



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



MARCH 2023

VOLUME 67 ISSUE 3 MARCH 3, 2023

THE COLD 2

As I stated before in last month's newsletter, us waterfowlers are a strange lot, we like to go out in the most severe weather to chase after the birds we love so dear. Even if we know that the possibility of not even seeing a bird exist we still go out. If it is just an archaic drive to get out or to just test your metal to see if you can manage the weather.

This event happened probably about 14 years ago where I had a reservation at BK Leach Conservation Area. Now, a lot of folks do not care for BK, but I have had quite a few good hunts there and it is relatively close to home and I just like the area and how it is laid out.

On the morning of the hunt, when I woke up, I saw the temp outside, about nine degrees, been watching the bird count of BK, (I think it was like only 250) and decided to head on out. Now, I considered myself a seasoned waterfowler where I have hunted all over the United States. Been exposed to all kinds of different weather, temps and precipitation. Missouri had been hit with a sever cold snap. Everything was frozen up solid for about two weeks. I had all the modern clothes at the time with me so I figured I could withstand the outside temperature.

The morning draw at BK was held at the old/new pole barn that is by the monument of dedication that MVDHA participated on with DU. (The barn was destroyed in a subsequent flood years later.) When I pulled into the parking lot, I believe I was the only one there. Went inside and talked to the agent, pulled my pill and selected S7 for my hunting spot. The agent stated he believed what little ducks they still had in the area were keeping open water way up in the corner of S7.

At my car, I had the normal equipment for hunting in a public refuge. I had my deer cart, four dozen decoys, a large sled and other equipment. Put my 5 MM waders on, stuffed an extra set of gloves in my waders, put on a full face covering along with my primary warm gloves with hand warmers and headed out.

I followed the dike around the pool and by the time I got to the back corner, pulling that cart through about three inches of snow and brush I was sweating pretty hard, even in 9 degree weather. So I opened up my jacket a bit to dissipate the heat I was building up.

In the pre-dawn darkness, I found the spot the agent was referring to, however, instead of having about three inches of ice it had about an inch of ice. I figured no problem, I have hunted in ice before and started working in creating a hole. The normal way I go about that is to basically walk in a circle or the shape of the hole I wanted and push the ice under the ice shelf. (continued on page 4)

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FUND RAISER

IMPORTANT!!!!

If you have any fund raiser tickets left or money to be turned in please get both back to Jerry at this coming member's meeting!! We will be drawing the winning ticket at our March Member's meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Dues for being a member of YOUR MVDHA expired at the end of last year. Please consider renewing your dues for next years membership. The cost is only \$25.

Please mail your membership dues to the address on the back of this newsletter or give your check to any board member.

IF YOU DO NOT RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER SENT TO YOU.

TROUT TRIP

MVDHA is planning on the annual Trout Trip this year. The dates are going to be 24 March through 26 March. Coming home on the 26th. We are staying at the **Blue Haven Resort** at Taneycomo, which is down by Bass Pro. The address for **Blue Haven Resort** is:

1851 Lakeshore Drive

Branson Missouri

65615

Jerry Reserved four rooms. To reserve your room call the resort at 417-334-3917. If no answer call Ursula, who is the resort manager at 417-294-2846.

The cost for the room for two days, which can accommodate four people is \$242.70. Check out is at 10 AM.

When you call for your reservation, make sure you tell them that you are part of the MVDHA. If you need a boat slip or to reserve a boat make sure you let them know of that also.

We will be having a fishing tournament as we have had in previous years for those who want to join it. Prizes included are:

Longest Fish

Heaviest Stringer

Second heaviest Stringer

If you have not gone on the annual trout trip in the past, it has always been a great time, I know you will enjoy it.

Unfortunately, Marylyn not be joining us this year, she got lost somehow.

If you come, please bring a side dish for all to enjoy during the dinner we will be having on Saturday night.

Don't forget your fishing license expires on 28 February!!

APRIL MEETING

For our April meeting, we have a rare opportunity to hear from a Field agent (aka Game Warden). MDC Agent Jeff Breuer has agreed to come and speak to us for our April meeting. He is the field agent for the St Louis County region which includes Columbia Bottoms

I am sure he will have some fun stories to discuss with us at our meeting, but come up with some great questions to ask him. I for one am curious what kind of stupid things he has seen in his career that us hunters have done that we can either educate ourselves or educate those new hunters that come into the field.

MANITOBA

From the Star Tribune, credit Dennis Anderson.

MVDHA BOARD

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'Blue-collar hunters' from Minnesota, U.S. should watch Manitoba's moves carefully

Within a month or so, Manitoba will announce that most Minnesota and other non-Canadian waterfowlers who wish to hunt in that province without a registered Manitoba guide must apply to a lottery for a duck or goose hunting license.

Those who are awarded licenses will be limited to seven days of hunting. The number of licenses available in the lottery isn't known, though reports last fall said 1,300 would be awarded to non-Canadian, non-outfitted waterfowlers.

The program is expected to begin this fall.

Meanwhile, 1,200 non-Canadian licenses would be reserved for 60 Manitoba outfitters. Additionally, Americans who own property in Manitoba — it's unclear whether "property" means any property or simply "duck camps" — will get one "legacy" license for themselves and four licenses for their buddies.

The legacy licenses will be good for 21 days.

The plan, which in some form or fashion Saskatchewan is also exploring, is considered a slap in the face to American hunters, most of whom are Minnesotans, who for nearly a century have sent billions of dollars to Canada for wetland conservation. American hunters, in fact, are the major financiers of habitat preservation in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada's primary waterfowl-producing provinces.

The Manitoba licensing program will be implemented despite the protests of American conservation groups, particularly Ducks Unlimited (DU), which in October

sent a stern letter to provincial authorities opposing the idea.

"Since 1986, over \$2.7 billion [Canadian] has been invested in wetland conservation in Canada under the auspices of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. This averages approximately \$77 million in funding to Canada each year," DU Chief Executive Officer Adam Putnam wrote to Greg Nesbitt, Manitoba minister of natural resources and northern development. "This investment has resulted in over 27 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands habitat being conserved in Canada."

DU also rejected a Manitoba proposal that would have reserved 200 non-Canadian waterfowl licenses for it and 200 for Delta Waterfowl so the groups could bring donors to Manitoba to hunt. Delta rebuffed that idea as well.

In concert with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation and the Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association, Manitoba officials justify the non-Canadian waterfowl-hunting plan, saying it:

- Prioritizes resident hunting opportunities and access to the resource.
- Prioritizes existing licensed outfitting businesses "such that their services are highly sought after by clientele from across Canada, the U.S. and the world."
- Ensures that non-outfitted, foreign residents accessing Manitoba waterfowling opportunities are sustainable and at numbers tolerable by Manitobans.

The explanations are largely considered obfuscations, if not fabrications, by American waterfowlers, who point out that waterfowl hunting among Manitobans has been declining for decades.

In 1978, about 55,000 provincial residents hunted ducks and geese, and now fewer than 10,000 do. The idea that further reducing the relative handful (about 3,600) of American waterfowlers who visit the province in fall will increase Manitoba duck- and goose-hunter numbers is simply not believable, U.S. hunters say.

Instead, the move is largely viewed in the U.S. as an attempt to benefit Manitoba guides by privatizing a public resource managed and governed by international treaties.

The plan is particularly grating to American waterfowlers because do-it-yourself duck and goose hunting is more affordable than guided hunting, and because planning one's own hunt and executing it successfully or even unsuccessfully can be important to achieving an outing's memorable outcome.

Since I wrote about the Manitoba proposal last September, which until then had been largely kept quiet outside the province, many discussions have occurred between Manitoba and U.S. waterfowlers and various groups.

This includes Delta Waterfowl, headquartered in Bismarck, N.D., where John Devney, a Minnesota native, is chief policy officer. Devney has been an adviser on the licensing issue with Manitoba officials the last five months.

Devney's belief is that Manitoba is going to launch the restrictions regardless of Americans' opinions, and his goal is to "get the best deal I can for U.S. waterfowlers."

He acknowledges Delta's position is viewed skeptically by some because Delta's former

president, Rob Olson, also is a former director of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation and is now Manitoba Deputy Minister of Wildlife.

"I'm doing my very best to see that American hunters get a fair shake," Devney said. "We didn't support the original proposal. We are trying to improve it."

Based on the historical number of U.S. waterfowlers hunting in Manitoba, Devney said the percentage of DIY applicants who would receive licenses by lottery under the original proposal was 65%.

"I don't know what the final percentage will be, because they haven't decided, but it will be significantly better than that," he said.

Its fine print notwithstanding, Manitoba's licensing idea is simply wrong, said John Cooper of Pierre, S.D., a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agent who later headed the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Department for 12 years.

"The North American model of wildlife management, which hunters have funded generously for almost a century, has said from the beginning that if you buy a license, you've got a stake in the game and you should have a say in the rules," Cooper said. "Manitoba claims American hunters are crowding out their guides or hunters, but they've offered no research to demonstrate this, and they've offered no opportunity for Americans' input."

Cooper noted that Minnesota, like many other states, sends money to Canada for waterfowl conservation from the sale of duck stamps, adding:

"When you award outfitters a guaranteed number of licenses, while limiting U.S. waterfowlers who win lottery permits to only seven days of hunting, you're incentivizing the outfitters to lease up more and more land, thus making it even harder for the blue-collar hunter to find a place to hunt."

COLD 2 (continued)

This was going great, just as I planned it, was about half way finished and about ready to start throwing out decoys. Now, I am a known klutz. I fall into the water just about every year duck hunting. When I was breaking ice and shoving it under the ice shelf, the piece I shoved prior to that one came sliding back out from under the shelf where when I stepped on it, I literally fell backwards completely submerging my self in the water. I quickly stood back up waded out of the water and assessed my situation.

My head and upper body was totally soaked. Opening up my jacket to dissipate the heat only let more water in and I was soaked from the top of my pants up. In that temperature my full face mask immediately froze. My 5MM waders also froze on the outside and made life a bit difficult to move. My shirt began to freeze along with my water soaked jacket. I knew I was in some serious trouble and I had about a mile hike back to my vehicle. I had to keep moving.

Luckily I had not totally unpacked my sled. With a shaking body and numb hands I strapped down my sled to the cart and began heading back to the car.

Half way back to the car, I totally lost feeling in my hands and face. My body was shaking uncontrollably but I need to keep moving. I remembered the spare gloves in

my waders, I pulled them out and it seemed like it took forever to change out my gloves since I could not feel them and my hands basically did not seem to want to work but I got them on and continued my trek back.

When I finally made it to the car I had to use both hands to get the keys out of my waders and palm the key to open up the door since my fingers would not work. I stripped off my coat and got in, waders and all. How I started the car with my body shaking like crazy and frozen hands, I do not know, but once the car started I turned the heat on high and sat there for about thirty minutes thawing out. My hands and face felt like they were on fire when the blood started flowing again but I knew I was going to be fine.

After warming back up, I got out of the car and loaded up my hunting gear and pulled my waders off and threw them in and started home, wet clothes and all.

On the way home from BK I reflected back on how stupid I was and lucky at the same time. I was complacent, thinking I had all areas covered with hunting in this type of cold. I had not.

First off, I was over dressed, I had on cotton long johns on, both top and bottom with a heavy flannel shirt on. This combination soaks in water and gives very little comfort when wet. From this I now wear light loose layers, using smart wool or alpaca which wicks away moisture when you do get hot and a lot less confining to allow the blood to flow to extremities.

Second, I did not have a change of clothes with me in order to get out of the wet clothes. Now, I always bring a change of

clothes with me in my car just for this purpose.

Third, when I hunt public, I normally hunt by myself so I can control the hunt better. If I would of died out there, It would of taken a bit more time in finding me with the camouflage I was wearing. I now back an orange hunters vest with me when ever I go into the marsh. In case I get into trouble, it will give rescuers a better idea of where you are, or to find your corpse if you did a stupid thing like I did.

FAMILY FUN

We are going to try and do this again this year since it was cancelled last year due to extreme weather and the years before due to COVID. We are in the early planning stages for a confirmed date, but we are planning for a family fun day out at the Perry Community Lake in Perry County in May. Come when you want to come out to enjoy the great outdoors with your family, kids, grandkids and friends! Your MVDHA will provide some easy up shelters, hotdogs, chips and water. We are planning on eating at noon. So bring your lawn chairs, any other beverages (NO ALCOHOL), fishing poles, bait etc. to enjoy a wonderful day! The lake has great banks from fishing from but if you want to bring a boat you can! There are a couple of ramps to be used but it is a no wake lake, but a boat is really not needed. This lake is great for kids to catch lots of fish, it will be great fun for them! Make sure you bring mosquito spray and sunscreen since the bugs will be out, along with tics! There is also an archery range nearby with tree stand targets to practice for the upcoming season. From the MDC site: Perry County Community Lake is lo-

cated about two miles west of Perryville and can be accessed from Route T and from the Interstate 55 west outer road. The Conservation Department, in cooperation with the citizens of Perry County who passed a bond issue to purchase 310 acres from private landowners to create the public area, developed the site and constructed a 103-acre impoundment, which was opened to fishing in 1971. The area now includes two access roads, four parking lots, two boat launching ramps, a fishing access trail for bank anglers, and two small picnic areas. The area also features a disabled accessible fishing pier, where fish cover structures have been placed to improve fish habitat. Disabled-accessible restrooms are located near the fishing pier.

MO MUDDY KIDS

COVID pretty much slammed the door for MO Muddy Kids that Jerry has heading up and he has decided to close the doors on MO Muddy Kids. It was a great effort and Jerry did much good in introducing kids to the wonderful sport we all love. Due to by laws the money he has left over in the bank is going to be donated to DU ear marked for kids events.

DELTA WATERFOWL

Duck Hunters Expo

July 28-30, 2023

There will be something for everyone at the Duck Hunters Expo! All stages feature presenters who are leaders in their area of expertise. Delta Waterfowl will have the foremost experts in the fields of duck production, waterfowl habitat conservation and the future of our hunting heritage presenting daily. Get three packed days of the in-depth information that duck hunters crave. Hosted by Genesis Hunters & Trinity Training, Pastor Jay Johnson

The largest event in North America dedicated to the duck hunter!

Little Rock, AR

Join us in the duck hunting capital of North America. The Duck Hunters Expo will take over the Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center covering over 80,000 square feet of exhibit space. Located right on the Arkansas River and only a 10-minute drive from the airport. See <https://deltawaterfowlexpo.com/> for more info and tickets.

Banquet

Two Rivers Chapter – Brussels, IL

Saturday, April 15, 2023

Doors Open – 5:30 PM | Dinner – 6:30 PM

Youth Ticket – \$20, Single Ticket – \$45, Couples Ticket – \$60

Hunters Table of 6 – \$150

Single Sponsor Ticket – \$135

Includes Sponsor Delta Waterfowl membership & 1 entry into a Sponsor Only raffle. Couples Sponsor Ticket – \$150

Includes 1 Sponsor and 1 Friend Delta Waterfowl memberships & 1 entry into a Sponsor Only raffle. Sponsor Table of 6 – \$240

Includes 1 Sponsor and 5 Friend Delta Waterfowl memberships & 1 entry into a Sponsor Only raffle. Raffle Bag – \$200

Includes a 1 in 35 chance at an exclusive gun. Only 35 sold!

Does not include entry ticket.

For more information contact: Jo Ann Bieker at (618) 600-1466 | jdbieker@frontier.com

Up Coming Events

Mar 8 : Tanny Fishing Trip or talking Turkey

Apr 12 : Agent Jeff Breuer

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 at 7:30 PM and our Board of Directors' Meeting every fourth Monday at 7 PM. Members meetings are held at Borgettis Bar & Grill 1667 South Old Hwy 141 Fenton MO. Board Meetings are held at various locations, contact Jerry Mercurio at 314-603-6548 for this month's location. In case of bad weather call Ken Liebel at 314-822-8030 or Jerry Mercurio at 314-603-6548.

Visit YOUR web site at <https://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: March 8, 2023

Next Board Meeting: March 27, 2023

Members are invited to the Board Meeting

Member's meeting start at 7:30, Board meeting starts at 7:00

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DUCK HUNTERS ASSN. INC.

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"ST. LOUIS' NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION"

P.O. BOX 6, VALLEY PARK, MO 63088

