



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



JUNE 2011

VOLUME 55 ISSUE 6 JUNE 2, 2011

**FROM OUR PRES**

Hey guys, the rain quit (for now) and the cicada have arrived in full force, what more could one ask for in June! The Club has been busy this past month. Mr. Jason Dewes of Delta Waterfowl spoke at the last meeting about things they are doing for the ducks. We presented a \$1500 check to Delta after the presentation to be used for predator control.

We also have entered into a 7 year program with Ducks Unlimited to become Diamond Life Sponsors. The DU money will be used for Missouri work. We will have our name on a bronze plaque, once the Mingo work is completed. The Board of Directors have approved the above support items in one meeting.

The Conservation Federation of Mo will hold a meeting at Babler State Park on June 18th. Mr. Bill Hilgeman will be serving lunch for the attendees. Please see Bill at the meeting if you can give him a hand.

Remember: Don't sweat the small stuff. It's all small stuff!

The June meeting will feature a lie swapping amongst members. No speaker is slated, but this should be lots more fun. We will furnish popcorn and TWO tickets for beer (bottled or draft) and three soda tickets.

Art Wende,  
President

**FISH FRY UPDATE**

The MVDHA annual fish fry was held this past April 13th. If you missed this event you missed a great time! As you know, this is the main event where we raise money to do the things we do through out the year, either association events, operating costs, donations to the ducks etc. The tally is still being made but according to Bernie, we are in the \$6,800 range! We could not have done this without your support, great job!! If you get a chance, through out the coming year, stop by one of our sponsors listed who support us, and give them some business, during these tough economic times, they can use it!

**DONOR LIST FOR MVDHA FISH FRY**

Trout Hollow Resort, Denny Dennis Sporting Goods, Cabela's Sporting Goods, Hazelwood, Fishin Hole, Webster Groves, Colombo's Cafe and Tavern, Dobbs Tire and Auto, Sunset Hills, Ducks Unlimited, Johnny Belz, Delta Waterfowl:

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Regional Director Jason Dewes, Sr  
V P John Devney, River City Chapter

Federal Ammo, St. Peters Co Op, Crooked Slough, Corning Arkansas-Sikeston Country Club, B&D Taxidermy, Big Daddy's Taxidermy, Herb's Cutting Edge Taxidermy, S&S Taxidermy, Dupo Marine, County Asphalt

Thanks to all who attended and supported our club!

Nest year's Fish Fry will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2012. The second floor of the Goff Moll Post 101 has already been reserved. We will look into the possibility of getting fried chicken catered to have in addition with the fish.

**SWAN LAKE UPDATE**

It has just been recently announced that there will be small game hunting and duck hunting in the future at the Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Silver Lake will be drawn down for food and Swan Lake will be moist soil and an emergent marsh. Of course there still has to be a future public hearing to confirm the matter but the Fish & Wildlife Service has given the go ahead for this to happen. We have been active in promoting these activities, and we will keep all members informed.

**CFM QTRLY MEETING**

On June 18, the Conservation Federation of Missouri will have their quarterly meeting at Babler State Park which is slightly west of St. Louis. Accordingly the Board of Directors has voted to provide the luncheon for this meeting and honor our fellow partners in conservation.

The Conservation Federation of Missouri is made up of 80 organizations across the state of which our

organization is one. They meet quarterly with the annual convention held in February.

We will serve sandwiches and other treats. Bill Hilgeman will spearhead the efforts in planning the luncheon and needs fellow members to help serve and clean up. If you can help please call him at 636-861-1308. Thanks.

Several of our members are directors of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. Member Dan Zerr is the treasurer. Marvin Behnke, Bob Wilson, Jerry Castillon and Bill Hilgeman are directors.

**Effective Wingshooting for the Hunter**

This is a "free" workshop that will help migratory and upland bird hunters improve their hunting skills with non-toxic shot. Topics include: how to select the best ammunition and choke combination for hunting, how to improve your shooting skills, general information on the latest non-toxic shotgun ammunition, how to improve your range & distance estimation skills, and how to properly pattern your shotgun.

Participants should bring their hunting shotgun & choke tubes if applicable, non-toxic shotgun ammunition they wish to pattern, eye/ear protection, a stool or chair, a sack lunch and drink. Clay targets, 12 & 20 gauge non-toxic practice ammunition will be provided.

August 19-21 – Big Piney Sportsmen's Club, Houston, MO – 417/256-7161

Sept. 9-10, CSMU, Sedalia – 660/530-5500

Sept. 16-18, Henges Range, St. Louis – 636/938-9548

Sept. 17, Green Area, Ashland – 573/884-6861

**MVDHA BOARD**

**President:** Art Wende

**First V. Pres.:**

Scott Combs

**Fin. Secretary:**

Bernie Urbas

**Rec. Secretary:**

Bill Truebe

**Correspondence**

**Secretary:** Bill Hilgeman and Brad Douglass

**Membership Chairman:**

Bob Richards

**Board of Directors:**

**Chairman of the Board**

Jerry Mercurio

**Directors:**

Don Thoele,

Terry Moran

Jerry Mercurio Jr.,

Ken Libel,

James Edwards,

Tony Wolf,

Dale Westerhold,

Dave Hamilton,

Rob Mueller,

and Tim Koehler

Sept. 24, NW Regional Office, St. Joseph – 816/271-3100

Sept. 24, NE Regional Office, Kirksville – 660/785-2420

Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, Busch Range, St. Louis – 636/300-1953, ext. 302

Oct. 1, Dalton Range, SW MO – 417/742-4361

Oct. 8, Lake City Range, KC – 816/249-3194

Oct. 8, Ted Shanks CA, NE MO – 660/785-2420

## Calling Contest

### Duck and Goose Calling Contest

Jerry Mercurio, Sr. is talking with Cabelas to work out the details. It will be held about the 3rd weekend in September, but this date has not been officially set, as of yet. They are working on the possibility of getting a sanctioned goose calling contest. We will need to advertise more for this year's contest and possibly just have a plaque for 1st place. Prizes would be awarded for other places.

## IDNR

to Host Open Houses to Seek Comment on Upcoming Waterfowl Seasons

Waterfowl hunters interested in learning more about plans for duck and goose seasons in Illinois are invited to attend one of the five public open house meetings the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will host in June.

At each public open house, IDNR staff will provide information on proposed duck zones and season date options for the next five-year period, as well as aerial waterfowl surveys, weather and freeze-up data, and hunter survey data.

Those attending the open houses will have the opportunity to comment on their preferences for the upcoming waterfowl seasons. That input will help IDNR staff develop recommendations for waterfowl zone boundary changes, duck season dates and season dates for Canada goose hunting.

IDNR hopes to set duck zone lines, duck season dates and Canada goose season dates for the next five years, subject to approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS is considering a proposal from Illinois and other states that would allow states two additional options in establishing duck zones: four zones, or three zones with a split into two season segments in each zone. The additional duck zone options could be implemented for the 2011-2015 seasons. IDNR believes the best option for Illinois would be to use four zones without the option to split the season because of the vast differences in the timing of duck migration from north to south in this state (more than 430 miles in length).

IDNR 2011 Waterfowl Public Meetings

All meetings are 5 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Monday, June 6 – PASA Park, Barry (located off I-72, exit 20, west of Pittsfield in Pike Co.)

Tuesday, June 7 – Community Building in Olney City Park, 502 White Squirrel Circle (off Rt. 130), Olney

Wednesday, June 8 – John A. Logan College (Clifford Doc Batteau Room F-103), 700 Logan College Rd., Carterville

Thursday, June 9 – Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

regional office, 1102 Eastport Plaza Dr., Collinsville (north off of I-55 at exit 11)

Wednesday, June 15 – Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area hunter check station, 24621 River Rd., Wilmington (east off of I-55 at exit 241)

## SHOOTING

Mike Goetz is offering up his services for taking kids from about 9 yrs old to 18 and to have a monthly class for shotgun shooting, charge is \$2.00 per 25 clay targets. If the kids stick with the program, they would have to pay \$25.00 a yr for the club. I charge nothing. Mike is a certified trap shooting coach. It will be held every 4th Thursday at Arnold gun club, but must call Mike first to sign up. You must provide your own shells, eye protection and ear protection. Mike does have a youth 20 gauge and several 12 gauges that you can borrow. For more info contact Mike Goetz at 314-568-8531

## GULF COAST DUCK ASSESSMENT

(From Delta Waterfowl Web Site)

Bismarck, N.D.—The federal assessment to measure the 2010 Gulf Coast oil spill's impact on waterfowl lacked leadership, urgency and coherent planning. Delta Waterfowl's Scientific Director Frank Rohwer. "As a scientist, one of my great frustrations is that we have failed to use this disaster to learn how to better deal with any future oil spills," says Louisiana State University's Dr. Frank Rohwer, who was as-

signed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct the waterfowl assessment. Unfortunately, Dr. Rohwer says, we don't know any more today than we did before the spill happened. "Judging from the inefficiency I saw in the waterfowl arena," he says, "I'd bet that assessment applies across the board." The good news, says Rohwer, is that the oil spill wasn't the duck calamity some predicted. "From what we found during the assessment, it was the duck catastrophe that didn't happen," he says, "but next time we might not be so lucky."

A professor at LSU's School of Renewable Natural Resources since 1991, Dr. Rohwer, who doubles as Delta Waterfowl's scientific director, was assigned to conduct the assessment as part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program. The results will be used to determine BP's liability for losses of migratory birds and other water birds. Beginning in late January, Rohwer led a team of student-researchers who followed "transects" in five designated sites along the Gulf Coast, a major wintering area for millions of ducks, geese and other migratory birds. "We only recovered a handful of confirmed oiled birds," says Rohwer. "The upshot is that we got lucky." Rohwer said he had high pre-assessment expectations because the "roster of advisors" had some very smart duck professionals on it. However, in less than a month, the planning process got bogged down in bureaucratic inefficiency and ill-conceived staffing decisions. "It was six months after the spill started before we even had a draft plan for how to assess oil impacts—that was a month after the well was capped, a month after early migrants made it to

Louisiana, and several months after oil came inshore and could have impacted our resident mottled ducks," Rohwer said. "There was another four-month delay before we got crews in the field in January to begin the actual assessment of the oil's impacts." Rohwer says future spill assessments could be dramatically improved by "consistent leadership" and utilizing professionals who "understand waterfowl, waterfowl biology and coastal ecosystems." "That just didn't happen this time around," he said. "And that made getting an assessment plan written and approved very, very difficult." For example, the lead USFWS official for the Waterfowl Technical Working Group was appointed for only two weeks or less, and not one had any knowledge or professional experience with migratory waterfowl or Gulf Coast ecosystems. "The system of rotating waterfowl officials was completely and totally inefficient," Rohwer said. "There's simply too much to learn. After a week a new person would get up to speed, then they'd be out the door. Totally efficient system. "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employs hundreds of waterfowl professionals, but none who were appointed as leaders for the assessment were experts in the field," added Rohwer. "Instead, they came from the permitting and regulatory side of the agency. That just doesn't make any sense." For future major Gulf Coast oil spills, Rohwer recommends "hiring one person on contract" to manage the entire waterfowl assessment. "It's so important to get plans written and approved quickly, because delays make it extremely difficult to accurately determine waterfowl

mortality and other impacts," he said. "A contract person who understands waterfowl and the Gulf Coast could assemble a team quickly, and get a plan approved quickly. To make this process work more efficiently and to ensure the best possible research, you absolutely have to have consistent leadership. The system of rotating leaders simply doesn't work." Future compensation from BP, Rohwer said, is unknown. But for future spills, a more efficient assessment process will help more accurately determine liability. "I think BP benefitted from the lack of leadership in this process," he said. "Hopefully one thing we take from this is that we have to have a faster response so we can more accurately assess damages. We need to mobilize quickly."

## DU BANQUET

Perryville, Missouri, 63775

American Legion

6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Doors open at 6:00pm

Single-\$30, Couple-\$50,  
Youth-\$15, Bronze Sponsor-\$250

Come join us at the Annual Perryville Sportsman Banquet on Friday, June 10 at 6:00pm. We will have exclusive DU merchandise, a live and silent auction, and tons of great prizes to be had by all.

**\*\*PURCHASE YOUR TICKET ONLINE AT [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org) BY JUNE 9th AND RECEIVE \$25 WORTH OF FREE RAFFLE TICKETS FOR A WEATHERBY VAN-**

**GUARD .30-06 BOLT-ACTION RIFLE.\*\***

Raffle tickets for this rifle will NOT be sold at the event, the only way to get in on this fantastic item is to purchase your banquet tickets online. If you purchase a single ticket you will receive \$25 worth of FREE raffle tickets, Couple's ticket will receive \$50 worth of FREE raffle tickets, youth ticket will receive \$10 worth of FREE raffle tickets (if accompanied by paying adult), and Bronze Sponsor will receive \$100 worth of FREE raffle tickets.

Bring the family or grab a buddy and come on out for a great night of fellowship and fun.

For tickets contact:

Jimbo Robinson (901) 230 - 2704

Scott Loomis (573) 579 - 7058

David Leadbetter (573) 517 - 8302

**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](mailto:mvdha@mvdha.com) and I will set it up.

**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 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.

**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](mailto: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.

**eScripts Contribution this past month: 12.10**

EScripts 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](mailto:tcwolf@charter.net)

**Up Coming Events**

**June 8** : Lie Swapping

**July 13** : Swap Meet

**Aug 10** : Jerry Mercurio Decoy placement or Dove Hunting

## 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](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: **June 8, 2011**

Next Board Meeting: **June 27, 2011**

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

