



# AUGUST 2024

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## GET READY

I caught some flak about ending Widgeon's story last month and I appreciate those who enjoyed the adventures of him and how he lived his life which I am sure all dog owners can relate. He was a great dog to me.

So, it is as they say, the Dog Days of Summer, hot, humid and sweaty. I hate summer, you can only take so many layers of clothes off before you get into trouble. You work all day outside in this humid hot weather, drinking copious amounts of water and wondering why you are not making frequent trips to the restroom but then thinking you are glad you are not because this tells you your body is working like it is supposed to by sweating all the water off and trying to keep yourself cool. At the end of the day you come into your nice air conditioned house, go take a shower, and as soon as you get out of the shower you start sweating again. You cannot win. By the end of August the weather starts to make a turn and those cooler days are approaching. You can see it now as the daylight hours are becoming shorter and shorter with each day, hunting season is coming.

What gets you going? What gets you going to start thinking about the up and coming hunting season? Is it the shorter daylight hours? The cooler days? Maybe it is the luck of the draw and you won a blind out on the river and you need to build a blind. (Granted, that is not going to happen again after this year, but I will not go into that) You get up with your buddies to start coming up with a design. Hauling all of your construction materials to the blind location, by either boat or overland, or both! Forming work parties or days to build the blind and then work of covering it up. Cutting willow branches and brushing the blind. This can take months to accomplish, it can stress us to the end and almost kills us, but it is all in the process of getting ready. (Remember Art Wende?) Maybe it is none of that, deer season is coming, so is turkey season and various other hunting seasons. This might be your trigger to start getting ready, with an after thought of 'Oh yeah, I better check my duck hunting gear'.

For me, it is none of those and it all depends on where I am at in the United States. When I was out west, it was putting in for the reservations to hunt in the National Wildlife areas of the Sacramento Valley, when I was living in the U.P. of Michigan, it was basically the first frost (September, winter is here or winter is coming), when I was down South the weather never really got too cold, so basically the calendar, normally around October I would start thinking about it. But here in Missouri, for me, we just had it. The applying for the Dove draw out at Columbia Bottoms. That is what gets me going. To start thinking about the up and coming season. What do I want to do different this year from last, what worked last year, checking decoys to make sure paint, weights and strings are in good order. Getting your gear organized. Cleaning your guns, hitting the skeet range for a few rounds to dust the rust off.

So what gets you going? What gets you going to start thinking about the up and coming hunting season?

It's time to start thinking about getting ready boys and girls, it will be here sooner than you think!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| SHORT STORY      | 1   |
| MEMBERS MEETING  | 2   |
| PRE SEASON DRAW  | 2   |
| FUND RAISER      | 2   |
| DOGS             | 2   |
| AUDIT            | 3   |
| DELTA BANQUET    | 4   |
| BOSS SHELLS      | 4   |
| PROPOSED RULE    | 4   |
| 2024-2025 SEASON | 5   |
| UPCOMING EVENTS  | 5   |
| GENERAL INFO     | COV |

**MEMBERS MEETING**

**NO MEMBERS MEETING FOR AUGUST DUE TO HEAT.**

**PRE SEASON DRAW**

The application time frame for the managed waterfowl hunts at MDC conservation areas begins on 1 September. Go to the MDC website and select hunting and trapping link off of the main menu, top navigation. Under the popular species listing on the right hand side select Waterfowl. On the left hand navigation screen of the next page select Managed Hunts Waterfowl. On that page on the left hand side select Waterfowl Reservations and Draw Procedures. Scroll down the page and you will see a link for Apply For a Waterfowl Reservation. On the next page you will be able to put in your reservation on 1 Sept. Draw registration period is from Sep 01 2024 to Sep 18 2024. Draw results will be available Oct 01

**2024 FUND RAISER**

Our coffers are running low and we need to raise money. For a fund raiser this year, Kenny Liebel has created a custom made hunting knife.

- Made out of 496 Staret Tool Steel
- 5 to 7 inch blade length
- The blade will be buffed out to mirror finish
- It will have a Brass Hilt
- Laminated handle made out of wood that is similar to golf driver handles
- Leather Sheath that will is hand stitched
- The value of the knife is about \$600.00

There will only be 200 tickets and the cost is only \$5 a ticket, so your

odds of winning this beautiful knife are really great!!



Excellent job Kenny! Very nicely done and thanks!

See Jerry or Kenny for tickets.

**DOGS**

From the Delta Website

**New Regs for Bringing Dogs Into the US Set to Begin August 1, 2024**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has implemented new restrictions on bringing dogs into the United States that will impact hunters traveling with their duck dogs even between Canada and the United States. The new restrictions also prohibit the importation of any dogs younger than six months of age.

For hunters traveling outside of the United States with their dogs, the biggest change is that having an implanted microchip is no longer optional. It is mandatory. The chip must have been implanted prior to any required rabies vaccination, and the matching chip number must be documented on all required forms and veterinary records.

**MVDHA BOARD**

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Additional paperwork is also required in completion of a “CDC Dog Import Form.” It is preferred that this document be completed online 2-10 days prior to crossing the border into the States, but it can even be completed as late as while standing in line at the U.S. Customs station, as long as there is a viable internet connection.

This new form also requires the attachment of a clear photograph of the dog showing its face and body. For dogs less than one year of age, the photo must have been taken within 10 days prior to the border crossing.

So far, the new requirements apply only to bringing dogs into the United States; however, there is a possibility that Canada (or other countries) may create requirements that mirror the CDC’s. The most likely possible snare for any hunters caught unaware of the new regulations this fall is that you could take your dog out of the country without any problem but then run into serious legal issues trying to bring the same dog back into the United States.

The complete list of requirements under the new regulations is posted at: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/dogs-entering-us-after-august-1.html#low-risk>

Especially troubling is that the restrictions entirely prohibit the importation of dogs less than six months of age. This could pose complications for breeders and buyers of retrievers purchased for import from Great Britain and elsewhere in Europe.

Delta Waterfowl’s chief policy officer John Devney said, “We are working with the AKC and other organizations to get our

hands around these new regulations. We’re joining together to determine what might be done to modify the requirements to make them less onerous on dogs crossing the border for hunting, competition, training, and other legitimate purposes. We recognize that the intent of the CDC is justified in trying to manage some bad actors importing dogs into the country, but the unintended consequence ensnares a bunch of healthy working dogs—our duck dogs—in an overburdensome process.”

**AUDIT**

From the Office of Missouri State Auditor:

Auditor Fitzpatrick announces audit of the Missouri Department of Conservation

Audit will help provide an additional level of oversight for the department that now has unprecedented autonomy over its budget

06/03/2024 - Jefferson City, MO

Missouri State Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick wants to provide an additional layer of accountability for the Missouri Department of Conservation, which now has unprecedented autonomy over its approximately \$215 million budget due to a 2023 Missouri Supreme Court decision that resulted in limiting the oversight authority of the General Assembly. Fitzpatrick announced today that his office has begun an audit of the department that will review how effectively it is using taxpayer dollars to accomplish its mission.

"With every other state department, the General Assembly has a level of oversight provided through the appropriations process that can ensure tax dollars are allocated and used appropriately. However, with that authority now lim-

ited due to the court decision, specifically in regard to the Department of Conservation, it makes it vitally important that we stand in the gap for taxpayers and provide what will be the only layer of accountability for the department and its spending decisions," said Fitzpatrick.

The Missouri Department of Conservation is funded by a one-eighth of one percent sales tax, which generates approximately \$160 million in funding each year that goes directly to the agency. The department also receives funding from permit sales, federal aid, and income from sales and rentals. While the department has a dedicated funding stream, the General Assembly appropriates the funds to the department each year.

A decision by the legislature in 2020 to not include appropriations for the Department of Conservation's plan to pay \$1 million to acquire 510 acres of land and \$900,000 for payments to replace lost property taxes from conservation lands prompted a lawsuit by the Missouri Conservation Commission. In 2023, the Missouri Supreme Court handed down its decision, which said the legislature cannot restrict the Conservation Commission from using appropriated funds for any of the purposes listed in the Missouri Constitution.

The department was last audited in 2018 when it received a rating of "fair." That report included details of a separation agreement that resulted in more than \$120,000 in additional benefits to the former director after he resigned. The report also recommended changes to the department's comp time policies, which had no limits on some comp time earned or accrued by employees.

Individuals may provide confidential information for consideration during the audit of the Missouri Department of Conservation to the State Auditor's Whistleblower Hotline at 800-347-8597, by email at moaudit@auditor.mo.gov or by visiting www.auditor.mo.gov/hotline.

## DELTA BANQUET

### CUIVRE RIVER CHAPTER 2024 FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Dinner & Drinks Raffles Silent & Live Auction

Raffles & Auction items include Guns, Gear, Decoys & More!

Help us kick off this chapter!

**Saturday,  
September 21st**

Doors open at 5 pm  
Dinner at 7 pm

**Troy - Knights of  
Columbus**

500 State HWY J, Troy MO 63376



#### Tickets

Youth (12 & Under) - \$15  
Single - \$60  
Couple - \$100  
Bottomless Cups - \$10

#### Sponsor Tables

Pintail - \$1200  
Mallard - \$600  
Teal - \$200

Interested in sponsoring in other ways? Reach out!

#### For Tickets & Questions

Chairman - Keith Schultz  
(303) 944 - 5348  
Secretary - Kasey Mayo  
(314) 440 - 7325



## BOSS SHELLS

It is that time of the year again to look at gear. Last year I talked about Boss Shells, which are quite an excellent product.

**BOSS SHOTSHELLS**

CUSTOMER SERVICE  
877-410-BOSS  
Info@BOSSShotshells.com

ORIGINAL CRAFTED GOODS  
PROUDLY MADE IN THE U.S.A.

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM  
5992 Delta Pk St, Stevensville Michigan 49127

Now, you cannot buy Boss shells from a dealer, they come directly from Boss. The pellets are bismuth with a thin layer of copper over them. You can get 2

3/4 shells up to 3" shells. Duplex loads or any single shot size. They come in 12, 16, 20 and 410 gauges. Granted, they are a bit pricey, \$1.90 a round for 12 gauge, on average, and you get twenty rounds per box of shells. After the season I bought some 20 gauge shells that I am looking forward in trying out. These shells are perfect for legacy guns that cannot shoot steel without damaging the barrel.

**WE SET OUT TO MAKE THE MOST DEPENDABLE STEEL SHOTSHELL ON THE MARKET.**

**COPPER-PLATED STEEL SHOT**

- Ground smooth for true flight with minimum drift.
- Copper-plated to demonstrate uncompromising quality regardless of price.

**MODIFIED WARCHIEF WAD**

- Biotech additive to aid in environmental breakdown of the plastic.
- Double gas seal for efficient powder burn.
- Cushioned section to dampen recoil and stabilize shot during setback. Steel Reserve may very well be the smoothest shooting steel shell ever made.
- Fast opening wad petals to separate shot from the wad for dense, uniform pellet distribution at 30 yards.
- Wad stripping chokes are not needed. We recommend a Factory Modified or similar constriction aftermarket choke.

**1500 FPS VELOCITY**

- Our testing found that 1500 fps yielded the best patterns and most consistent velocities and pressures across our internal testing criteria of 0F-72F.
- Average pattern percentages are 95-98% at 30 yards through a Modified choke.
- Average pressure of 11,000 PSI

**GET 'EM WHILE YOU CAN!**

**BOSS SHOTSHELLS**

"Superior grade, American-made copper-plated shotshells."

**STEEL RESERVE**  
BY BOSS SHOTSHELLS

**12GA  
3IN  
NO.3**

**COPPER-PLATED  
NON-TOXIC SHOT**

Easy on your shoulder...  
and your wallet.

The folks at Boss listen to us waterfowlers and know that the shells they produce are quite pricey, but for the performance you get from them and they are a top tier shell you should expect to pay a bit more. Plus it is the knock down power of these shells that sell. But as I stated, they listen, and developed the Steel Reserve line of shells which cost in the range of a \$1.20 a round. The 1 1/8 oz load of copper plated steel is smoking round traveling at 1500 fps.

Check them out at:

<https://bosshotshells.com/>

## PROPOSED RULE

This is an article from Outdoor Life and is a rather lengthy article so will probably run it in the next few newsletters, but for the full article you can find it at:

<https://www.outdoorlife.com/conservation/wildlife-refuge-predator-control-rule/>

This is scary stuff for us waterfowlers, our passion is in more jeopardy each and every day.

## Proposed Rule Could Curb Predator Control and Planting Grains for Waterfowl in Refuges. Hunting Orgs Now Wonder, Is USFWS Turning Against Duck Hunters?

By Andrew McKean

The proposed regulations are a step toward minimizing the critical role hunters have played in establishing and maintaining refuges across the country

In the pantheon of federal agencies, where acronyms massacre clarity and where layers of bureaucracy disguise intent, BIDEH seems especially sleepy and unremarkable.

Those letters stand for Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health of the National Wildlife Refuge System, but what they represent is anything but sleepy. The federal rules, proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have whipped hook-and-bullet conservation groups into a froth during the past weeks. That's because, depending on how you interpret the application of BIDEH to the nation's nearly 600 national wildlife refuges, it's a first step to minimizing the role of hunters on these public properties.

But for the federal wildlife managers who oversee refuges, the blowback to BIDEH's intent is itself surprising, because they claim it simply emphasizes management tools that have guided the refuge system for decades but which are being revisited in the context of climate change and human-caused habitat stress. Besides, they say, the goals of BIDEH should be widely shared by groups committed to healthy wildlife habitat since federal refuges are specifically managed for wildlife above all other purposes.

If BIDEH is a loose concept that most conservationists can support, a set of specific regulations being proposed by the USFWS is worrisome to organizations and their members who have deep connections to federal refuges in general — and in particular to those that play a critical role in producing waterfowl and sustaining their migration. Refuge practices that would be curtailed under the draft rule include most predator hunting and trapping, traditional agricultural activities, use of genetically modified organisms, and mosquito control.

The BIDEH rule was proposed in February to little fanfare, but soon caught the attention of conservation groups and Congress's House Natural Resources Committee, whose Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held an oversight hearing last month in which the underlying rationale for the rule was hotly questioned. The hearing's title, "The National Wildlife Refuge System at Risk: Impacts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Proposed BIDEH Rule" gets at the tenor of the topic.

Ranking members of the committee blasted the USFWS's draft rules as a "drastic and dramatic change" to refuge management. Subcommittee Chair Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.) noted that the rules create a default position "prohibiting the use of management tools essential to protect the use of our refuge system," including "normal and historical" agricultural practices and native predator control that puts "at risk the very purpose of individual refuges." Bentz' Oregon congressional district includes Lower Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt as the nation's first waterfowl refuge.

The Service, for its part, says the proposal "will support conservation throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System and equip wildlife refuge managers with a framework to better tackle the dual threats of climate change and biodiversity loss."

Last week a group of 29 conservation and sportsmen's organizations, including Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the NRA, Ducks Unlimited, and Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, signed a letter to the Service urging "rescission of the BIDEH draft policy and manual chapter to initiate a new, more thoughtful, inclusive discussion

about the management objectives and conservation challenges" of the refuge system.

(To be continued)

**2024—2025 SEASON**

**Doves**

Season: Sept. 1 through Nov. 29

Limits: 15 daily and 45 in possession combined total for all three species

**2024-2025 WATERFOWL HUNTING**

**Teal**

Season: Sept. 7-22

Limits: 6 daily and 18 in possession

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

**Ducks**

North Zone: Nov. 2 thru Dec. 31

Middle Zone: Nov. 2-10 and Nov. 16 through Jan. 5, 2025

South Zone: Nov. 28 through Dec. 1 and Dec. 7 through Jan. 31, 2025

Bag Limit: 6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

4 mallards (no more than 2 females), 3 wood ducks, 2 red-heads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 2 scaup for first 45 days and 1 scaup for last 15 days, 1 mottled duck

Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag or 18 total, varies by species

**Up Coming Events**

**Aug 14: NO MEETING**

**Sept 11: MDC WATERFOWL**

**Oct 9: SUB GAUGE RELOADING**

**Nov 13: NO MEETING**

### 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](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: **NO MEMBERS MEETING**

Next Board Meeting: **AUGUST 26, 2024**

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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