



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



AUGUST 2026

VOLUME 70 ISSUE 8 AUGUST 3, 2026

SQUEAKY WHEEL

As I have gotten older, not too much gets me riled up anymore unless it impacts me or my family directly, I pretty much go with the flow, not complaining too much. Some may see that as a fault or not, but to be honest, I do not care. It took me quite some time to get at this point to be what my better half calls 'A Nice Person'. In my past life I was prior military, to be specific, an aircraft mechanic. Now, as a mechanic, they have a lot of certain stereo types that goes with it, we were called knuckle draggers, slobs in uniforms, Crew Dawgs etc. Don't ever criticize their aircraft, or it's upkeep, because that could come to blows. When I was younger, I fit that stereo type to a tee. I could throw a wrench with the best of them, a temper that would fly off the handle at a moments notice.

After the military I went back to school and became a application developer. Yes, I did a complete 180, from an aircraft mechanic to a corporate white shirt and tie employee. Problem was, internally I was still that mechanic. It took me quite awhile to get my attitude in check. I am probable one of few level five engineers who has it documented that I have a communication problem with people. But I got the work done when no one else would tackle the situation which is probable why I did not get fired at an early stage in my career.

So what does all of this have to do with this month's article, you are probably wondering, as you know, I have been biding my time with my 28 Gauge Retay. Long story short, if you recall, I was not happy with my Benelli SBE III, shooting high and to the left, Pat Morley turned me onto Retay with their way of creating shotguns to be way more accurate, so I ordered one back in February I believe. It finally showed up in April. I was so excited about it, went out to the range to test it and found out the choke tubes were way to open, meaning their full choke tube was more opened than a cylinder tube! After contacting Retay, the factory shipped out prototype tubes with their guns and they stated that they had to wait for the factory to send them some to replace them. So being a patient individual I waited, and waited, and waited. After contacting them three times, they kept saying that they are still waiting on the factory. In stepped Pat.

I told Pat about my issue and found he also had the same problem. He contacted Retay and found out that only four people complained about the tubes and Pat stated that since it was only four that the factory will never send replacement tubes due to the low volume and recommend Retay to take the tubes out of existing stock to send us, in which they did. So I finally got my tubes thanks to Pat who complained enough and making Retay support the customer. The squeaky wheel does get the grease. Thanks Pat!!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SHORT STORY	1
MEMBERS MEETING	2
TROUT TRIP 2027	2
FAMILY FUN UPDATE	2
TRAP SHOOT	3
OCTOBER MEETING	4
FUND RAISER	4
ROB MUELLER	4
MFOR MEETING	4
OFF SEASON	4
SEASONS SET	5
UPCOMING EVENTS	5
GENERAL INFO	COV

**SELL
THOSE
MEAT
TICKETS!!!**

**SELL
THOSE
MEAT
TICKETS!!!**

MEMBERS MEETING

NO MEETING THIS MONTH

TROUT TRIP 2027

MVDHA is planning on our annual Trout Trip for 2027. The dates are going to be 19 March 2027 through 21 March 2027. Coming home on the 21st. We will be staying at Trout Hollow Lodge at Taneycomo as we did last year. The address for Trout Hollow Lodge is: 1500 Acacia Club Rd, Hollister, MO 65672. To reserve your room call Trout Hollow at 417-334-2332 and tell them you are part of MVDHA or online at <https://trouthollow.com/>

FAMILY FUN DAY UPDATE

I missed last years Family Fun Day due to a prior commitment but went this year. I cannot tell you enough about what a day it was. Mark Haberberger went out of his way to welcome us and made sure we all had a great time and caught more fish you could think of. He even cut the grass for us and made special cuttings right up to the edge of the water, which I appreciated greatly since I was fishing from shore.

Yes, it rained, but for only an hour or so during lunch, but the fishing was something to behold. And the fish were quality fish, not all dinks. Jerry JR took home over 100 fish, enough to fill at least one large cooler. Mark's place is like a place where you would go pay to fish, he only had one rule, you could not keep any bass over 14", all others you could keep. Here are some pics below from the day:



Jerry with a quality Bass that he returned and Becky adding to the haul of fish caught.



Dock area



Fishing in the rain, nothing like it!

MVDHA BOARD

President: Ken Liebel

First V. Pres.:

Scott Thoele

Fin. Secretary:

VACANT

Rec. Secretary:

Bill Hilgeman

Correspondence

Secretary: Bill Hilgeman

Membership Chairman:

Duane Stinchcomb

Board of Directors:

Chairman of the Board

Jerry Mercurio

Asst Chairman of the Board

Art Wende

Directors:

Brad Douglass,

Jerry Mercurio Jr.,

James Edwards

Gary Hirsch



Mike enjoying the day. Mike and Karsten left home at 4:30 AM and caught more fish than they could imagine.



That grin says it all, even in the pouring rain.

Hope to see you there next year, you don't want to miss this event, even if it is a little drive. A lot shorter than going on some of the duck hunts we take each year!

TRAP SHOOT

On our last members meeting we had our annual Trap Shoot out at Jay Henges shooting range. 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. Below are some pics of that event. Hopefully we will see you next year!



Huge thanks to Noah Brocato who is the Manager of Jay Henges that took care of us during the shoot. Could not of done this without him.



Enjoying food and fellowship



Art discussing the finer points of Trap Shooting



The firing line



Jerry got brave and broke out his 410 to give it a go, if my memory serves correctly, I think he got two out of 25, not bad with 1/2 ounce loads!



Father and Daughter team.



Enjoying the shoot. Hope to see you next year!

OCTOBER MEETING

For our October meeting, we are having back Field agent (aka Game Warden). MDC Agent Jeff Breuer. If you recall, he spoke to us back in April of 2023 and has agreed to come and speak to us for our October meeting. This is a very rare opportunity to be able to ask a Game Warden all of those interesting questions you have in the field with no consequences. 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.

FUND RAISER

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**. Since we are starting this late this year, the winner of the certificate will be drawn when we have a sufficient number of tickets sold. We do not want to go for a loss on this fund raiser. It might be in December's meeting but more than likely not, will keep you posted on when the drawing will occur. 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.

Rob Mueller

I found out at our last board meeting Rob took a job down in Tennessee for better work and pay. We want to thank Rob for his many years of dedication to YOUR MVDHA and hope for the best in the years to come. That leaves us a huge vacancy for our Treasurer. If you ever thought about becoming a member of the board and want to fill this vacancy let Jerry know.

MFOR MEETING

MFOR will be having a meeting on August 30 at pm. They will be meeting at:

American Vets post 106

360 Brown Road

St. Peter's Mo

MDC deputy Director and other MDC personnel will be in attendance to hear us out. So come on out, I am sure it will be a lively discussion.

OFF-SEASON

From the DU website. I will sprinkle some of these is when space is available. 10 Off-Season Projects for Waterfowlers

Project #3: Learn How to Shoot Video of Your Hunts

If a picture is worth a thousand words, what's the value of a series of moving pictures? Try capturing your hunts on video and you just might find out. "Digital videos are a great storytelling vehicle," says Kevin Tate, who serves as vice president of media productions for Mossy Oak. "You can post them on Facebook, YouTube, and Vimeo and share some of the excitement of the hunt with your family and friends. A few hunters have even been able to turn this pastime into a lucrative side business."

The off-season is an ideal time to learn the art of video making if you want to produce something better than simply raw smartphone footage. For starters, you'll need to purchase a quality entry-level digital video camera. Tate recommends the Canon EOS 6D, a digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) camera with a 24-105mm lens. He also says

you'll need a Rode microphone, which mounts on a DSLR hot shoe. And last, he suggests using a GoPro or other compact outdoor camera to shoot additional footage at different angles to augment the video shot by your main camera.

MDC SETS SEASONS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri Conservation Commission approved recommendations from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) at its March 27 open meeting in Jefferson City for upcoming 2026 migratory-game-bird-hunting seasons and 2026-2027 waterfowl-hunting seasons, pending final federal approval.

Mourning Doves, Eurasian Collared Doves, and White-Winged Doves

Season: Sept. 1 through Nov. 29

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

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

2026-2027 WATERFOWL HUNTING

Teal

Season: Sept. 12 - 20

Limits: 6 daily and 18 in possession

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Limits: 6 daily and 18 in possession

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Ducks

Season:

North Zone: Oct. 31 through Dec. 29

Middle Zone: Nov. 7 - Dec. 13 and Dec. 19 through Jan. 10, 2027

South Zone: Nov. 26 – 29 and Dec. 7 through Jan. 31, 2027

Bag Limit: 6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

4 mallards (no more than 2 females), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads

2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks

3 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

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

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

Season: Nov. 11 through Feb. 6, 2027

Limits: 20 blue, snow, or Ross's geese daily with no possession limit

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

White-Fronted Geese

Season: Nov. 11 through Feb. 6, 2027

Limits: 2 daily and 6 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Canada Geese and Brant

Season: Oct. 3 - 10 and Nov. 11 – Feb. 6, 2027

Limits: 3 Canada geese and Brant in aggregate daily, 9 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Light Goose Conservation Order

Season: Feb. 7 through April 30, 2027

Limits: No daily or possession limits

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

Methods: For the taking of blue, snow and Ross's geese, hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shells and recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds or imitations of bird calls or sounds.

YOUTH HUNTING DAYS

North Zone: Oct. 24 and 25

Middle Zone: Oct. 31 and Nov. 1

South Zone: Nov. 21 and 22

Limits: Same as during regular waterfowl season

Hours: Same as during regular waterfowl season

Requirements: Any person 15 years of age or younger may participate in youth waterfowl hunting days without permit provided they are in the immediate presence of an adult 18 years of age or older. If the youth hunter is not certified in hunter education, the adult must have the required permits and have in his or her possession proof of hunter education unless exempt. The adult may not hunt ducks but may participate in other seasons that are open on youth hunting days.

Up Coming Events

12 Aug: No Meeting

9 Sept : Ducks at a distance

14 Oct : Game Warden

11 Nov: No Meeting

9 Dec: Holliday 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 also held at Borgettis Bar & Grill 1667 South Old Hwy 141 Fenton MO. 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: NO MEETING

Next Board Meeting: August 24, 2026

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

