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DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

As I sit here at 9 AM in the morning writing this it is 85 degrees outside. The air is so thick you can cut it with a knife, welcome to a Missouri Summer. The better half and I went out for a walk this morning at 7 AM and when we got back I was already drenched in sweat, so Summer is here and with that I stay indoors. I do not do well in heat. This is the time of year I start thinking about cooler days to come.

There are a few trigger points I look forward to each year to get me going to start thinking about the up and coming waterfowl season, one is the one we just had, the annual Trap shoot out at Jay Henges which you can read about in the following pages, two is the annual sign up for the Dove hunt out at Columbia Bottoms, even though it has been not all that great out there for the past couple years, but it is still a time I look forward to, and three, it is summer, with each and every day, the daylight hours get shorter and time to start getting ready for what is coming and thinking about cooler days.

Since it is so flipping hot out I concentrate on what I can do indoors for the coming season. One is taking inventory of my shot shells, I begin reloading with what I anticipate what I need for the coming year. Duck loads and goose loads. With the tariffs in place, the cost of TSS has tripled, a single pound of shot costs over \$130, which means, at this rate, my 9/16 ounce 9 shot load would cost me over \$115 a box at this rate, granted, I did not buy my tss at that \$130 a pound rate, but it gives a person pause to think, is this worth it? Kind of cost prohibitive to use this stuff. I have enough to last me a season, maybe two if I am careful. Hope the price comes down or will have to switch to this new copper shot Boss has out.

I normally go out to Henges to pattern my loads, but I do not really have any new loads in development to test, even though I am trying to find a 7/8 ounce load for my 28 gauge so I can shoot 7.5 shot and keep my pellet count up where I want it. I use the 7.5 shot TSS for geese or large ducks, I think I have one, but it is too hot to test, the heat throws off my data, so have to wait till it cools down a bit.

Update on my Retay, have not heard back from Retay yet on the choke tubes. I did take it out to Henges during the Trap shoot to see how it did with the Crio Plus tubes I got with the Benelli, it did ok, it shot a 50/50 pattern which I can live with. I let Art Meister shoot it out at Henges, and he did quite well with it, better than I, but Art is a better shooter than I, giving credit where credit is due.

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MEMBERS MEETING

This month's meeting we will be having a swap meet. So bring all of those items you have sitting around the house collecting dust that you think other fellow waterfowlers might be interested in and bring them to the meeting. Have a set price for those items and get ready to haggle! Come enjoy each others fellowship as we discuss this coming season and the dog days of summer.

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:** Rob Mueller
- 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!

DOVE HUNT

The application time frame for the managed dove hunt out at Columbia Bottom is now opened till the end of the month. 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 Dove. On the left hand navigation screen of the next page select Managed Hunts. On that page fill out the form and submit.

NEWS FROM MDC

From this month's Conservationist:

FALL NONRESIDENT DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS MODIFIED

The Missouri Conservation Commission approved proposed changes to nonresident deer hunting regulations at its May 29 open meeting in Washington. The approved regulation change for the upcoming 2026 deer season reduces the nonresident antlered buck bag limit from two to one. Nonresident landowners who qualify for nonresident landowner permits will maintain an antlered buck bag limit of two. The commission also gave initial approval to a regulation change that would require nonresident deer hunters to purchase a Nonresident Public Land Deer Hunting Permit for \$165 to be able to pursue, take, possess, and transport deer on public land in Missouri, including conservation areas and other state and federal public lands, beginning with the 2027 deer season. If given final approval, this permit will become effective for the 2027 deer season.

PROPOSED PERMIT FOR UNSTAFFED FIREARMS SHOOTING RANGES

MDC offers free recreational firearms shooting on more than 35 unstaffed shooting ranges around the state. The ranges were designed decades ago primarily for hunters, who traditionally used them during the spring and fall in preparation for various hunting seasons. Range use has increased significantly in recent years with more home/self defense firearms practice and increasing use of modern sporting rifles. Increased use has also re-

sulted in more damage to shooting range signs, booths, and other infrastructure from some visitors, along with increasing litter from some shooters, including spent shells, targets, and other items. To help reduce range damage, litter, and misuse, MDC proposes requiring users of our unstaffed firearms shooting ranges to have a valid small game permit. Existing age and disability exemptions will remain. The proposed regulation changes would apply only to MDC-owned unstaffed firearms shooting ranges, not partner ranges or MDC's five staffed shooting ranges. For residents, the allowable permit options start at \$11.50 for an annual small game permit. For nonresidents, daily small game permits are \$16 and annual small game permits are \$108.50. If given final approval, the changes will become effective Feb. 28, 2027.

PROPOSED CAMPING PERMIT

For many Missourians, including hunters, anglers, floaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts, camping is a popular activity. MDC manages about 1,000 conservation areas around the state, with more than 320 offering free camping. Campers and MDC staff have noted an increasing number of problems on conservation areas involving compliance issues, safety concerns, and environmental impacts from vandalism, illegal activities, and illegal stays on camping sites. Currently, campers on MDC areas do not need a permit, do not pay a fee, and do not register to camp. This lack of information can cause problems for conservation agents and MDC staff when they need to regulate activities on a camping area or identify campers causing prob-

lems or engaging in illegal activities. To help better regulate and monitor activities on our camping areas, MDC is proposing a low-cost, five-day permit for all camping on conservation areas for up to 10 people. The “\$5-for-5-for-10” permit would cost \$5 for up to 5 days (and four nights) of camping for a group of 10 people or fewer, even if fewer days were used and fewer people participated. If given final approval, the changes will become effective Feb. 28, 2027.

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

- 8 July : Swap Meet**
- 12 Aug: No Meeting**
- 9 Sept : Ducks at a distance**

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: July 8, 2026

Next Board Meeting: July 27, 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

