

Local Association an Important Partner to Success Lake

by Calvin Foster

The Southern Tulare County Sportsman's Association (STCSA) of Porterville, CA, has been a partner of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Sacramento District's Lake Success project for decades, and its members have been responsible for many improvements and events in their Wildlife Management Area. STCSA was formed in 1943, 18 years before Success Dam was completed. It has since become one of the largest organizations in the community.

In 2016, STCSA established a cooperating association with the Success Lake project and provided over \$36,000 in partnership value. STCSA volunteered to help the Sacramento District develop the Wildlife Management Area in Lake Success by planting hedge rows of atriplex species and installing irrigation lines throughout 1,600 acres of habitat.

Over the years, STCSA received several grants that were used to purchase grain to plant and help upland game, install a large group pavilion, and maintain water supply lines.

Since 1972, STCSA's association has annually received funding from the Tulare County Fish and Game Commission, Friends of the NRA, and California Fish and Wildlife to purchase and raise pheasant chicks.

Throughout the pheasant season, these birds are released in to the Wildlife Management Area during STCSA coordinated hunting events. Among these events is an ADA-accessible Veteran's Hunt, a junior pheasant hunt, and a youth hunter education course. In addition, STCSA provided more than 800 shirts for National Public Lands Day, assisted with park ranger and park manager trainings, and donated an all-terrain vehicle.

They also added a vending machine in the Tule Recreation Area for the convenience of park visitors. STCSA's association plans to open a gift shop to service the public in the near future. Success Lake staff, members of STCSA and its association, and visitors share a common goal of partnering to enhance the visitor experience at the lake and its many resources.



STCSA members and hunters participating in the Annual Pheasant Hunt



A Jr. Hunter shows off his bird at the Youth Pheasant Hunt



Pavilion purchased and installed by the STCSA in the Wildlife Management Area