



DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 12

DEC 6, 2009

**MEMBERS MEETING**

**Christmas Party**

This month's members meeting will be our annual Christmas party! Planning for our annual Christmas party is still underway. Terry Moran is getting sandwiches and good treats to eat! Come, swap some stories, and enjoy subs and drinks. We will have our annual installation of officers. So make plans now to come on out and enjoy a great time with your fellow members!

**URGENT MESSAGE**

Rumors are circulating on the internet and throughout the waterfowl community that a new protocol for the waterfowl reservation system will be implemented for next season. I have placed a phone call to Tom Liefeld for further information, and have also spoken to another MDC employee. Both have indicated that some change is apparently coming. Tom did so in a message left on my answering ma-

chine, and I'm supposed to get more details from him on Monday after the newsletter has already gone out.

I don't want to speculate too much, but the rumor I'm hearing goes something like a complete elimination of the poor line system except when a reservation holder doesn't show up. (So 50 people show up for 2 spots at Otter Slough???) Reservations would be made throughout the season, and you would have to call in or use the computer each and every week that you would like to be entered into the computer drawing system. The rumor goes on to say that you'd only be able to hunt 3 times in a year.

The bottom line is that if ANY change to the system is made prior to receiving feedback from hunters, it's a bad idea and should be dropped immediately. Someone has suggested that this is Dave Erickson's brainchild and he wants it passed through before he retires. Let's give him the benefit of the doubt and hopefully they monitor our news-

letter to keep a pulse on what we're doing and saying.

You will certainly be asked to pick up your pen and cry outrage if any of this is true. I will give a brief report at the Christmas party. Please stay tuned in the coming months for more on this.

**DUCK SEASON**

- Youth Duck Hunt
- North Zone Oct. 24-25
- Middle Zone, Oct. 31-Nov 1
- South Zone, Nov. 21-22
- Regular Duck Season:
- North Zone, Oct. 31-Dec. 29
- Middle Zone, Nov. 7-Jan. 5
- South Zone, Nov. 26-Jan. 24

The daily limit on ducks is six, including no more than:

- Mallards, 4 (no more than 2 females)
- Black ducks, 1
- Mottled ducks, 1 (new)
- Pintails, 1
- Scaup, 2 (new)
- Wood ducks, 3

<b>INSIDE THIS ISSUE:</b>	
MEMBERS MEETING	1
URGENT MESSAGE	1
DUCK SEASON	1
HUNTS	2
WING BOARD	2
ALL CANADA	2
SNOW GOOSE HUNT	2
BANQUETS	2
TROUT FISHING	3
FOR SALE	3
LATE PUBLICATION	3
HOME BOUND	3
MEMBERSHIP	3
ESCRIPTS	3
UPCOMING EVTS	3
PRESIDENT'S CORNER	4
GENERAL INFO	COV

- Redheads, 2
- Canvasbacks 1 (new)
- Hooded mergansers, 2
- Other species may be taken in any number up to the daily bag limit of six ducks total.

## HUNTS

With the new season upon us, if you have any pictures that you would like to share with your fellow members of these hunts you can email them to me at [mvdha@mvdha.com](mailto:mvdha@mvdha.com) or bring them to me at the members meetings and I will scan them or take them off of your media and post them on the web site and get them back to you.

## WING BOARD

### SAVE YOUR WINGS!

We are trying to create a wing board like we had in the past. Save your wings of the different birds you harvest this year, especially the odd ones! Bring them to the members meeting and give them to me, Brad Douglass, or email me at [mvdha@mvdha.com](mailto:mvdha@mvdha.com) and I will see what I can do to get them from you. Tony, you can donate the Spoonie Wings! So far all we have are drake wings of Mallard, Blue Wing Teal and Gadwall wings. Bring only duck wings, both drakes and hens. So bring them on it!

## ALL CANADA SHOW

Though we will not be supporting this event this year, if you would like to go here is the info:

Jan 8-10, 2010

St. Charles Convention Center

One Convention Center Plaza  
St. Charles, MO 63303-  
(636) 669-3000

Hours: Friday 5 p.m.- 9 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.  
Sunday 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Ticket Prices:

Adults \$10 Seniors(60+) \$8

Children(13-16) \$8

12 & Under Free

You can go to:

<http://www.allcanadashow.com/html/stLouis/>

To get a \$2.00 off coupon.

## SNOW GOOSE HUNT

Currently the plan is that the annual Snow Goose hunt is going to take place on the first weekend of February, the 5th, 6th and 7th. Contact Bob Richard's for more info. Remember, if you go, a Conservation Order Permit (except for persons 15 years of age and younger) is required to participate in the spring 2010 Conservation Order. Cost is \$5 for residents and \$40 for non-residents. You will be staying at the Super 8 Motel in Marston. It is located at:

501 South East Outer Rd I-55 and  
EE Hwy, Exit 40 Marston, MO  
63866 US

For two double beds it will cost you  
62.50 a night for two people.

You can reserve these on line or by  
phone. The phone number is:

573-643-9888

## BANQUETS

### St Louis Delta Waterfowl

Mark your calendar, the St. Louis Delta Waterfowl Banquet will be held Saturday, February 20th, 2010. Buck Gardner will be the master of ceremony. This year the banquet will be held in south county at the Two Hearts Banquet Center, 4532 South Lindbergh Blvd, Sunset

## MVDHA BOARD

**President:** Tony Wolf

**First V. Pres.:**

Scott Combs

**2<sup>nd</sup> V. President:**

Chris Wymer

**Fin. Secretary:**

Bernie Urbas

**Rec. Secretary:**

Bill Truebe

**Correspondence**

**Secretary:** Bill Hilgeman

**Membership Chairman:**

Bob Richards

**Board of Directors:**

Jerry Mercurio

**Directors:**

Don Thoele,

Jim Hoerr,

Terry Moran

Jerry Wymer,

Jerry Mercurio Jr.,

Ken Libel,

James Edwards,

Art Wende,

Dale Westerhold

Dave Hamilton

and Tim Koehler

Hills, MO 63127. (on the corner of Gravois and South Lindbergh) Cost is \$50 a person, \$75 a couple and \$20 for youth or \$500 for a corporate table. Tom will have tickets available in the near future.

Tom Biggar 314-846-2165

For more info you can go to their web site at:

[www.stldelta.com](http://www.stldelta.com)

### 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!

### FOR SALE

#### Truck For Sale

2004 Dodge Ram 2500 4x4 Laramie Short Bed Quad Cab, 5.9L Cummins HO Turbo Diesel Engine, 4 Speed Auto, Laramie Pkg 2UH, 70,xxx miles, red exterior, taupe interior, still has transferable Chrysler Service Contract with \$0 deductible and 7year/100,000 miles, Fully Loaded \$22,500 or best offer. Contact Scott Combs for more info 636-399-3330.

### 1950 Winchester Model 12, 12ga., 32" barrel, Full

It is a 1950, Winchester Model 12, 12ga., 32" barrel, Full. This gun just has a plain barrel, in good condition. It is a one owner gun, who hasn't hunted in a number of years & wants to get what he can out of it. You can contact Bernie Urbas at 314-497-7144 for more information.

### LATE PUBLICATION

Lastly, I would like to apologize to those who receive their newsletter via snail mail if it arrived a couple of days late. I have been very busy with the hunting season, work and also trying to take some time visiting my son who came over to Jonesboro Ark for a hunt last week. This trip was a wonderful time to share together, thanks for all who gave me info about the area.

### HOME BOUND DUCK HUNTERS

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](mailto:mvdha@mvdha.com) with the person's name and why they are home bound. If you get a chance, give them 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.

### 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: 12.57

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 314-330-3846 or you can email him at [cryptologist3@yahoo.com](mailto:cryptologist3@yahoo.com)

### Up Coming Events

**Dec 9** : Our annual Christmas Party

## The President's Corner

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I trust all of you had a happy Thanksgiving and would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and New Year. May your waders never leak, your motor always start, your shotgun always fire, your dog always hunt, and fill in the blank with whatever else you'd like to add here.

I've been thinking about this moment for quite some time now. I've debated and pondered over and over again in my mind how I'd like to close out this column for the last time over these past five years. I can honestly say that I'm winging it as I go, and hopefully our editor will grant me license one last time.

Allow me the opportunity to ramble a bit here. A decade or so ago, I was standing at a St. Louis Tip Toppers Tall Club function visiting with Art Meister. The talk always seemed to focus on fishing, deer, pheasants, and ducks. Art invited me to go duck hunting with him yet again, and I finally agreed to go if I could get by without waders. Well, we jumped a blind at Dresser which could be had by walking across the levy at Brickhouse and settled into the blind.

I winced as I laid my Browning Gold Hunter's 12 gauge with glossy wooden stock up against the wall, its butt resting in a puddle of mud-stained water. This moment immediately reminded me of a time when I swore synthetic stocks were one of the ugliest things ever invented and why anyone would want one was beyond me.

As we sat in the blind conversing about who knows what, one of the most beautiful sites I had ever witnessed in nature unfolded before my very eyes. Two mallard drakes began to circle our spread and were locked up and coming in for a landing. After six reports from our trusted companions, we looked at each other in utter disbelief as we reduced to possession nary a one. Nevertheless, Art was successful in his primary endeavor as I was hooked!

The next step was for Art to invite me to an MVDHA meeting. Well, it took awhile, but I finally came around and the rest is history. So the bottom line is that you have Art to blame, cuss, congratulate or whatever you'd like to do. All I know is that I'm glad I went and appreciate Art bringing me into the fold. As I've said time and time again, everyone can do something.

I have enjoyed my time serving as your president, and there is much to look back upon and be proud. Due to the work of the board, officers, and you we've accomplished much in a very short time. Our financial picture is brighter than many have ever seen, we've contributed a healthy sum of money to a variety of conservation organizations, carried out many awesome opportunities for camaraderie, and become an important voice in conservation matters at the political level.

While some cringe at the mere mention of the 'P' word, I welcome it. Yes, we are an association that for the most part is a social organization made up of waterfowlers. However, one can't bury his head in the sand and pretend that matters affecting your rights and mine aren't important for our members to have knowledge about, discuss, and debate. Then again, I guess you could but not me. If you haven't figured it out yet, I rarely back away from a debate. As your president these past five years, I may have burned a few bridges and turned some folks off. I think that's par for the course for any person who has been entrusted to carry out a position of leadership. It's definitely a balancing act, and I, no doubt, teetered on a precarious edge several times. That was my choice and I stand by the decisions I made over these past years and appreciate the support of many.

I always liked the Dodge slogan they came up with when they went through a massive redesign—Lead, follow, or get out of the way. Your association is stronger in many ways thanks to the efforts of numerous individuals who have donated their time and talents these recent years. We are positioned to remain a strong voice in matters that concern us most. One of the most obvious examples is the Swan

Lake issue. I count this as a major victory, and barring any political maneuvering by our adversaries out there, many of us will have the opportunity to hunt ducks there thanks to the efforts of your association.

I'd like to take a moment to thank some people who have helped me feel my way over these years. In no particular order, thanks to Jerry Mercurio SR. for his leadership and insight. We didn't always agree on things, but his advice and opinion was always at the forefront of my mind. Bill Hilgeman was my mentor whether he wanted to accept that or not. Bill, you may like to tease me about that one quote someone made about me, but you're the real deal. Don Thoele served as treasurer for three of my five years. What a thankless job, Don. Bernie has taken the reigns and brought some new ideas to the office. Both of you have done and continue to do a fine job as far as I'm concerned. Thanks to both of you for sharing your talents and integrity with us. Mr. Positive, thanks for your legal expertise and ability to play devil's advocate. I hate group think in institutions and you force us to look at other angles that would otherwise get overlooked. James and Kenny, we often take for granted the raffle, 50th, and youth events, but you guys rock! Chris, your passion for all things waterfowling hasn't gone unnoticed by me or others. Thanks for your efforts with eScripts, Strassenfest, Delta, and many other matters. Now quit smoking so we can hopefully hunt together for a long time. Brad, you may be ad hoc, but you're the hardest working editor and webmaster I know who doesn't want to vote. Thanks for your continued efforts to streamline and inform. Mr. Truebe, you're one of the classiest men I know. Thanks for bringing that element to the table each month. Your calm and confident demeanor is appreciated and admired by many. Bob Richards has taken on the role of membership chair for years. Thanks for gittin r done. Marvin, you could sell a glass of sand to a man dying of thirst in the desert. Thanks for promoting the various causes near and dear to your heart. Wally, your nephews and you are a wonderful blend of ideas and talents. Thanks, guys. Bob Combs, thanks for your efforts with our fishing trips and beyond. You are one of the most generous people I know. You live your faith and it shows. Jimmy Hoerr and Jerry Wymer, I have a great deal of respect for your passion and knowledge. We didn't always see eye to eye, but I enjoyed debating and heckling you every step of the way. Hopefully your behind isn't too frosted. Dan Zerr, thanks for all the donations and for your support and friendship. Your work with CFM and NWTF is top shelf. To the rest of the board both current and past, thanks for all the work you did with the auctions, meetings, and countless hours you gave up for the association. To our seasoned gentlemen that I never got to hunt with that I envy for what you've done in the world of waterfowling over the past 50 years, thanks for putting up with me. To the general membership, thanks for joining us and helping whenever and wherever you can. You are always welcome and all you have to do is speak up if you want a larger role.

My wife Carolyn and son Daniel have graciously given up their spouse/father for over 100 + meetings and functions and countless hours on the phone and computer. Thanks for allowing me to be me and do what I do. I love both of you dearly and thank you from the bottom of my heart for freeing me up on the home front.

Lastly, I'd just like to flat out say thank you. I have met some great people in this organization and am fortunate to be able to call them friends. I've enjoyed my time fishing, hunting, or just talking with many of you and genuinely thank you for that. God willing, I look forward to future memories as a member of the MVDHA.

Art Wende, the ship is yours. You have many great people surrounding you and willing to lend a helping hand. Chart your course and full steam ahead. I know you'll make us proud.

Happy trails to you .....

Tony

## 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](mailto: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: **December 9, 2009**

Next Board Meeting: **December 28, 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

