



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



JULY 2025

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LAND

This past month it seems I have been getting a lot of emails, notifications etc about land grabs, from our fellow members, non fellow members and even Johnny Morris of Bass Pro fame.

A track of farm land in St Charles county is being considered by a huge billionaire developer for another distribution center out where I hunt. I have seen countless geese float into that area on numerous times, if that area is developed, another opportunity will be taken out that will impact all hunters in that area.

Eric Liebel has informed me on numerous times of the Federal Government to sell off huge tracks of land out west in northern Nevada and parts of Idaho to be developed. Once he told me of this information I did not think much about it since I am from that area and it is mostly high plains desert, scrub brush suitable for Mule deer and Jack Rabbits, but on second thought, this is another hunting opportunity being taken away for those folks who enjoy getting outdoors to hunt public lands.

Then there is Johnny Morris who sent out an email blast of a land sell off by the Federal government which you can read at:

<https://about.basspro.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Urgent-Conservation-Message-Protecting-Our-American-Birthright-Letter.pdf>

After reading this file, it appears it is the same as what Eric has stated. This is talking about millions of acres being sold off in order to raise money for the Federal government. You can go to <https://support.nwf.org/page/84827/action/1> to tell your representatives you are against this proposal.

On a positive note, Craig Sondker put a post out on Facebook that MDC is opening up the draw for those blinds on the Mississippi river that were not selected in the past drawing. I was under the impression that last years draw was the last one we would have. If interested, he is encouraging all those to flood MDC for those eligible for the draw. You can go to :

<https://mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/waterfowl/waterfowl-where-hunt/upper-mississippi-ca-online-blind-drawing>

They are still stating this is the last one, but you never know.

Hunting for the most of us depends on public lands and if those are taken away or sold off, from a quote of a friend of mine: "Hunting has gone back to a sport for Kings and Queens". With these trends, it is very true, but as Johnny Morris stated "Don't Sell Off Our American Birthright "

Oh, on a side note, my Bennelli came back from the factory, quick turn around to be honest, but it is still off.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SHORT STORY	1
MEMBERS MEETING	2
FAMILY FUN DAY	2
FUND RAISER UPDTE	3
TRAP SHOOT	3
ND MALLARD CNTS	4
SHOOTING TIPS	5
SEASONS SET	5
DELTA BANQUET	5
UPCOMING EVENTS	5
GENERAL INFO	COV

**SELL
THOSE
MEAT
TICKETS!!!**

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MEMBERS MEETING

Mark your calendars now, we have a rescheduled date for Dr. Brian Reiter who is a Vet and a Water-fowler who gave us an outstanding presentation last year about emergency care for your dog when out in the field. We have asked him to bring in the example of the stapler he mentioned at last years meeting.

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. Below are some pics from that event:



Beautiful day at the lake



Art and Gary enjoying the dock



Scott and family going out



Enjoying the dock

MVDHA BOARD

- President:** Ken Liebel
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Hauling in a big one!

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.

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. Below are some

pics of that event. Hopefully we will see you next year!



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!



Art showing us all how it is done.



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



Jerry with his 410 and Rob



Enjoying the fellowship



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

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% decrease 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 pothole region. The PPR, which encompasses the Dakotas, as well as portions of Montana, Iowa, and Minnesota in the United States, and southern Manitoba, Sas-

katchewan, 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.”

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.

1. Clean Your Gun
2. Check Your Point of Impact
3. Test Your Pattern
4. Learn to Aim Below the Target
5. Learn to Trust, Not Measure
6. Lose the Bead or Supersize It
7. Add a Pad
8. Take a Lesson
9. Learn to Focus
10. Count Pieces
11. Load Your Own
12. Learn to Shoot in a Ghillie Suit
13. Work on Your Mental Game
14. Play the Field
15. Check Your Eyesight
16. Exercise Your Eyes
17. Get in Shape
18. Film Your Form
19. Join a League
20. 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.

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 redheads 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

DELTA BANQUET

Kaskaskia River Valley Chapter

Doors Open: 4:00 PM

Dinner: 5:30 PM

Hecker Community Center

230 E. Washington St.

Hecker, IL 62248

Ticket Options:

Youth Ticket - \$25

Single Ticket - \$50

Couples Ticket - 75

Couples Sponsor Ticket - \$300

Duck Sponsor Table of 8 - \$500

Goose Sponsor Table of 8 - \$1250

Contact Ben Campbell at (616) 407-4620 or ben@answerdirectonline.com or reserve online at deltawaterfowl.org/events

Up Coming Events

July 9 : Dr. Brian Reiter Vet

Aug 13 : NO MEETING

Sept 10 : TBD

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: July 9, 2025

Next Board Meeting: July 28, 2025

Members are invited to the Board Meeting

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

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

"ST. LOUIS' NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION"

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

