

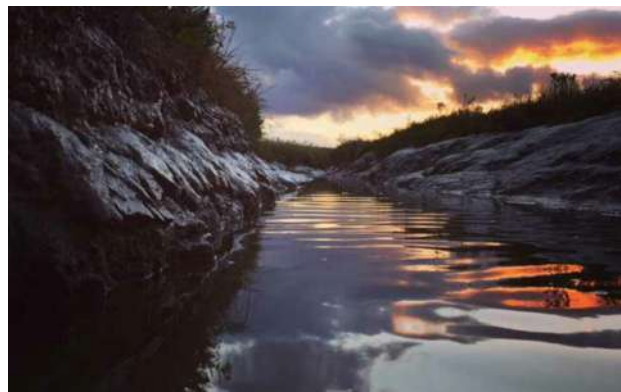
THE FENLAND WILDFOWLERS' ASSOCIATION

and what it offers to members: www.fenlandwa.org.uk



COASTAL WILDFOWLING.

The FWA leases all of the foreshore between the Rivers Nene and Great Ouse on the coast of the Wash from the Crown Estate (9 miles of salt marsh). Members can shoot here during the wildfowling season which runs from 1st September to 20th February. At peak times up to 35,000 pinkfooted geese roost on the Wash and as the western section of our marsh is in Lincolnshire we can offer Sunday shooting in that area of the foreshore. Day tickets are available for member's guests on most areas.



FRESH MARSH SHOOTING.

We own 132 acres of land at seven different sites on the Ouse Washes at Sutton Gault, Mepal, Little Downham and Welney. At an eighth site, Salter's Lode, we own 140 acres of freehold land and sporting rights in partnership with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust of which 100 acres are shot by our members.

Flights on inland washes are by day permit. There is a small booking fee and an on-line booking system is in place. Day tickets are also available for members' guests.



GAME SHOOTING.

Within the Association there is a "walk and stand" syndicate, which shoots over about 1000 acres of farmland next to the Wash at Terrington. Bags are not large as this is a DIY shoot with limited cover, but it forms an enjoyable introduction to formal style shooting for members. A limited number of individual guest days are available at a very reasonable rate to members who do not wish to subscribe to the syndicate for the full season.

OTHER SHOOTING

The FWA exists to provide shooting at a reasonable cost for its members, and we are always looking for new shooting opportunities whether by land purchase, leasing, or exchanges with other clubs. From the 26/27 season FWA members will have access to a further 2 miles of foreshore (via Gedney Drove End & District Wildfowlers Association) between the Nene River and the RAF Holbeach bombing range.



SOCIAL PROGRAMME

We hold a very well attended Annual General Meeting during March, which all members are encouraged to attend, meet the Committee and help decide upon the many issues that arise when running a wildfowling club. We take the FWA show stand to the Cambridge, East Anglian and Sandringham Country fairs. This provides an opportunity to meet with current and potential members and the general public, to promote the FWA and wildfowling, and explain about all the Conservation work done by the club.



CONSERVATION & WORK PARTIES

The FWA runs a number of conservation projects such as duck nesting tubes, habitat creation (ponds and scrapes) and the provision of bird boxes and insect hotels. We are also active participants in the BTO Wetland Bird Survey bird counts which have been running for more than 50 years and we participate in BASC citizen science projects such as the Duck Wing Survey and the Sarcocystis surveys. There are regular work parties for members to get involved in throughout the season.

AFFILIATIONS.

The FWA is affiliated to the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC - formerly WAGBI) with full membership benefits for individual FWA members.

The FWA is one of the eight clubs forming the Wash Joint Council and represents shooting interests on a number of other bodies such as the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC Advisory Group, Cambridgeshire Watercare Partnership and the Ouse Washes Strategy and Land Managers' Groups.

MEMBERSHIP

The FWA is one of the largest wildfowling clubs in the UK with a membership of circa 250. The club year runs from 1st April to 31st March and new members are admitted throughout the year.

FWA Membership categories are Full, Junior (under 18), Student (available to those over 18 whilst they are still in full-time education or on an apprenticeship), and OAP (those applying to join who are in receipt of the state pension).

The subscriptions (reviewed each year in March) are currently :

Full £150, Junior £5, Student £5, OAP. £95

These all include the cost of the current BASC Wildlife Habitat Trust Stamp ("duck stamp"). The revenue from these stamps supports wildfowl conservation projects undertaken by the shooting community throughout the flyway.

It is a club rule that every shooting FWA member must be a member of BASC, and all Full, Student and OAP members must also hold a valid shotgun certificate. Proof of both will be required during the joining process.

Joining BASC as an FWA club member gives the full benefits of BASC membership such as third party insurance cover, and advice and support over firearms and other legal matters, as well as representation at national level for our sport at the discounted club / syndicate rate. (Currently a discount of £14 per annum over their Individual membership). Just let them know you are joining the FWA. If you are already a member of BASC (for example via another wildfowling club), you do not have to pay this again.

A member who joins without previous foreshore wildfowling experience will be required to undergo a period of training until they are deemed to be proficient enough to shoot alone on the foreshore. This support is provided by experienced members acting as mentors, with accompanied visits arranged via a club mentors What's App group. Foreshore training events for members are also held during the season.

There are no restrictions applied to shooting alone on the Inland washes.

We hold a new members meeting, usually in August, and we run two tours of our inland washes during September. A membership application form can be downloaded from our website at:

www.fenlandwa.org.uk

FENLAND WILDFOWLERS' ASSOCIATION:

OVER 70 YEARS OF WORK AND PROGRESS

- 1952 - club founded at Angel Hotel, Wisbech Cambs.
- 1954 - first club to lease and control shooting rights on the Wash from the Norfolk Estuary Company.
- 1954 - Terrington Syndicate formed.
- 1960 - Crown Estate grants foreshore lease.
- 1964 - lease of East Lighthouse for FWA wardens
- 1969 - first club to purchase land on Ouse Washes.
- 1970s - more Washes land acquisition. Brandon game syndicate - run jointly with Norwich WA.
- 1980 - Crown Estate grants 21 year foreshore lease. First reserve areas set aside on foreshore.
- 1989 - joint purchase with Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust of 140 acres of washland and shooting rights.
- 1991 - first club to make Wildlife Habitat Trust Stamp ("duck stamp") a condition of membership.
- 1992 - first club to host National Wildfowling Conference, with Kings Lynn WA.
- 1992 - Fortieth anniversary limited edition print published.
- 1995 - launch of FWA promotional booklet, "Wildfowling on the Wash and in the Fens".
- 1996 - club exhibits at the CLA Game Fair for the first time.
- 1997- SSSI Award from English Nature for management of Wash Outer Trial Bank Seabird Breeding Reserve.
- 1998 - awarded Stanley Duncan Trophy for conservation work on the Wash and the Ouse Washes.
- 2000 - website set up; co-hosts of 2000 Wildfowling Conference.
- 2001 - co-hosts of first East Coast regional Wildfowling Conference.
- 2003 - Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner.
- 2005 - Launch of the DVD film "FWA - The First Fifty Years".
- 2005 - Denny's Wash purchased (17 acres at Little Downham).
- 2009 - Green's Wash purchased (24 acres at Sutton Gault).
- 2011 - Foreshore Code of Practice booklet produced. Spinney wash purchased (small wash adjacent to Green's).
- 2012 - Sixtieth Anniversary Dinner.
- 2016 - DVD made by Chris Green. Founder member of the Association of UK Wildfowling Clubs.
- 2020 - Launch of online permit booking system for Inland Washes.
- 2022 - Seventieth Anniversary Dinner.
- 2023 - Adopted the BASC code of practice for the Sustainable Shooting of Wildfowl & Waders.

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