



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



SEPTEMBER 2011

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**FROM OUR PRES**

Hey guys, this is the time we have all been waiting for. Currently dove, teal, and geese are now open, depending where one hunts. I wish everyone a successful and safe hunt every time you go out.

Member Brett Bunk will be our September speaker. Brett will go over getting our dogs ready for the hunt.

The Big news this month is the Second Annual Masters of The Mississippi Duck and Goose Calling Contest held September 17th and 18th. We will host the event at Cabela's as last year at St. Louis Mills.

Please come to the party and help out however you can either or both days. See Jerry Mercurio at the meeting to sign the help list.

The two GATEWAY DUCK CHAPTERS will be holding banquets in September.

Delta Gateway Chapter will hold theirs September 23rd at Two Hearts Banquet Center.

The Ducks Unlimited Gateway Chapter will hold theirs September 24th at the Greek Church at Manchester and I 270.

THINK GATEWAY AND YOU CAN'T GO WRONG!

Good Hunting,

Art Wende,

President

**BILL TRUEBE CORRECTION**

With over ten years of fulfilling the position of Recording Secretary Bill is stepping down and handing the reins over to Dave Hamilton **IN JANUARY**, he will remain on as a member of the board. All I can say Bill, is thanks for the great service you have provided to this organization. Please stop by and pass on your thanks to Bill when you get the chance. Oh, congratulations Bill for winning the Dove package!

**RESERVATIONS**

Do not forget to put in for your reservations through the MDC site. You have until the 18th of September to get them in. The results will be available on 1 October. While you are out on the site, take a look at the new changes for this year by downloading the Waterfowl digest.

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**FOR SALE**

**1997 Basscat Pantera II** - \$10,000. See Tim Koehler for information and pictures of the boat if you are interested. No low ball offers here. I don't have to sell it - just want to sell it.

**Super X-2** -28 inch barrel, 12 gauge, 3.5 in, black synthetic, in real good shape, \$650.00 OBO. Call Mike Goetz 314-568-8531.

**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:**

Dave Hamilton

**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,

Bill Truebe,

Rob Mueller,

Robert Urbanek

and Tim Koehler

## 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.

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

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

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

## 2nd Annual Master of the Mississippi Calling Contest

Join us for the 2nd Annual Master of the Mississippi Calling Contest. Come on out and try for your luck at over \$3,500 in cash and prizes. Hosted by your MVDHA and sponsored by Cabela's.

### SCHEDULE:

Registration will start at 8:00 am each day and will close 30 minutes prior to each contest

Saturday, 9/17

JR meat Duck (under 16)

Start time: 10:00am

Entry Fee: Free

2 Man Meat Duck

Start time: 12:00pm

Entry Fee: \$40.00 per team

Open Meat Duck

Start Time: 3:00 pm

Entry Fee: \$40.00

Sunday, 9/18

JR Meat Goose (under 16)

Start time: 10:00am

Entry Fee: Free

2 Man Meat Goose

Start Time: 12:00pm

Entry Fee: \$40.00 per team

Open Meat Goose

Start Time: 3:00pm

Entry Fee: \$40.00

For more info or questions please Contact Brian Kalkbrenner: 636-795-1006 or [dufenton@aol.com](mailto:dufenton@aol.com) or go to [www.callingducks.com](http://www.callingducks.com) select Contest Calendar on the left. In the drop downs, select Sept and Missouri for the state. Go to

[www.mvdha.com](http://www.mvdha.com) for additional information, rules, prize lists, schedule and entrance forms.

## DELTA BANQUET

The St. Louis Gateway Chapter of Delta Waterfowl

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

2ND Annual Fund Raising Banquet

Friday, September 23, 2011, at the Two Hearts Banquet Center

4532 South Lindbergh Blvd.

Sunset Hills, Missouri, 63127

Doors Open & Social starts at 6:30 PM Dinner will be served at 7:45 PM

Ticket Prices: Youth Ticket - One Youth Membership - \$35.00

Single Ticket - One Delta Membership - \$55.00

Couples Ticket - One Delta Membership - \$80.00

Corporate Table - Eight Delta Memberships - \$550.00

Corporate Table Sponsor Bonus Package Each Corporate Table Sponsor will receive: One Half Page Ad in the Banquet Program - \$100.00 Value Twelve month Ad on the Gateway Chapter Web Page Eight Delta Waterfowl Camouflage Hats Early Bird Ticket Purchase Special

Individual and Corporate Table Tickets purchased by Tuesday, Sept. 6th, will be entered into special drawings. Individual Winner will receive \$150 in Raffle Tickets. Corporate Table Winner will receive \$200 in Raffle Tickets. Banquet Program Booklet Ad Space Ad

Space is available in the Banquet Program Booklet for Individual supporters and Business Ads.

Full Page Ad - \$175.00 Half Page Ad - \$100.00 Quarter Page Ad - \$65.00

To purchase your Banquet tickets please contact one of the following Gateway Chapter Banquet Committee Members

Mike Goetz - 314-568-8531

Tom Biggar - 314-609-7839

Rich Radil - 314-422-2650

Dan Mueller – 314-609-3725

Jerry Mercurio - 314-603-6548.

**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).

**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: 9.95**

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**

**Sept 14** : Brett Bunk getting a dog ready for the upcoming season

**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: **September 14, 2011**

Next Board Meeting: **September 26, 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

