



AUGUST 2009

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 8

AUG 6, 2009

MEMBERS MEETING

We will be having the owner and operator from Habitat Flats and MO Marsh as our guest speaker for the August 12th general members meeting. This will be our opportunity to get inside information on how the pros do it! He has even been featured on DU TV!

Please see the links below for more info.

www.habitatflats.com/
www.youtube.com/user/HabitatFlats
momarsh.com/

GOOD NEWS

Good news! The USFWS has proposed a liberal season with one pintail per day, 3 woodies per day, and one canvasback per day. Scaup has been bumped back up to two per day.

Effective Wing-shooting, the CONSEP Way...

Mark you calendars now, if you are a duck hunter, you deserve to give the ducks your best!

The Cooperative North

American Shotgunning Education Program helps shotgun shooters, waterfowl and upland game bird hunters sharpen their skills in marksmanship, distance estimation and equipment selection, regardless of the shot material they choose to use. CONSEP-trained hunters can also contribute more to conservation and reduce hunting expenses.

Hunters have long been leaders in conservation, helping Missouri develop regulations, improve habitat and control wildlife populations. With CONSEP training, Missouri's wing shooters can become more efficient shooters, making fewer marginal shots and reducing the numbers of wounded game. This improvement in resource conservation can increase the breeding population. Further, learning to use nontoxic shot with confidence can save game birds and wildlife from lead poisoning, especially in wetland areas. In addition to boosting your wingshooting performance and conservation results, CONSEP can

help you save money on expenses--fewer wasted shells means more money in your pocket!

Because many CONSEP workshops occur on wetland areas, we shoot only nontoxic steel shot and provide it free of charge to participants. Aside from being nontoxic to wildlife, steel shot is the cheapest nontoxic shot, it holds the tightest patterns and has the shortest shot strings. If you can learn to shoot steel shot effectively, you can be more effective with lead or any other exotic nontoxic shot.

Effective wingshooting, the CONSEP Way Seminar

Learn shotgun wing-shooting fundamentals and proven techniques from Department instructors

Get fact-based information on wildlife data, hunting and shooting techniques, shotshell technology and choke and shell selection

Effective wingshooting, the CONSEP Way Workshop

Evaluate and improve your personal wing-

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shooting skill level

Assess and improve your range-estimation skill

Measure and improve your equipment (gun/choke/load) combination and performance

Get free steel shot free

Learn how to use steel shot to improve overall marksmanship skills

Wednesday, September 9 – Friday, September 11, 2009 August A. Busch C.A. Reserve by Sept 5.

Friday, September 11 – Sunday, September 13, 2009 Jay Henges Shooting Range Reserve by Wednesday, September 9

Friday, September 25 – Sunday, September 27, 2009 Runge Conservation Nature Center Reserve by Wednesday, September 23

Friday, October 2 – Sunday, October 4, 2009 Andy Dalton Shooting Range & OEC Reserve by Friday,

Friday, October 2 – Sunday, October 4, 2009 Ted Shanks Conservation Area Reserve by Wednesday, September 30

CONDOLENCES

On a sad note, we were informed that Jim Stinnet’s mother, Mrs. (Polly) Stinnett, passed away on the 22nd of July. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Stinnett’s family and friends.

CORA ISLAND

If you have not heard about the Cora Island issue, this is dealing with the island in the Mississippi river that has been acquired and now the government is trying to figure out who is going to manage it. We got an email from Neil Bass of the Army Core of Engineers and it states:

This is for Tony Wolf and the other members of the Mississippi Valley Duck Hunters ASSN. who attended the Cora Island Kickoff celebration and then the Public Meeting following. I really appreciated the support you and the organization showed for the Missouri River Mitigation Project and the Cora Island site in general. I also appreciated, Tony, taking his time to then come over later in the day for the public meeting. It is seldom that there are any proponents for our projects at such meetings. People usually only come out if they are in opposition, not in support, of projects. Sorry it has taken me so long to send this. Again I really appreciated the attendance at both of the meetings that I was apart of. If you would like more information about the Missouri River Mitigation Project or have comments about specific sites please feel free to give me a call. 816 389-3667 or neil.bass@usace.army.mil

Sincerely,

M. Neil Bass

MARVIN BEHNKE

We were informed that Marvin had a very bad accident recently. He was helping install a grain hopper and when others were pushing the hopper into place, he fell into it and broke his neck. He underwent surgery to, I believe, fuse the portion that was broken. At last word, he was resting and re-cooperating at home. Keep him in your prayers as he heals from this horrible accident.

BOB WILSON

It was also reported that Bob had a heart attack. He also underwent surgery to have two stints installed and is doing well. Keep him and his family in your prayers while he recovers.

MVDHA BOARD

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Dale Westerhold

Dave Hamilton

and Tim Koehler

Trout Fishing:

Mark your calendars now and reserve your rooms and boats early. Our annual trip to Lake Taneycomo will be from 26 thru 28 of February where we will be staying at the Trout Hollow lodge by Branson Mo. There are eight condos available that can room up to six people. There are some boats available to rent and boat slips to park your boat in if you need to. You will need to make reservations for the nights of the 26th and the 27th. If you are in need of a room Contact Bob Combs at 314-348-4188 for more info. Rooms are going to fill fast so call early! See you on the water!

CONSERVATION FED

Notes from the Conservation Federation meeting. The big storm in Southeastern MO, on May 8th has been described as an inland hurricane with vast destruction of the Ozark Forests.... flattened trees, root balls exposed, roads covered with debris and damaged buildings etc. Timber prices are low right now so it is not economical to get

them to the saw mills. The State of Missouri has applied for FEMA funds to assist in this devastation.

Feral Hogs are a problem in Missouri and to be shot on sight. Hunters have to harvest 70% of the Feral Hogs each year to keep population at current numbers.

The third Annual Sporting Clays Tournament at the River Hills Sporting Clays at Booneville, MO. Sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri. This event will be held on August 15, 2009 beginning at 9 am, till 4 pm. Two man team are \$50.00 for a two man scramble with 75 targets. Call Bill Hilgeman at: 636-861-1308 for more information or sign up sheets. Hope to see you there! YOUR MVDHA is also sponsoring a station at this event, lunch is included for this event, so keep an eye out for our logo on one of the stations, I am sure it will be a GREAT time!

HUNTER APPRECIATION

The River City chapter Delta Waterfowl Hunter Appreciation party is taking place on Friday August

21 at Washington Elk's Lodge. 1459 West 5th St, Washington Mo. Tickets are:

Couples: \$40.00

Singles: \$25.00

Youth: \$15.00

Live silent auctions, drawings and raffles, two person guided hunt. Contact Dustin Heather at 636-239-7320 for more info.

DUCK LEASE

Duck lease available, St Charles-Dewit area, Arkansas, next to White River NWR. He wants three groups of five hunters at \$7,500 each, per group. You will share three rice fields, four ponds, some private timber, if White River floods. See Don Thoele or call Phil Horton 1-870-946-3480.

BOONDOG OUTFITTERS

UPDATE. The goose hunt that Bob Meuller won at the annual fish fry WAS up for sale. The outfitter is cancelling all hunts this year and will honor this

Great news, duck numbers are up!!!

2009 Estimates of May Ponds and Breeding Ducks (in millions)

Species	2008	2009	% Change From 2008	% Change from Long-term Avg.
May Ponds (U.S. & CAN)	4.431	6.434	+45	+31
Total Ducks	37.276	42.005	+13	+25
Mallard	7.724	8.512	+10	+13
Gadwall	2.728	3.054	+12	+73
American wigeon	2.487	2.469	-1	-5
Green-winged teal	2.980	3.444	+16	+79
Blue-winged teal	6.640	7.384	+11	+60
Northern shoveler	3.508	4.376	+25	+92
Northern pintail	2.613	3.225	+23	-20
Redhead	1.056	1.044	-1	+62
Canvasback	0.489	0.662	+35	+16
Scaup	3.738	4.172	+12	-18

hunt next year. For now, it is not for sale any longer. For more info, contact Bob.

HOME BOUND DUCK HUNTERS

I am starting to put a listing of those members who cannot make it out to any of the members meetings or board meetings because of illness or just home bound. I know this list is possibly incomplete, so if you see somebody who is a member and not on this list, please email me at mvdha@mvdha.com with the person's name and why they are home bound. If you get a chance, give these listed a call or drop them a line, I am sure they would appreciate it.

John Engle Alzheimer's, Emphysema

Lymon Bergmanis Lovingly taking care of his wife who is home bound.

Emil Poeppelmeier Home bound.

Membership

NOTICE: On your mailing label is your expiration date. If the date is in the past, please consider rejoining us on the mailing. Family memberships are only \$25.00

eScripts Contribution this past month: \$13.45

EScrips is proven to be a fantastic resource for fundraising where participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the school, group or organization of your choice.

Here's How it Works

- You register any one or all of your existing grocery loyalty, debit and credit cards for use in the program.
- Participating merchants will make contributions to your chosen group, based on purchases made by you, just by using the cards you have registered.
- Your purchases are tracked and

available to you online, allowing you to see just how much you are earning.

Bottom line, it costs you nothing. All you have to do is do your normal shopping at listed stores like, Schnucks, Macy's, Orvis, OfficeMax, Pepboys or even American Airlines. This is a no brainer in helping to raise money for your MVDHA with no effort at all, except to hand your eScript card to the check out person. Chris has over 200 cards just waiting for you to call at 636-333-2251 or you can email him at cryptologist3@yahoo.com

Up Coming Events

August 12 - We will be having the owner and operator from Habitat Flats and MO Marsh as our guest speaker for the August 12th general members meeting.

September 9 - We will have a member from Ducks Unlimited speaking.

that I don't want to see the board members doing all the work on this one. It doesn't require an engineering degree to stand in a booth, smile at folks as they walk by, and invite them to try their hand at winning a prize.

Here's my bold side coming out....I'm a school teacher and already back to work. They say women's work is never done and neither is a teacher's. We're all busy, and I don't mean to insult your situation either. If someone called you today and invited you on an all expenses paid trip, you'd find a way to make it happen. Apply that philosophy to the Strassenfest. Respectfully, I don't have time to call you and beg you to work a shift, and I shouldn't have to do so. While you're enjoying our awesome guest speakers at the August meeting, make sure you bring your calendar and sign up for a shift.

If you can't make the meeting, give me a call at 314-570-3010. Leave your name and a few times/dates that work for you and I'll get back with you. When is it, you ask? I'm glad you asked. Strassenfest will take place Friday, September 18 thru Sunday, September 20. Hours of operation are 5 p.m until 11 p.m. on Friday, noon until 11 p.m. on Saturday, and noon until 6 p.m. on Sunday. It's in Chesterfield behind the mall.

Until next time.....

Tony

The President's Corner

Ladies and Gentlemen,

August is upon us and dove season is less than a month away! That means the teal will be buzzing around, too. I don't know about you, but that cold spell we had this past month that set records in the St. Louis area certainly put me in the mood for fall. Daniel passed his hunter education course a few weeks ago, and I've already got him on the list for the youth dove clinic! In the words of the Mickey D's commercial....I'm lovin' it!

First of all, I want to thank Tim Koehler for working on our guest speakers. For those who have gotten guest speakers before, it's never an easy task trying to coordinate these deals. Tim has secured guest speakers for later this month from one of the top snow goose hunting outfitters in the state. He was telling the board members the other night that these fellas regularly put out thousands of full body decoys each and every day! Now that's a decoy spread. After all the begging and pleading done by Tim to get these guys to our meeting, why don't you get off your duff and make it to this month's meeting for a change? I know everyone likes guest speakers when they deal specifically with hunting, so here you go. No excuses this time.

It looks like Tim has also worked his magic for the month of September, too. We'll keep you posted, but representatives from DU just may join us. We'll get the lowdown on various projects in the region and hear the latest from the world of Ducks Unlimited. Way to go, Timmy!

How many of you like to shoot craps, play a little black jack, one arm bandit, and the like? Well, if you're like me, everyone once in awhile you head to the boat and hand your money over to the casinos. What if I told you there were plans to build a 300+ acre casino complex just north of I-270 and due south of Columbia Bottom? Yeah, that kind of changes things, doesn't it?

Well, Art Wende was reading the Post Dispatch the morning after our July board meeting and caught an article to that effect. It appears that a group of land owners and investors want to put a casino with golf course and all the fixings below our beloved dove shooting honey hole. Thanks to Art, we'll be making plans to attend the St. Louis County planning and zoning hearing. Hopefully we can come together with other like minded individuals and block this nonsense. I've already placed a call to Tom Liefield to see if the MDC has an official position, and the USFWS representative who plans to oversee the Cora Island project.

It makes absolutely no sense at all to have the famed confluence where Lewis and Clark set sail cluttered with a bunch of flashing lights. Once again, greed has gotten the best of mankind. Shame on these individuals. I've always dreamed of owning my own piece of land someday, and I subscribe to the Indian philosophy that says you should give the land back in better shape than you received it. I guess a few people have missed out on that lesson along the way.

It could go on forever, but my editor as well as our chairman bust my chops when I get too winded. Therefore, let me end this month's column with the Strassenfest. Thanks to Chris Wymer, we've got ourselves a coke bottle ring toss game come September. This should net our organization a healthy profit with a little luck from the weatherman and the Lord Above! This will allow us to continue with various projects and maintain a healthy balance sheet. That's very important to our treasurer, Mr. Urbas, and it should be to you, too.

My time as President of this fine organization for the past five years is drawing to a close. We're down to the last five columns for the year. That means I'm either going to get a little bolder along the way, or a lot bolder. I'll try to be tactful and professional, as I don't want to run people off. Bottom line is (Continued on page (4))

General Information

This newsletter is distributed to our active members. For members, check your mailing label for when your membership expires. For non-active members check the website for the current newsletter. We have our general meeting the second Wednesday of every month and our Board of Directors' Meeting every fourth Monday. All meetings begin at 7:30 at the American Legion Post Goff – Moll Post 101, at 2721 Collier, Brentwood, Mo. 63144. In case of bad weather call the Post at 314-961-3263 or Tony Wolf at 636-441-3793 or Jerry Mercurio at 636-296-4799.

Visit YOUR web site at <http://www.mvdha.com/> to get the most recent news, events and updates. There you will find this newsletter and other helpful information concerning conservation and the great outdoors that we love. If you would like to be added to the email listing of important news and updates you can do that through the web site through the contact us link, fill out the form and make sure you add your email address.

Any comments or suggestions concerning the newsletter or the website can be sent to mvdha@mvdha.com. I am always looking forwards to suggestions concerning content and what you would like to see or be presented in these publications.

Next members meeting: **August 12, 2009**

Next Board Meeting: **August 24, 2009**

Members are invited to the Board Meeting

All meetings start at 7:30

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DUCK HUNTERS ASSN. INC.

"A Nonprofit Association of, by, and for the Duck Hunters"

"ST. LOUIS' NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION"

P.O. BOX 6, VALLEY PARK, MO 63088

