



SEPTEMBER 2009

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 9

SEPT 2, 2009

MEMBERS MEETING

We will be having a member of DU giving us a presentation on this upcoming members meeting. Johnny Belz of DU will also be presenting your MVDHA with a Lifetime Membership plaque for all the work we have done is supporting DU activities. Be sure to come!

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

-- 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.

Strassenfest

Your MVDHA will be having a ring toss booth at this years Strassenfest so bring the family out and enjoy some great German food, fun and events!

Strassenfest is an annual event celebrating the tradition of German Gemutlichkeit. In September 2009 you will see a return to a more traditional German Festival with a real family friendly feel. You'll find more authentic German food, along with old favorites. There will be traditional German Music on Two separate stages. There'll also be Carnival Rides, Game Booths, Arts & Crafts Booths, (Artists, Painters, RAKU Pottery & much more), and the CHILDREN'S VIL-

LAGE (CINDY's Petting Zoo, Storytellers, Jugglers and Stilt Walkers).

Where: Central Park - Chesterfield, MO, USA Behind Chesterfield Mall

When: Friday, Sept. 18th, 2009 5 pm - 11 pm
Saturday, Sept. 19th, 2009 Noon - 11 pm
Sunday, Sept. 20th, 2009 Noon - 6 pm

Pets (unless for handicap assistance), Bikes, Skateboards, Roller blades, Weapons, Poles & Sticks are PROHIBITED at Strassenfest. No Coolers, Bottles, Cans or Alcoholic Beverages can be brought into the event.

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, dis-

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MEMBERS MEETING	1
DUCK SEASON	1
STRASSENFEST	1
CONSEP WAY	1
BANQUETS	2
LETTER OF THANKS	3
CORA ISLAND	3
SNOW GOOSE HUNT	3
TROUT FISHING	3
DUCK NUMBERS	3
CFM	4
DUCK LEASE	4
HOME BOUND	4
MEMBERSHIP	4
ESCRIPTS	4
UPCOMING EVTS	4
PRESIDENT'S CORNER	5
GENERAL INFO	COV

tance estimation and equipment selection, regardless of the shot material they choose to use. CON-SEP-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 CON-SEP 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 CON-

SEP Way Workshop

Evaluate and improve your personal wingshooting 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.

BANQUETS

DU Gateway Greenheads Banquet

When: Saturday, September 19, 2009

Location:

Assumption Greek Church, Manchester & 270

Contact Name: LLoyd Coons

Phone: (314)452-0613

Ticket prices: Advance: Single: \$45 Couple: \$80 Youth: \$20 Sponsor: \$295 Sponsor Couple: \$325

At the Door: Single \$60 Couple \$100

MVDHA BOARD

President: Tony Wolf

First V. Pres.:

Scott Combs

2nd 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

Delta TWIN Rivers Chapter Banquet

When: Saturday, September 19, 2009

Location: Alton-Wood River Sportsman Club

3109 Godfrey Road

Godfrey, IL 62035

Contact Name: Ross Wilson

Phone: (618)466-4695

Ticket prices: Single: \$45 Couple: \$60 Youth: \$20 Corporate Table:\$600

LETTER OF THANKS

We received a letter of thanks from Steve Whitson, the Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge Area Manager and it states:

Thanks for having me at your meeting in May. I really enjoyed discussing Swan Lake NWR with you folks. Pass along a special thanks to Bill (Hilgeman) and Bill (Truebe) for their wonderful hospitality and dinner.

Thanks,

Steve Whitson

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

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 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 nonresidents.

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 Hol-

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

low 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.

On a side not, Tony and I went and enjoyed a wonderful day of sporting clays at the third Annual Sporting Clays Tournament at the River Hills Sporting Clays at Booneville, MO. This facility is first rate! If you missed it, make plans for next year! They really rolled out the Red Carpet for all participants. They had silent auctions and different winner categories for the participants. It was a GREAT time!

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.

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: \$8.52

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

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

Oct 14 : Annual Duck hunting forecast presented by the MDC.

Nov 11 : TBD

Dec 9 : Our annual Christmas Party

The President's Corner

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Middle age got the best of me. My editor reminded me that I hadn't sent an article in the other night, and I told him I would be sending it this evening. Well, if you get to read this, it's because of Brad's dedication to duty, seeing that I fell asleep that night. So, after being roused from my sleep on the Saturday before Labor Day by a late summer thunderstorm, I realized I'd better get up even earlier than planned.

I thought I could procrastinate just a little longer and write about the youth dove hunt Daniel and I are about to leave for in an hour or so, but I realized that Brad's not a miracle worker and neither is the post office for those of you receiving this via snail mail. Therefore, let's just say that Daniel limited out after the rain stopped in 59 minutes.

Well, I had to say that because I know for a fact that Art Wende limited out in 65 minutes at Columbia Bottom on the opener. Way to go, Art! Another friend of mine was able to do the same. Apparently there are doves all over that place regardless of the cooler weather this year. Has anyone bothered to check with Al Gore about this pattern of late?

The story on duck avenue is that a sizable migration of teal has already boogied past us and are in Louisiana already. No, not the hwy 79 region either. Get out there and brush those blinds before the willows get nasty, dust off your dekes, and get ready for what could be a banner season with a little cooperation from mother nature.

Trent Fischer reported that a friend of his has never seen so many ducks staging in North Dakota already. That's good news for Rob Mueller and crew as they get ready to embark on a trip to the upper reaches of the U.S. Stick with one gun, Mr. Hoerr and don't let the grape bite you in the behind!

Congrats to member, Scott Wilson, who also leads the local Delta chapter. His crew pulled off a great dinner in Washington, MO, and also had a great Franklin County Hunter Expo, too.

Kudos to Timmy for sending us our guest speaker last month. It was nice to see a larger audience than usual for an August meeting. Let's do it again this month as Mr. Belz from DU will be here to present us with an award and fill us in on the latest and greatest projects DU has been working on. I believe we'll hear about perpetual easements in the St. Louis area, too.

Time to head for the shower, and pull some last minute equipment out of the basement. I'm sure I'll forget something, right Brad?

Until next time.....

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. 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: **September 9, 2009**

Next Board Meeting: **September 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

