



AUGUST 2025

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GETTIN' READY

Or at least start thinking about it. It is August, pretty soon it will be Dove season and soon after that Teal and early goose season, time to start thinking about getting ready.

In the January newsletter I wrote about writing down things that work, things that did not work to be addressed for the next season, time to break out that listing, if you made one, dust it off and work on them.

Are your hunting jackets worn out, need repair or need another coat of Scotchgard? I found a new zipper for my old jacket and had our local cleaners repair it, good as new again.

Are your waders leaking? Mine are and am looking at replacing them, but with the tariffs in place, the pickings are slim unless you are a size 14 or 6.

Decoys, do they need to be touched up with paint? Anchors? Anchor strings? Best to pull them all out and check the knots too.

Gun, when did you clean it last? Still want to use that choke?

Ammo, do you have enough? Did you pattern the ammo?

Gloves? Do they leak? Are they worn out and need replacement?

Batteries, check them all, this seems to be the one that bites me. We have so many things battery powered, from Mojos, Swimmers, radios, ear protection, shotcams etc. The list can go on and on. And not only do you need to make sure they are charged but you need to make sure you have enough of the ones you use, AA, AAA, C, 6 volt, 12 volt etc.

How about some things you don't think about and you take for granted:

Your main duck hunting mobile, truck, car, etc. When is your next servicing? Do you want to have your truck in for a service when a northern clipper comes down? Get it done early before the season.

ATV, if you have one, how is the battery? Last time it was serviced? Clean gas in the tank? Will it start?

Boat, I could go on forever about a boat. Nothing more frustrating than wiring on a boat, or it will not start. When was the last time you change the oil in your lower unit? Are the tires and trailer up to par?

Granted, it is early, but getting' ready takes time, especially in these uncertain times when most stuff comes from China and trying to find parts will be a challenge. You have been warned!

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**SELL
THOSE
MEAT
TICKETS!!!**

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MEMBERS MEETING

NO AUGUST MEETING

FIRST AID KIT

If you missed last month's member's meeting you missed one for the books. As usual, Dr. Brian Reiter gave an excellent informative talk on emergency first aid of your dog out in the field. He even demonstrated the stable gun on himself! He gave us a listing of items to have in your first aid kit when you go out into the field which is below. Thanks Dr. Reiter!

Betadine solution

Stapler

4X4 gauze

Telfa pads

Vet Wrap

2" gauze roll

Hemo Stats

Magnifying glass

Antibiotics 1 weeks worth

Pain Meds - Buffer Aspirin - Children's Aspirin - 1 Tab for 50 lb dog

Hydroxyzine or Benadryl for allergies

Bandage scissors

Medical sterile gloves

Sterile water or saline

Syringes with needles for irrigation - 10 mil

Curve tip syringe

Tweezers

Band aides for yourself

WATERFOWL CLINIC

Your MVDHA in conjunction with the MDC is going to be putting on a Beginners Waterfowl clinic to be held at the Jay Henges Conservation Ed-

ucation building and shooting range. This will take place on 11 October 2025 beginning at 3 PM. Currently we are planning on several activities and informative talks including:

Equipment needed

Decoy placement

Dogs

Shooting

Shooting Distance

Ammunition needed

Hunting public and MDC lands

This will be a great outreach program to get the word out of your MVDHA, but we need your help. We need 6-8 volunteers to assist in this clinic. If you are interested, please reach out to any board member. We will be having a final planning meeting at 6 PM at Jay Henges just before the member's meeting on 8 October. We all have the experience, so lets get the word out to help those who want to try the great sport we all love!

FUND RAISER UPDATE

Once again we will be having our popular fund raising event of the Kenrick's meat certificates. This is for a gift certificate of \$300 towards a meat package of your choice from Kenrick's Meats at 4324 Weber Rd, St. Louis, MO 63123. Tickets will be \$5 each **OR 5 TICKETS FOR \$20** and the winner of the certificate will be drawn at this years Holiday party in December. Contact any board member for tickets or contact Jerry for tickets to sell at 314-603-6548 and he will get them to you. Remember, this is for your MVDHA Club.

NO ROW CROPS

Rob shared with us at the last board meeting that supposedly there is a Louisiana Senator going to propose legislation to ban hunting over flooded row crops nation wide including

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corn and various other non harvested crops.

The thought is, that ducks, especially mallards, are short stopping and not coming down the flyway impacting waterfowlers in the state of Louisiana.

After a quick google search for this, I could not find anything to substantiate this, but I do see some merit in this, but only some. If it goes through, this would have a huge impact nation wide and I am sure a lot of the huge private clubs with the money to back them would be entirely against this.

If anybody has any further info on this matter please send me an email at bjd7960@att.net or to the email address on the back of the newsletter so I can follow up on this huge topic.

FAMILY FUN DAY

If you missed out on the Family Fun Day, you missed something very special. I had a horse show that weekend so I could not attend, however, for the 13 folks who showed up had a time they will never forget. From the update I got from Jerry, it was like catching fish on every cast, from Bass, Crappie, Bluegill and Catfish. It was truly amazing. A huge thanks goes out to Mark Haberberger for opening up his property for this special event.

TRAP SHOOT

On our last members meeting we had our annual Trap Shoot out at Jay Henges shooting range. We had a light showing of 14 members and significant others at this event but we all had an outstanding time as usual. Huge thanks to MDC for opening up the range when it was their normal closing day out at Jay Henges.



Thanks to Mike Womble of MDC who took care of us during the shoot. Could not of done this without him. Also a big thanks to Noah Brocato who was out of town during the event who authorized the shoot. Could not of had this event without them. Thanks!



Kenny brought out one of his flint locks and Karsten gave it a go and I was able to capture the flash.



The shooting line. Cassie showing us all up with her 20 gauge!

SHOOTING TIPS

From Ducks Unlimited

20 Off-Season Shooting Tips

Prepare for next season with these pointers on guns, ammo, and shooting techniques

Shooting, unlike riding a bicycle, is a perishable skill. In other words, if you don't use it, you lose it. Think of your shooting eye as a knife in need of sharpening, and add shooting practice to your list of off-season chores, along with working the retriever and painting decoys. These 20 tips will help you stay focused and organized as you work toward improving your shooting during the off-season.

Clean Your Gun

Check Your Point of Impact

Test Your Pattern

Learn to Aim Below the Target

Learn to Trust, Not Measure

Lose the Bead or Supersize It

Add a Pad

Take a Lesson

Learn to Focus

- Count Pieces
- Load Your Own
- Learn to Shoot in a Ghillie Suit
- Work on Your Mental Game
- Play the Field
- Check Your Eyesight
- Exercise Your Eyes
- Get in Shape
- Film Your Form
- Join a League
- Hunt Doves

For the specifics of each one of these shooting tips you can go to:

<https://www.ducks.org/hunting/shooting-tips/20-off-season-shooting-tips>

For more info.

ND MALLARD COUNTS

From Delta Waterfowl

North Dakota Breeding Waterfowl Survey Shows Drier Wetland Conditions, Fewer Ducks

During its annual survey, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department estimated 2.66 million breeding ducks, a 9% overall decrease from last year. Notably, mallards, pintails, and blue-winged teal were down “significantly” in May when the survey was conducted. Mallards in particular showed their lowest numbers since 1993.

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA — The number of breeding ducks declined again this spring in North Dakota, the most important state for mid-continental duck populations.

During its annual survey, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department estimates 2.66 million breeding ducks, a 9% de-

crease from last year. Notably, mallards, pintails, and blue-winged teal were down “significantly” in May when the survey was conducted.

“Things are continuing to decline a little bit as far as duck populations go,” said Mike Szymanski, migratory game bird supervisor for NDGF. “The mallard population estimate was down 26% from last year and is the lowest estimated mallard breeding population on our survey since 1993. Blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and pintails also had significant population declines, whereas the declines for gadwall, shovellers, and ruddy ducks were not as significant. We did have a few species—wigeon, canvasbacks, redheads, and lesser scaup—that showed increases from last year on our survey.”

NDGF conducted the survey May 6-9, covering more than 1,800 miles of transects. The pond count was down 38% from last year. The 2025 pond count ranks 52nd out of the past 78 years.

“Conditions were pretty dry, and that affected how ducks settled in the state,” Szymanski said. “We had mallards and pintails migrating through in late March and early April encountering those dry conditions. Mallards and pintails are early migrating species. They’re early nesting species. They went through the state when we had very poor wetland conditions. Settling conditions were not good for them so we may have had a lot of those birds go through into northern breeding areas.”

Since a wet spring in 2022 when the NDGF survey showed 3.4 million ducks, the breeding population has declined each year as drier conditions have persisted, not only in North Dakota, but

across most of the prairie pot-hole region. The PPR, which encompasses the Dakotas, as well as portions of Montana, Iowa, and Minnesota in the United States, and southern Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta in Canada, accounts for more than half of the ducks produced in North America.

“The North Dakota survey is a disappointing result, but it’s not surprising given the dry winter we had,” said Dr. Frank Rohwer, president and chief scientist of Delta Waterfowl. “I think the same thing is going to be reflected in Saskatchewan and Alberta when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service releases the (continental) breeding population survey in August.”

North Dakota received a much-needed period of spring rain after the breeding duck survey was conducted, which improved wetland conditions across the state.

“I suspect the rains were too late to help anything except later-nesting species—blue-winged teal and gadwalls,” Rohwer said. “And now, the temporary ponds those late-May rains created are dry again. Duck production isn’t going to be great this year in North Dakota and across the PPR. I think it’s going to be worse than last year.”

Abundant upland nesting cover and better wetland conditions are necessary for duck populations to increase and provide better hunting.

“North Dakota is the duck factory of the United States and North America,” Szymanski said. “We have a lot of folks relying on us to produce ducks, not just our hunters here in North Dakota, but hunters all across the Central and Mississippi flyways.

When we have poor production in North Dakota, other folks feel it as well. Unfortunately, the direction we're going right now is smaller and smaller fall flights.”

PERMIT FEE HIKES

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo -- Missouri is home to more than 1 million anglers, 500,000 hunters, and several thousand trappers. MDC issues nearly 2.6 million hunting, fishing, and trapping permits each year.

To keep pace with continually rising costs of goods and services, MDC is proposing increases for 2026 to some nonresident, resident, and commercial permit prices. Changes include significant increases to nonresident deer and turkey hunting permits to bring MDC nonresident-permit prices more aligned with surrounding states, creating a new nonresident migratory bird permit at a proposed price of \$60, and creating a new nonresident trout permit at a proposed price of \$40.

Additional revenue from permit sales will help MDC maintain and improve its nationally recognized programs and services for hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers, and others. Additional revenue from permit prices will also help MDC with rising costs of maintaining infrastructure at conservation areas, fish hatcheries, intensively managed wetlands, lake and river accesses, and shooting ranges that are many decades old and in need of significant repair or replacement.

Approximately 43,000 nonresidents hunt deer, 10,000 nonresidents hunt spring turkeys, and 165,000 nonresidents fish in Missouri annually. More than 400,000 Missourians hunt deer

or turkey and more than one million fish annually.

In response to concerns raised by resident hunters, MDC surveyed both resident and non-resident hunters. While the proportion of nonresident hunters and anglers is low compared to residents, the opinion survey and public feedback showed Missourians generally supported raising nonresident hunting permits to bring them more in line with surrounding states. MDC added that other states also continue to increase nonresident permit prices.

“Across deer, turkey, and waterfowl, one potential change supported by residents is adjusting permit prices to be more in alignment with surrounding states,” said MDC Director Jason Sumners.

The Missouri Conservation Commission gave initial approval to the proposed MDC permit price adjustments at its May 16 open meeting in Jefferson City.

For the complete listing of the proposed hikes go to:

<https://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/mdc-proposes-price-adjustments-some-permits-2026>

MDC SETS SEASONS

MDC sets upcoming migratory game bird and waterfowl seasons

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri Conservation Commission approved recommendations from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) at its April 4 meeting for upcoming 2025 migratory-game-bird-hunting seasons and 2025-2026 waterfowl-hunting seasons.

2025 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

2025-2026 WATERFOWL HUNTING

Teal Season: Sept. 13 - 21

Ducks Season:

North Zone: Nov. 1 — Dec. 30

Middle Zone: Nov. 1 - 9 and Nov. 15 through Jan. 4, 2026

South Zone: Nov. 27 – 30 and Dec. 7 through Jan. 31, 2026

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

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

1 mottled duck

Snow Geese (White and Blue Phases) and Ross's Geese

Season: Nov. 11 through Feb. 6, 2026

White-Fronted Geese

Season: Nov. 11 — Feb. 6, 2026

Canada Geese and Brant

Season: Oct. 4 - 12 and Nov. 11 – Feb. 6, 2026

Light Goose Conservation

Season: Feb. 7 — April 30, 2026

YOUTH HUNTING DAYS

North Zone: Oct. 25 and 26

Middle Zone: Oct. 25 and 26

South Zone: Nov. 22 and 23

Up Coming Events

Aug 13 : NO MEETING

Sept 10 : Denny Dennis

Oct 8 : Waterfowl Forecast

Nov 12 : NO MEETING

Dec 10 : 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: AUGUST 1025 NO MEETING

Next Board Meeting: August 25, 2025

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"

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

