



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



MAY 2023

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THE BOYS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA PT2

After an uneventful trip to Columbia Bottoms, though the boys from South Carolina still had a great time and lots of memories, breaking ice that they have never done nor seen before or doing a sneak on Swans, I was trying to figure out what I could do to put them onto some ducks since they traveled so far and had high expectations. Looking at the weather, it was looking pretty bleak with temperatures in the teens and the St Louis area was pretty locked up with ice and the ducks had moved out of the area. I was about to give up and tell them better luck next year but I decided to take them south to Otter Slough and take a chance on the Poor Line. Contacted a previous member of MVDHA to see if we could stay with him since he had a house down in Dexter and he agreed and the hunt was on.

We traveled down to Dexter to find the place we were going to stay at and when I pulled into the drive, I had my concerns. Granted, it was not the most luxurious accommodations, as a matter of fact, it was basically a shack turned into a duck camp. A fire hazard is an understatement for this place, there were bare wires to route the electricity from one of the only operating outlets in the place to the kitchen that you had to duck under, but hey, for a small donation to help on the lease, which was not much, it was a bed and a roof, though it leaked and we did not have to drive the long hours from St Louis to meet the morning draw.

The next morning we pulled into the parking lot of Otter Slough for the morning draw. As usual, it was packed with hunters and all their different rigs. The boys from South Carolina were all excited to see all of the hunters and their rigs and were getting ideas of their own to see what they could come up with.

The morning draw was packed, I explained to them the process, we filled out our tags, picked out our spots to hunt (if we were to get on) and got into line awaiting the morning speech and did our draw. If my memory serves me correctly, we did not get the top ten, but we got on with a decent number, after talking to the MDC staff he suggested one area that had some 'open' water on it and decent cover, so we took it.

We went to our parking area and after fumbling in the dark as we all do, we found our spot. After looking around a bit, we did find some 'open' water which was about twenty yards long and about five yards wide, which actually looked pretty good and had some cover along a tree line, so we set up and threw out the decoys and I got the boys settled in.

There wasn't enough room for all of us to hunt that hole, so I left them and went down about thirty yards or so and punched a hole in the ice in the corn stocks and just sat on the ice to listen to them. To say that they had a good time was an understatement. They were having a grand time. They did not have a slaughter fest but were able to knock down quite a few birds of mixed bag, which was what I was hoping for, for them to see something other than Wood Ducks and Ring Necks.

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TROUT TRIP UPDATE

As usual, we all had a great time for our annual trout trip to Taneycomo. But it was all about the water, too much of it.



With the advent of the heavy rains the day before, the Corp opened up five flood gates, which they later opened up all ten gates about a foot. Making fishing extremely difficult with debris coming down and the fast current, but most of us caught fish and we all definitely had a great time!

In the trout tournament we had \$190 to pay out, which were the following:



Longest Fish of \$75 went to Mike Hopen!



Second Heaviest Stringer of \$50 went to Scott Combs

The Heaviest Stringer of \$65 went to Logan Mercurio



After the trout tournament we all enjoyed deep fried everything! From trout, catfish, chicken and what ever else people brought! Along with baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad and other side dishes, we all had a

MVDHA BOARD

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great time telling stories of that days challenges with the water and what secret bates were used.



It was a great time for all who came down and enjoyed the week-end.

Currently, we are not too sure if we are going back to Blue Haven Resort for next year's trip but consider next year if you did not come this year, we always have a great time enjoying each others friendship during this annual trip.

A WORD OF THANKS

MVDHA MEMBERS and Their Families, I just want to say Thanks for coming and enjoying the week-end in Branson Mo. on Lake Taneycomo with me and my sons. Saturday turned out nice and we caught a few fish. But the Saturday night Meal was the "Best"!!! The food was Great and the company was Outstanding. Again Thank You for coming down to the Lake. I hope you had as much fun as I did, hang'n out and partying with everyone that night! God Bless !!!!! Jerry

APRIL MEETING ANSWERS

From our April meeting we had MDC Agent Jeff Breuer as our speaker, it was an outstanding meeting. Below are his answers to the questions along with his contact info if needed:

1. Waterfowl limits. I have five ducks in the blind and two ducks come in cupped up and I shoot once and both birds fall. How should a hunter handle this and how would you handle this if you observe this? **Call your local Agent to get advice, mistakes happen, honesty is the best policy.**
2. What does an agent expect from us hunters when the agent approaches the hunter? **Muzzle pointed in safe direction is paramount, don't be nervous, just freeze and do exactly what the Agent says.**
3. Is breasting a waterfowl or any game bird considered wonton waste? **No. If entire animal is wasted then yes and you need to be home when breasting since you are required to have wing attached when transporting.**
4. Hunting for wildlife with harvested crops under correct farm practices and design considered legal? **Yes, waterfowl digest spells it out in the Federal Regulations.**
5. If you approach a hunter or fisherman and check their license and all the person has is an electronic license through the MDC application on their phone, but there is no reception to show that license, what would you do in a case like that? **Agents carry an application with them to look up your info. Recommends to take a picture of your license either by screen scrape or regular picture and store on phone.**
6. What if a duck has lead shot in it but you shot it with a legal steel shot shell. Do you check for lead pellets in waterfowl? **Only if he has reason to check.**
7. What is the legal status of the usage of drones? **Not allowed while hunting and not allowed to use at all in conservation areas.**
8. What is the legal status of the usage of lasers? **Not allowed.**
9. What is the legal status of the usage of electronic decoys? IE Robo Duck. **Still legal but you cannot use a**

drone nor use one to make sound.

10. Can you use stuffers as decoys? IE using a mounted Canadian goose as a decoy. **Yes, you can use them but you cannot use live decoys**
11. Who enforces regulations at urban trout parks during winter trout fishing? **MDC Agents or Peace Officers of the Parks that are certified.**
12. Who enforces regulations at the State Trout Parks? **MDC Agents at those parks.**
13. Do Agents carry a breath analyzer with them? **No, but he suspects alcohol is involved the Agent will call for support.**
14. Is drinking alcoholic beverages illegal on conservation lands? **No, as long as you are not hunting, driving or operating a boat.**
15. Has MDC invested so much money in lands is there still enough for maintenance and agents in the future? **It depends on the budget. Each agency submits their budget and has to justify their budgets.**
16. What are the trespass rules on rivers and streams? **It depends. A person could own area in the water that is not flooded. If you don't know, don't go in there. He did state that if you are in the main channel of the river or creek you should be good.**
17. Do fishing limits apply on private lakes? **Yes. When leaving area, the Agent does not know where you caught them so limits apply.**

Agent Breuer cell is: 314-607-2708

Conservation Department Offices

Cape Girardeau 573-290-5730

Columbia 573-815-7900

Jeff City (HQ) 573-751-4115

Kansas City 816-622-0900-

Kirksville 660-785-2420

St. Charles 636-441-4554

St. Joseph 816-271-3100

Springfield 417-895-6880

West Plains 417-256-7161

Toll Free Numbers

Operation Game Thief/Forest Arson 800-392-1111 (24 hrs)

Purchasing Hunting & Fishing permits 800-392-4115 Normal business hours.

FAMILY FUN UPDATE

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 planning for a family fun day out at the Perry Community Lake in Perry County on **20 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 located 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.

JUNE MEETING

Mark your calendars now, we are changing the meeting date and place for our June meeting.

The June meeting will take place on 13 June at 5:30 PM out at Jay Henges.

We are fortunate to be able to have the Trap Night again this year on Tuesday, June 13th at Jay Henges Conservation Area.

The scenario is the same as last year. The MDC will furnish the clay targets while members need to bring their own ammo (size 7 1/2 or smaller lead shot).

MVDHA will furnish hot dogs, chips, and water for members

and their significant other. Plan on arriving before 6 to enjoy a dog and listen to the safety rules.

I told Terry Bertholomey we should have 15 to 20 people at the event as we did last year.

We should get in a good two to three rounds of shooting before darkness.

Terry Bertholomey is a new member of MVDHA so please introduce yourself and thank him for use of the area.

Art Wende

BOYS FROM SC (CONT)

With me sitting in my ice hole taking some high shots that the boys missed, taking in the sounds of them yelling and giving each other a hard time with misses or great shots, it was one of those surreal moments, you just sit back and enjoy the time and the memories, even though it was only about 25 degrees out.

About an hour before the shooting time was up, one of the boys fell in head first, he did not go all the way under to fill up his waders, but was pretty wet in his upper chest. He just laughed it off and kept on going, living off the adrenaline I guess, but he was a true trooper over it all and hung in till the last minute.

So we bagged it and went back to our vehicles and talked about the hunt. Giving each other a hard time, as per the norm, for great shots, missed shots and getting too excited and falling in.

The boys from South Carolina started their trip back home after that hunt, since they were closer from leaving from Otter Slough than from St Louis. So I said

good bye to my son and off they went.

That one hunt left them with memories that will last a life time. One of them, with inspiration of all the rigs in the parking lot, went out and got his own duck boat and rigged it up. For several years afterwards they kept coming back to Otter Slough, enjoying that wonderful duck mecca of a place. And to think I was about to give up on this trip, but decided to head south, they would not be the duck hunters that they are today, which we need in this sport.

MANITOBA

New Manitoba Waterfowl License Regs: Applications Accepted June 15 to July 15, 2023

All American duck and goose hunters wishing to hunt Manitoba this fall will be provided a license, but must apply for licenses this summer

Manitoba Natural Resources and Northern Development has announced new licensing requirements for foreign resident migratory bird hunters in the province beginning with the 2023 hunting season.

Under the new regulations there will be three categories of foreign resident licenses: 1) a seven-day permit for freelance hunters issued via a drawing, 2) a legacy migratory gamebird license for grandfathered property interest holders, and 3) a seven-day permit purchased through a licensed Manitoba outfitter.

These changes are essential news for all hunters who want to go to Manitoba and hunt on their own this fall. They'll need to apply via the e-licensing portal between June 15 and July 15. For the 2023 hunting season, all hunters who apply via the portal within the

proper time frame will receive a license—a 100 percent success draw rate. What's different from the past is that the license will be limited to one seven-day period during the season. There will be no over-the-counter migratory gamebird licenses sold.

For further info go to :

<https://deltawaterfowl.org/new-manitoba-waterfowl-license-regs/>

2023-2024 Season

Teal Season: Sept. 9-24

Limits: 6 daily and 18 in posse

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Ducks Season:

North Zone: Oct. 28 - Dec. 26

Middle Zone: Nov. 4 - 12 and Nov. 18 through Jan. 7, 2024

South Zone: Nov. 23 - 26 and Dec. 7 through Jan. 31, 2024

Bag Limit: 6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

4 mallards (no more than 2 hens)

2 scaup for first 45 days and 1 scaup for last 15 days

3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 mottled duck

Up Coming Events

May 10 : Movie Night

June 13 : Trap Shoot

July 12 : Swap Meet

Aug 9 : NO MEETING

Sept 13 : Waterfowl Forecast

Oct 11 : Boat Maintenance

Nov 8 : NO MEETING

Dec 13 : Holiday Party

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: May 10, 2023

Next Board Meeting: May 22, 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.

"A Nonprofit Association of, by, and for the Duck Hunters"

"ST. LOUIS' NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION"

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