



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



OCTOBER 2011

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**FROM OUR PRES**

October, 2011: TIS THE SEASON

Hey guys, we have all made it to another hunting season! I hope everyone had a great teal and dove season. The upcoming waterfowl season will hopefully be better with a little help from Mother Nature and some luck and skill.

The meeting on October 12th will feature the Mo. Department of Conservation's Duck Projections. The speakers will be Doreen Mengel, Wetland/Waterbird Ecologist, and Gary Calvert of B K Leach. I hope everyone is able to attend this meeting. Please come armed with any questions you may have regarding the Mo waterfowl season.

I want to thank all who helped with staffing the Masters of the Mississippi Calling Contest at Cabela's. I hope Jerry Mercurio is able to have some information on the results in this newsletter. The leftover food stuffs from the contest were donated to the Circle of Concern food pantry in Valley Park.

Margaret Tichacek, wife of the late Jerry Tichacek, has passed on to a better life. I believe, she left this world the day they would have celebrated their 50th anniversary. I really never knew her, but she must have been a saint. Jerry Tichacek was one of the members of Mississippi Valley Duck Hunters from the start. I have included a mission statement from our articles of incorporation, in honor of Jerry and Margaret.

Art Wende,  
President

**JUST A LITTLE CLUB HISTORY**

The following is from the second article of Mississippi Valley Duck Hunter's Association's articles of incorporation in 1956. The mission today is the same as in 1956.

“The purpose for which this corporation is organized is to promote and encourage wild life conservation: to educate and instruct members and the public in the proper and safe methods of gun handling, boat and water activities, and other activities involved in and incident to duck hunting; to promote and encourage sportsmanship, safety and conservation in duck hunting activities; to encourage and promote, through recreational and social activities, safe, lawful sportsmanship in and among duck hunters in the State of Missouri and the United States. This corporation is not created for, nor is it to engage in any business or activity for profit.”

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**NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Robert Urbanek has come forward and wanting to make a difference for MVDHA and has asked and voted on as a new board member for the MVDHA. Welcome Robert and thanks!

**2011–2012 Waterfowl Seasons**

**YOUTH HUNTS**

North Oct. 22–23

Middle Oct. 22–23

South Nov. 19–20

**DUCKS**

North Oct. 29–Dec. 27

Middle Nov. 5–Jan. 3

South Nov. 24–Jan. 22

**CANADA GEESE AND BRANT**

Oct. 1–9 and 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 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



**CFM SHOOT**

Recently Dave Hamilton and Dale Westerhold participated at the annual Conservation Federation of Missouri Sporting clays shoot at which one of the stations was sponsored by YOUR MVDHA. All in all they had a great time, and their shooting was, well, to put it mildly, they did not do to bad, not the best, but not the worst either!

**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:**

Terry Moran

Jerry Mercurio Jr.,

Ken Libel,

James Edwards,

Tony Wolf,

Dale Westerhold,

Dave Hamilton,

Rob Mueller,

Robert Urbanek

and Tim Koehler



We got a thank you letter for our sponsorship at the CFM Pull For Conservation shoot that Dale and Dave attended recently and it states: Thanks for your generous support of CFM 5th annual 'Pull For Conservation' sporting clays shoot. As one of our larger fund raisers each year, businesses and groups like yours help ensure the success of CFM and our outreach and advocacy efforts. We couldn't do it without you!

Signed: Travis Scott

## 2nd Annual Master of the Mississippi Calling Contest Results

Unfortunately we had an issue with the results getting to me by press time, so I will have the results in on the next issue of the newsletter, but enjoy some pics from the event!



## DELTA KASKASKIA RIVER CHAPTER BANQUET

Kaskaskia River Dinner - Bullpen Bar and Grill, 101 North Van Buren St. - Doors open 5:30pm Dinner 7pm - For more information contact Mic Middleton (618) 475-3562

When Sat Oct 22 5:30pm – 9:30pm

Where 101 North Van Buren St., New Athens IL

## BOARD MEMBERS

Ever had or thought there was a problem with the association? Ever complained about one thing or another on why this association does this or that and should do it this way? Ever thought about becoming a solution to these problems instead of just complaining about them? Here is your chance! Become a board member. Elections will be held in December. If you are interested in becoming a board member, or if you have

questions on becoming a board member, email your questions or interest to [mvdha@mvdha.com](mailto:mvdha@mvdha.com) or mail them to the address on the back of this newsletter and they will be forward to Jerry. If you want to make a change, here is your chance.

## ROCK SNOT

I know it is hunting season, but for you trout fisherman.....

MDC bans porous-soled waders to help protect trout waters from invasive algae

Porous-soled waders are prime suspects in human transport of "didymo," or "rock snot."

In anticipation of winter trout fishing, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourages trout anglers to help prevent the spread of a new threat to Missouri's cold-water streams and rivers. Called "didymo" (*Didymosphenia geminata*) or "rock snot," this invasive alga forms large, thick mats on the bottoms of cold-water streams and rivers, reducing the quality and quantity of food vital to fish such as trout. Didymo also clogs water intakes and boat motors. It interferes with fishing gear and eventually makes fishing nearly impossible, with devastating economic and environmental consequences.

Didymo is native to northern parts of North America and Europe. While it has not been found in Missouri, rock snot has been found just south of the Missouri-Arkansas border in the White River.

The Missouri Conservation Commission has approved a regulation change banning the use of porous-soled waders or footwear incorporating or having attached a porous sole of felted, matted, or woven fibrous material when fishing in trout parks and other specific trout waters. Pending public comment through the Secretary of State's office, the new regulation will go into effect March 1, 2012, the opening day of catch-and-keep fishing at Missouri's four trout parks.

## 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 company's web site, to [mvdha@mvdha.com](mailto: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](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.

## eScripts Contribution this past month: 8.65

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, Office-Max, 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)

## 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.

## Up Coming Events

**Oct 12** : MDC Waterfowl Projections.

**Nov 9** : Mr. Jan Morris, Project Coordinator at Jay Henges Range, talk about gun safety and related issues

**Dec 14** : Christmas Party

Duck hunters will find plenty to cheer about in the annual breeding population and habitat survey.

Conducted each May by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service, this year's survey reveals the second-highest pond count and a record 45.6 million ducks, the most since the survey was started in 1955. Blue-winged teal, shovelers and redheads soared to record levels, and if that's not enough, mallard, pintail, canvas-back and gadwall numbers rose substantially from 2010.

While water is great for ducks, excessive snowpack and heavy spring rains produced extreme flooding across much of the prairie breeding grounds. From the Canadian prairies to the Dakotas and eastern Montana, tens of thousands of homeowners have been displaced by swollen rivers, millions of acres of cropland remain unplanted and hundreds of miles of roads are under water.

The closely watched May ponds total, the second-highest ever, doesn't do justice to the unprecedented flooding still terrorizing residents of the breeding grounds. Across the U.S. side of the region, the last three years have been the wettest since pond counts began. The 3.2 million ponds inventoried in the U.S. this spring were the most on record.

The 4.9 million ponds in prairie Canada were 43 percent more than the long-term average, which dates back to 1955, and brings the total pond count across the traditional survey area to 8.1 million, second only to the 8.3 million recorded in 1974.

Not surprisingly, all that water attracted a record number of ducks. The 12.5 million breeding ducks that settled in the eastern half of the Dakotas was the most ever, and was 172 percent above average.

The Canadian prairies got drenched this year and, accordingly, attracted significantly more ducks than last year: Alberta saw a 60 percent jump in pond numbers and 66 percent more ducks, Manitoba was 72 percent wetter with 41 percent more ducks and Saskatchewan's pond count rose 18 percent and attracted 56 percent more ducks.

Species		2011	2010	% change from 2010	% change from LTA
	Mallard	9.183	8.430	+9	+22
	Gadwall	3.257	2.977	+9	+80
	Wigeon	2.084	2.425	-14	-20
	Green-winged	2.900	3.476	-17	+47
	Blue-winged	8.948	6.329	+41	+91
	Pintail	4.429	3.509	+26	+10
	Shoveler	4.641	4.057	+14	+98
	Redhead	1.356	1.064	+27	+106
	Canvasback	0.692	0.585	+18	+21
	Scaup	4.319	4.244	+2	-15
Total Ducks		45.554	40.894	+11	+35

All numbers in millions. LTA is long-term average.

## 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: **October 12, 2011**

Next Board Meeting: **October 24, 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

