collections, the education, the fun and the camaraderie are very special. Every year is different and unique. To Paul Hales, Mark Rubery, Will and Libby Harrison, the Zwetsloots, Christopher Marler: Thanks for a fantastic time. Well done. Tally Ho.

*IWWA photos courtesy Tim Baird, Debbie Schouten, Maynard Axelson, and Annie Lemenager*

## 2012 IWWA AWARDS

Arnold Schouten inducted into the **IWWA Hall of Fame**. The induction was down by Lynn Dye and Maynard Axelson with a very amusing roast, some early pictures of Arnold supplied by Debbie Schouten.

Arnold and Daphne Zwetsloot were awarded the **Conservation Award** for their outstanding banding/ringing of thousands of waterfowl on their gravel pits.

Ian Gereg was given the **Southwick Memorial Award** for helping to establish some species that are rare in captivity through breeding.

Jacob Kramer was given the **McQuade Memorial Award** for his outstanding breeding success in waterfowl in under five years.

The **Blackbook Award** was given to Ruth Stewart for all her many years of dedication that she has given to Arnold and Daphne Zwetsloot that made their collection so successful for so long.



# avian life strategies: precocial vs. altricial

Sylvan Heights Bird Park is home to many species representing two avian life strategies: precocial hatchers and altricial hatchers. But what exactly does that mean?

## ALTRICIAL .....

The hornbills at Sylvan Heights are an example of an altricial species, meaning that the parents must continue to feed, warm, and protect the chick for an extended period of time. Because of the demand this places on the parent, most hornbills only lay up to three eggs, and only raise one chick. Many altricial species are asynchronous incubators, meaning that they start incubating after the first egg is laid. By the time the last egg is laid, the first chick has been incubated for almost a week. Often the first chick that hatches is the only chick that survives due to the extra head start. Altricial chicks are less developed at hatching. The incubation period for most altricial chicks is much shorter than precocial chicks. Because altricial chicks are helpless at hatching, they must remain in the nest until they are able to fly and feed themselves.

The Wreathed Hornbill is an altricial species; the parents must care for the chicks in the nest until they can feed themselves.



## ..... PRECOICIAL

At the opposite end of the spectrum are precocial hatching. Precocial chicks are often able to fly, feed, and escape predators only hours after hatching. Because they are so developed at hatch, the incubation period for many precocial species is long. The ducks, geese, and swans at Sylvan Heights are all precocial hatching. Young waterfowl leave the nest soon after hatching and are able to feed themselves, but they do stay with the parent for protection. As with most species that leave the nest, waterfowl are synchronous hatching, meaning that they don't start incubating until the last egg is laid. This way all the chicks hatch out at the same time, and can leave the nest with the parents.

by **Dustin Foote**  
**Aviculturist**  
Sylvan Heights Bird Park

Waterfowl are precocial species. Ducklings are well-developed upon hatching and can feed themselves.



# education perspective

by Lee Peoples  
Education Coordinator

Spring time has been busy for Sylvan Heights' education programs. Students experiment with eggs and feathers, engage in hands on interactions with waterfowl, and conduct several types of water tests and identify benthic macroinvertebrates to assess the water quality of wetlands. Since February, over 40 schools have visited and over 30 schools have participated in education programs; and many more are scheduled. The most requested education programs are our Waterfowl and Friends, and Wetland Ecology and Biology for 5th through 12th grade. College level courses offered have included Introduction to Ornithology and Wetland Ecology.

Duke Energy recently donated \$25,000, to sponsor education programs for kindergarten through twelfth grade students, avian husbandry internships and science events for the general public such as Earth Day, Migratory Bird Day, and Endangered Species Day. We are especially grateful to Duke Energy for their generous support, enabling Sylvan Heights to reach a much broader audience. Sylvan Heights also thanks Jim Bass, our board member and treasurer, for his diligence in pursuing this grant and Tanya Evans, Duke Energy District Manager, for her enthusiasm and advocacy of Sylvan Heights' mission of conservation education.

Sylvan Heights' Landing Zone has proven to be extraordinarily beneficial in broadening the perspectives of visiting school groups. Fear transforms into amazement as students experience feeding a small budgie from a handheld seed stick. In fact we have noticed many returning with their families within weeks to feed the birds again.



◀ A young student collects specimens in the Sylvan Heights wetlands

## 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **WATERFOWL REUNION**

**June 15th**

Members can meet some of the park's birds up close.

### **TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE**

**September 24th - 29th**

Get kids outdoors! 1/2 price children's park admission.

### **IWWA CONVENTION**

**Oct. 30th - Nov. 3rd**

Tour aviculture facilities in Louisiana and Texas. See page 8 for details.

### **TRICK OR TWEET**

**October 31st**

Trick-or-treat with the birds at Sylvan Heights!

### **MOONLIGHT IN THE PARK**

**November 16th**

Enjoy dinner and a live auction - it all supports Sylvan Heights Bird Park!

### **12 BIRDS OF CHRISTMAS**

**December 1st - 31st**

Can you find all 12 birds? Try our holiday themed game.

Please contact us at 252-826-3186 or [info@shwpark.com](mailto:info@shwpark.com) for more information.

# species spotlight:

## Pink-eared Duck

(*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*)

Pink-eared ducks are named for the rosy patch of feathers near their ears. They are native to inland Australia, lakes and ponds and are really seen near the north, South Queensland, New South Wales and parts of Victoria. They breed well in the rainy season and are not rare in the wild. So when Mike Lubbock first collected eggs for this species, he waited until the rainy season. Pink-eared ducks are very rare in captivity in America, with only a handful kept in collections due to the ban on exporting and importing of all Australian wildlife.

The Pink-eared ducks at Sylvan Heights started laying eggs in February in a log box over the water. The female only laid 3 eggs, and we chose to let her incubate the clutch, rather than artificially incubating them. Just before the eggs hatched, we removed them from the nest and replaced them with 3 Sharp-winged Teal eggs. The Pink-eared duck parents dutifully hatched and raised the Sharp-winged Teal ducklings. Meanwhile, we hatched the Pink Eared eggs and raised them successfully in the Breeding Center Duckeries. We hope that this is the first of many Pink Ears hatched and raised so more people can enjoy this fascinating duck in collections around the country.

Pinola Preserve, an aviculture facility in Louisiana, USA has hatched pink-eared ducks and also a successful hatch of White Winged Wood Duck that were on loan from Sylvan Heights Waterfowl. They have returned the young to Sylvan Heights Waterfowl. They anticipate breeding more White Winged Wood Duck this year.

by **Nick Hill, Curator**

Sylvan Heights Breeding Center

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

*Sylvan Heights Bird Park gratefully acknowledges our donors of \$500 or more since November 5, 2012 through June 1, 2013.*

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*a message from*

# the board of directors

Don Butler, Chair

**Sylvan Heights Waterfowl**  
Board of Directors



This is my first update from the Board since accepting the position of Chairman but I plan to provide updates in future newsletters. Allow me to first introduce myself. I have been an avid aviculturist for more than thirty years and have known and been friends with Mike, Ali and Brent Lubbock for most of that time. I live in Clinton, N.C. with my wife Ann who is also an avid bird lover. I was humbled when I was asked to join the Sylvan Heights Board of Directors in 2010 and again last year when I was appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors. I believe that Sylvan Heights is one of the most important places and ideas in the world as it relates to promoting waterfowl conservation globally, training the next generation of waterfowl professionals

and providing a place where the public can see and learn about the magnificent world of waterfowl and other birds. There is literally no other place like it in the world. I am honored to be a part of it and I am glad that you are too. Your membership and ongoing support for Sylvan Heights is critically important to the amazing work that goes on there.

A number of exciting things have happened since you received the last edition of the Newsletter. Perhaps the most significant development over the past year is the strategic alliance which has been formed between Sylvan Heights and the International Wild Waterfowl Association. The officers and boards of directors for both organizations have agreed to merge several of the activities of the two organizations for the sake of efficiency and cost savings. This strategic alliance will allow both Sylvan Heights and IWWA to continue with the important work they have been doing, lower total overhead cost and strengthen our ability to further promote waterfowl conservation in the U.S. and around the world. It also strengthens our ability to provide important educational opportunities for young people with an interest in birds as well as the public. This alliance will also serve to help ensure our sustainability into the future.

It is an exciting time to be a part of Sylvan Heights and IWWA and I am extremely optimistic about what lies ahead. I ask for your continued financial support through memberships, donations and introducing new people to this wonderful venue. I encourage you to consider increasing your membership level, purchase membership for friends and relatives as a very special gift and to bring new people with you when you visit the park. As you know, there is always something new to see and learn at Sylvan Heights.

**Don Butler**  
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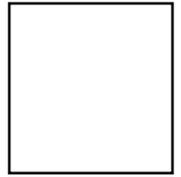
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*(Please send to Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Society • PO Drawer 368 • Scotland Neck, NC 27874) Thank you!*



## membership **matters!**

Your support helped Sylvan Heights build **The Landing Zone**, giving countless visitors a memorable connection with birds.

Thank you.