



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DUCK HUNTERS ASSOCIATION
A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION OF, BY, AND FOR THE DUCK
HUNTERS.



JANUARY 2012

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FROM OUR PRES

Take down the tree, put the eggnog glasses away, eat the last herring, and start the New Year!

Welcome 2012 and good by to 2011. I hope everyone has had a great holiday season. If you did not attend our annual Christmas Party, you really missed a great time. I would like to congratulate the winners of the Santa Garage Drawings and thanks to all who participated.

The duck season is or is almost over for the year. I think the January meeting will be a great time to discuss our successes and or disappointments that we all encountered. January is a great time to BS with each other about guns, gear, and ducks. I hunted with some of the greatest guys this past season and hope to build upon this for a long time. Thanks Ray, Jimmy, Dave, and if he ever showed up, Bill.

We now have the NEW Mississippi Valley Duck Hunter Hats available for purchase. The hats are \$10.00 each and are a steal. Wear your new hats to each meeting to show your pride in the club. I know some have lots of hats already, but to add a kicker, I have a plan. I will have a special drawing at random this year for all who are wearing the NEW MVDHA hats at a particular meeting. Hats are for sale in January, so come prepared at future meetings. NO HAT, NO PLAY ! Don't worry, it will not be for a pair of socks.

Art Wende,
President

2011–2012 Waterfowl Seasons

DUCKS

South Nov. 24–Jan. 22

CANADA GEESE AND BRANT

Nov. 24–Jan. 31

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

Nov. 24–Jan. 31

LIGHT GEESE (SNOWS, ROSS'S AND BLUES)*

Oct. 29–Jan. 31

* The Light Goose Conservation Order will be in effect from Feb. 1 through April 30, 2012, with no bag limit. Hunters may use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns, and shoot from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after

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sunset. A Conservation Order Permit is the only permit required, unless exempt.

BAG LIMIT

Coot Bag Limit

15 coots daily

Duck Bag Limit

6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

4 mallards

(no more than 2 females)

3 wood ducks

2 scaup

2 redheads

2 hooded mergansers

2 pintail

1 canvasback

1 black duck

1 mottled duck

Goose Bag Limits

20 light geese

3 Canada geese

2 white-fronted geese

1 brant



DAN GOETZ

From the Stuttgart Daily Reader:

Stuttgart, Ark—Intermediate World’s Championship Duck Calling Contest winner was Dan Goetz with first runner up Will Nanney, second runner

up Tate Douglas and third runner up Alex Hodges. Congratulations Dan!!

QUICK DRAW

If you like it or dislike it, here is your chance to take a survey to let the MDC know what you think about Quick Draw. As for any new system, it has it’s growing pains, whether it is a good thing or not and the MDC cannot know with out feedback, so here is your chance. Go out to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/528V22K>

You will need your email address, conservation number and your zip code, and ideas to give the MDC feedback on what you think about the system. It will take about two minutes to complete.

HUNTS

If you have any pictures that you would like to share with the members you can send them to me at bjd7960@att.net or bring them to one of the members meetings and I will scan them and get them back to you. Share your success or failures with your fellow members! Even members who cannot get out this year would love to see them!

GATEWAY LONG SPURS

Gateway Long Spurs Hunting Heritage Banquet; The date is Feb 4, 2012 at the St. Paul Knights of Columbus Hall. Doors open at 5:30 with an open bar all night. Dinner will be at 7:00.

There will be several raffle games including a wheel barrow full of ammunition, and others. Tickets are \$50 for singles, and \$65 for couples. There will be 17 guns given away that night. Contact Marvin Behnke for tickets at 314/688-1061.

MVDHA BOARD

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Fin. Secretary:

Bernie Urbas

Rec. Secretary:

Dave Hamilton

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Secretary: Bill Hilgeman and Brad Douglass

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Directors:

Bill Truebe,

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Ken Libel,

James Edwards,

Dale Westerhold,

Rob Mueller,

Robert Urbanek

and Tim Koehler

TROUT TRIP

We are in the early planning stages of our annual trout trip to Lake Taneycomo. If you would like to go or have any dates that you would like to go on, let one of the board members know or contact Jerry with your info. We are trying to see how many people are interested this year so we can start making plans and reservations for this years trip. In the past it has been a great time shared by all!

DELTA BANQUET

River City Chapter of Delta Waterfowl

Saturday, February 18, 2012

Pezold Banquet Center

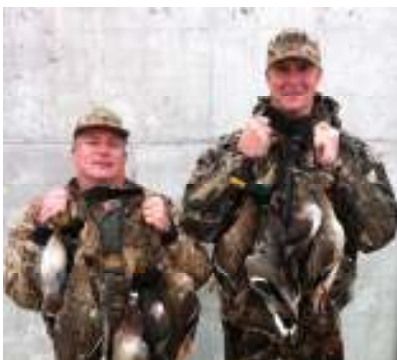
Knights of Columbus Cottleville

5701 Highway N

St Charles, MO 63304

5:00 pm Social | 6:30 pm Dinner

For more information contact Joe Tubbs at (314) 443-1292 or jsjtubbs1@charter.net.



DELTA HUNT

Tony and Brad had a very successful hunt in December up by BK Leach that they won at auction during the River City Chapter of Delta Waterfowl banquet last year.

STALLED MIGRATION

From DU:

Missouri waterfowlers face stalled migration

Strong cold fronts have yet to push waterfowl through northern Central and Mississippi Flyway states forcing Missouri hunters to use creative strategies.

With spotty bird numbers, hunters in Missouri are getting creative, including Avery Pro Staffer Hunter Johnson. "After our morning hunts, we'll ride around and see what everyone else is doing. Then we'll do the exact opposite."

For example, he's hunted over as few as six decoys with pull strings on three of them on a calm day, and then followed that hunt with a 150, 10-motion decoy day during a howling wind. Johnson also sets up decoys in close proximity to each other on cold days, and further apart on warmer days.

"Anything that allows us to show something different, we do it."

In the northeast part of the state, Avery Pro Staffer Kyle Scott's days aren't much different. "You have to be creative when it's so warm to the north of us and we're looking at a lot of the same birds day after day." When ducks are working his fields, he uses smaller decoy spreads and then increases these spreads when birds are wanting to work nearby areas where Scott can't hunt.

Scott is also looking for the "honkers" that have yet to arrive in large numbers. But when they do, he'll hunt big watershed lakes and open water areas near the Mississippi River. So while duck numbers are hard to come by on a consistent basis these days, he still has more than a month of

solid waterfowl hunting left, and a "second season" of sorts right around the corner with Canada geese. As long as Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa and the rest of the states to the north of him go ahead and get snow cover like he knows they will.

MISSOURI GIRLS

Missouri Girls Exploring Nature is a FREE 3-day, 2-night GIRLS camp held by the Missouri Department of Conservation. This camp is aimed at introducing girls ages 11-15 to different outdoors skills. This camp will give them a supportive, learning environment to actively participate in "hands-on" outdoor skills. These activities will be led by experts in their field, which will allow the participants to leave with the confidence to explore Missouri's diverse nature on their own. The girls will be Hunter Education Certified so they may continue using their newly learned skills.

This camp will be held at Cuivre River State Park in Lincoln County. The girls will arrive on Tuesday the 24th of July by 9:00 am to check in and can be picked up on Thursday the 26th at 3:00pm.

Some of the skills they will be participating in are:

- Water Safety
- Rifle shooting
- Basic Orienteering
- Archery
- Conservation Management and ethic
- Safety Trail

- Firearm Safety
- Hunter Education Certified
- Wildlife ID and Game Care
- Fish ID
- Muzzleloading
- Fishing Equipment
- Special Speakers
- Fishing adventure at the lake

If you wish to have your child attend Please contact Brad Douglass or email bjd7960@att.net to get an application form or contact Becky Robertson for more info at Becky.Robertson@mdc.mo.gov

The deadline to submit the form is May 30, 2012. We are accepting 50 girls. We will have a waiting list to call for no shows or cancellations. You will be contacted by phone after July 4th if you are one of the 50 girls. You will receive a packet with a schedule and other forms in the mail before the camp. There will be a follow up call in July as a reminder.

Your MVDHA is helping in sponsoring this event, so come on out to the February meeting and hear what Becky has to say about this great event introducing young ladies to the wonders of Missouri's outdoors.

CRP: COST VERSUS VALUE

From DELTA: John Devney

Let's Understand The Facts Before Gutting Program

The U.S. fiscal crisis has put all government expenditures under the microscope or on the chopping block. Politicians of every persuasion are talking about ways to remedy our burgeoning federal deficit. Super committees have

been created and have died. And despite the rhetoric from pundits and economic experts, there is no clear pathway forward to address our chronic problem of too much expense and too little revenue in our federal government.

A recent indictment of the Conservation Reserve Program from policymakers, duck hunters and other sportsmen and women indicate an information vacuum of epic proportions. Boiled down, the perception is one of program costs versus program benefits.

CRP is continually the focus of policymaker's budget thrashing. It is, after all, the 900-pound gorilla of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's conservation programming. It impacts more acreage, is costly and thusly gets more scrutiny than any other conservation action. CRP is also in the crosshairs of some interests groups because they believe eliminating CRP would increase crop acreage, increase commodity inventory and drive commodity prices down.

Looking at any expenditure independent of its value proposition is a dangerous game. Taking shots at CRP's price tag (roughly \$2 billion annually) while not considering the program's broad conservation, environmental and societal benefits is weak policy analysis. It is superficial hacking with no understanding of the implications.

So while the 2.5 million ducks produced annually on CRP lands (and I think this estimate is grossly low for about 2.5 million reasons), bumper crops of ring-neck pheasants and abundant bobolinks and meadowlarks certainly doesn't justify the price tag, consider the following stats cited

by a recent article in the Minneapolis Star and Tribune:

CRP lands retained 1.86 billion pounds of nitrogen

CRP lands retained 420 million pounds of phosphorous

CRP lands secured 1.8 billion tons of top soil

CRP reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 200 million tons in the last four years

Furthermore, those figures don't quantify the value CRP has in terms of cleaning up our water supply, mitigating flooding (which costs untold billions annually), and providing access to quality hunting lands.

A study by the University of Tennessee's Agriculture Policy Analysis Center in 2006 deduced that eliminating CRP would cost the American taxpayer \$33 billion over a ten-year period. Why? Because agriculture support on those acres would cost taxpayers far more on a per acre basis than CRP rental rates. It's true that commodity prices are changing and agricultural support programs are different, but have they changed to the degree that it would erase a \$33 billion deficit I find it hard to believe it has changed that much. So the long-term consequences of eliminating or even cutting CRP may well represent an increase in government spending—not exactly the outcome budget hawks in D.C. (or the American public) is after.

I know our country needs to get its fiscal house in order. There is no denying the criticalness of the task. No aspect

of the federal budget should be off limits for debate, dialog and evaluation for spending reductions. CRP may need to be amongst the good programming that needs trimming. If so, so be it.

But it is our role as hunters and anglers to ensure policymakers and the public at large know the facts. Let's make decisions with the best information at hand. Let's look at value. Let's look at benefits. Let's look at outcomes. I have a hunch CRP will come out better than a goodly chunk of government spending.

COMPANIES

If you are a member and an owner of a private company or work for a company who supports the MVDHA it was decided that those companies can be listed on the MVDHA website but will not be able to advertise. If your company falls into this category send me the information, preferably a logo and link to your companies web site, to mvdha@mvdha.com.

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 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 John's address is: room A107-1

Mo. Veterans Home 2400 Veterans Memorial Dr.
Cape Girardeau, Mo.63701

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

eScripts Contribution this past month: 10.83

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. Tony has over 200 cards just waiting for you to call at 314-570-3010 or you can email him at tcwolf@charter.net

NEWSLETTER

As part of membership to the Mississippi Valley Duck Hunters Association this newsletter is distributed to the members either by mail or via email. At a previous board meeting, in another cost saving measure, it was decided that all members who have an email address will be receiving this newsletter via email. With the cost of postage, printing, labeling and handling on the increase this will save YOUR MVDHA a little over \$1.00 per month per member that can be used in other areas. That is a substantial savings, with a projected cost savings of over \$800.00 a year if all members received the newsletter via email. If you still wish to receive your newsletter via snail mail, just let me know at the next member's meeting or if you wish to no longer receive it by snail mail and want to save the association funds you can provide me your email address by sending me an email at mvdha@mvdha.com. Either way that you decide, please consider this, that it will save the association money over the time of your membership that can be used elsewhere. Again, this is for members only.

Up Coming Events

Jan 11 : Story Telling Time. Share your hunts, lies or out and out yarns about this season so far.

Feb 8 : Becky Robertson of MDC will speak about the Missouri Girls Exploring Nature in which we are sponsoring.

General Information

This newsletter is distributed to our active members. 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 Art Wende at 636-343-4254 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: **January 11, 2012**

Next Board Meeting: **January 23, 2012**

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

