



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



MAY 2024

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MCDONALDS

Widgeon's hunting season that year was not totally stellar if I recall but not a total bust either. He did manage to retrieve his first duck for me and if memory serves me correctly several more that year. Once the season was over with we continued training and trying to lose weight which was always an issue with him.

If you recall in an earlier article I wrote about the Boy's of South Carolina which was about my son and a group of his friends coming to Missouri to duck hunt since the opportunities in South Carolina were not all that great. I took them down to Otter Slough for a relatively great hunt in the ice which they had great success in and set them on a course of wanting to make a pilgrimage back to Missouri each year to hunt ducks. This coming year was no different, with the exception that this year I had Widgeon and also this year they wanted to hunt in Arkansas where one of the boys had relatives there and not only Arkansas, but the famous Bayou Meto.

Now this hunt was kind of sprung onto me, kind of like if you want to come you can sort of thing, but it was an opportunity to hunt with my son so I decided to go on down there. I have never hunted in Arkansas, nor Bayou Meto, should of hired a guide, but for the amount of folks in our group I could not afford that and it was there hunt, I was just tagging along. They were freelancing and picked a spot to go to and one of the boys had a boat. So we met up the day before the hunt and talked about what we were going to do.

Next morning we got to the boat ramp and there was only one or two other rigs there (first warning) we launched the boat and loaded up and went on out. We found a spot that look reasonable and set up, but we found out we were the only ones in this area (second warning). The sun was coming up and the hunt began. If memory serves me correctly, I believe we only shot one wood duck and that was it. So we packed up and headed back to the ramp. When we got back to the ramp and loaded up the boat, someone stole two mojos that the boys from South Carolina left in the back of the pickup. (third and final warning) Needless to say we were not pleased but that can be expected if you leave something like that laying around, especially in a vehicle with out of state plates.

When we left the area my Son and I decided to go through McDonalds to get some food, we had to make a quick side trip to one of the boy's relatives home for a quick visit which was not far down the road from McDonalds. So we got our food and went to the house and went in and had a short visit. After about twenty minutes or so my Son and I went back to the vehicle to head on out to where we were staying and to eat. When my son reached into the bag to get our burgers and fries he saw that the burgers were gone. Just the burgers. Widgeon had one of those looks on his face where he knew he had done something wrong. Yes, he was loose in the vehicle. My son and I just looked t each other and just laughed! That dog only ate the burgers, paper and all!!! Did not touch the fries! To this day I still remember the look of his big brown puppy dog eyes of saying: 'Did I do something wrong Dad? I was hungry!'

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MEMBERS MEETING

This month's members meeting we will be having Dr. Brian Reiter, who is a fellow waterfowler and a veterinarian. He will be discussing what you should have or need to prepare for in all aspects of your dog, for and during waterfowl season.

So come on out! It will be a great discussion about the dogs we all love!

JUNE MEETING

Mark your calendars now, we are changing the meeting date and place for our June meeting. The June meeting will take place on 11 June at 5:30 PM out at Jay Henges. We are fortunate to be able to have the Trap Night again this year on Tuesday, June 11th at Jay Henges Conservation Area. The scenario is the same as last year. The MDC will furnish the clay targets while members need to bring their own ammo (size 7 1/2 or smaller lead shot). MVDHA will furnish hot dogs, chips, and water for members and their significant other. Plan on arriving before 5:30 pm to enjoy a dog and listen to the safety rules. We should get in a good two to three rounds of shooting before darkness. While there, please tell the MDC staff how much we enjoy this event.

FAMILY FUN

We are planning for a family fun day out at the Perry Community Lake in Perry County on 29 June. Come when you want to, enjoy the great outdoors with your family, kids, grandkids and friends! Your MVDHA will provide some easy up shelters, hotdogs, chips and water. We are planning on eating at noon. So bring your lawn chairs, any other beverages (NO ALCOHOL), fishing poles, bait etc. to enjoy a wonderful day! The lake has great banks from fishing from but if you want to bring a

boat you can! There are a couple of ramps to be used but it is a no wake lake, but a boat is really not needed. This lake is great for kids to catch lots of fish, it will be great fun for them! Make sure you bring mosquito spray and sunscreen since the bugs will be out, along with tics! There is also an archery range nearby with tree stand targets to practice for the upcoming season. From the MDC site: Perry County Community Lake is located about two miles west of Perryville and can be accessed from Route T and from the Interstate 55 west outer road. The Conservation Department, in cooperation with the citizens of Perry County who passed a bond issue to purchase 310 acres from private landowners to create the public area, developed the site and constructed a 103-acre impoundment, which was opened to fishing in 1971. The area now includes two access roads, four parking lots, two boat launching ramps, a fishing access trail for bank anglers, and two small picnic areas. The area also features a disabled accessible fishing pier, where fish cover structures have been placed to improve fish habitat. Disabled-accessible restrooms are located near the fishing pier.

TROUT TRIP UPDATE

Our annual trip to Taneycomo was another resounding success. It was great to be back at Trout Hollow to enjoy that resort. We had a smaller crowd this year but still had a GREAT time! The weather was perfect for fishing, best time ever up in the trophy area with Tony where we caught and release numerous fish and one that was about a three pounder that went over 18 inches.

We had our annual Trout Tournament and the results are:

Jerry Sr won heaviest stringer of 2 lbs 1 oz Duane Stinchcomb and Scott Combs tied for second largest stringer at 1 lb 12 oz

MVDHA BOARD

President: Ken Liebel

First V. Pres.:

Scott Thoele

Fin. Secretary:

Rob Mueller

Rec. Secretary:

Bill Hilgeman

Correspondence

Secretary: Bill Hilgeman

Membership Chairman:

Erik Liebel

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Chairman of the Board

Jerry Mercurio

Asst Chairman of the Board

Art Wende

Directors:

Brad Douglass,

Jerry Mercurio Jr.,

James Edwards

Nick Witte

Gary Hirsch

Rob Nowak won largest fish at 2 lb 3 oz.

Funny thing happened to Rob's fish, at the weigh in, where his fish was laid out to be measured, everybody thought it was dead, but it was very much alive and flopped back into the water! That fish is out there for the next angular! One lucky fish!



Jerry Sr



Jerry, Tony, his lovely wife and Bill



Sampling the fried food before it was eating time. We had fried everything. Duck (complete with copper plate bismuth courtesy of Jerry), crappie, frog legs, chukar and of course trout. The food was excellent!!

We all had a great time enjoying each others fellowship and company. Hopefully you can make plans for next year to join this event, one I am sure you will enjoy!



Ken and Erik

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 be 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.

JULY OCT MEETINGS

We are looking for ideas for our July and October members meetings. If you have any ideas, interests or topics to be discussed you can either email or tell one of your board members of what you would like. No idea is totally out of the question. So lets hear your ideas of what you would like to see or hear at YOUR MVDHA meetings!

COLUMBIA BOTTOMS

MDC recently bought 100 plus acres adjacent to Columbia Bottoms. With the advent of Columbia Bottoms being taken off of the managed waterfowl areas and being turned over to an open waterfowling area we were wondering why this occurred and the costs, after all, this is your tax dollars at work. Tony Wolf put in a freedom of information request to MDC regarding this purchase and after a long time of messages from MDC stating they are working on it finally got a response which is below, along with the request :

The Missouri Department of Conservation received a public records request from you on March 25, 2024. Your request mentioned:

According to Gateway Greenway, they have said the 100 plus acres adjacent to Columbia Bottom has been purchased by MDC.

Please provide purchase price, fees, and all agreements that are part of the sale such as right of ways for future trails, etc granted to seller.

The Missouri Department of Conservation has reviewed its files and have located the information you requested. Please see below.

Purchase price - \$695,000.00

Closing fees - \$1,304.12

There were no agreements between the parties regarding future use of the property.

For questions or additional information, please reply to this email.

Sincerely,

Custodian of Records

Missouri Department of Conservation

573-751-4115

Thanks Tony for this and it still begs the question of what is MDC going to do with this land.

MDC NEW DIRECTOR

The Missouri Conservation Commission has selected Jason Sumners as the next director of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), effective June 1, 2024. Sumners currently serves as the deputy director of resource management for MDC and will succeed Sara Parker Pauley, who will retire this spring after 30 years of public service, as director.

“The Commission did a national search for the director position because we knew we had tough shoes to fill with Sara leaving,” said Missouri Conservation Commission Chair Steven Harrison. “Jason is uniquely poised for this director role with his background, experience, and national connections in conservation. We are looking forward to a smooth transition with Jason at the helm with high expectations with him as the next director.”

As deputy director of resource management, Sumners had responsibility and oversight for the resource management efforts of the agency, including statewide resource management, regional

resource management, and protection. He also led the regulations committee. Prior to his deputy director role, Sumners served as Science Branch chief, leading a team of more than 80 scientists that specialize in fish, forest, and wildlife research and management. He began his career at MDC in 2008 as a private lands deer biologist and later became the head of the state’s deer management program.

During Sumners’ tenure at MDC, he has been instrumental in developing the agency’s strategic and operational direction, served as chief of the Wildlife Division, led the state’s white-tailed deer management program, took part in Missouri’s elk reintroduction efforts, developed a private lands deer management program, and led the Department’s effort to develop and implement a chronic wasting disease (CWD) management and surveillance strategy. Jason also worked at the national level on the Relevancy Roadmap for state fish and wildlife agencies to enhance conservation efforts through broader engagement.

Jason received a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Missouri and a Master of Science in Biology from Mississippi State University. He is a National Conservation Leadership Institute fellow, professional member of the Boone and Crockett Club, active with many non-government organization partners, represents MDC on numerous regional and national committees, and has been recognized by the Conservation Federation of Missouri and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for his leadership in science-based approaches to wildlife conservation. He has published popular and sci-

entific articles on wildlife, natural resources management, and conservation relevancy.

2024—2025 SEASON

The Missouri Conservation Commission approved recommendations from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) at its April 5 meeting in Rolla for upcoming 2024 migratory-game-bird-hunting seasons and 2024-2025 waterfowl-hunting seasons.

Doves

Season: Sept. 1 through Nov. 29

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

Sora and Virginia Rails

Season: Sept. 1 through Nov. 9

Limits: 25 daily and 75 in possession combined for both species

Wilson's (Common) Snipe

Season: Sept. 1 through Dec. 16

Limits: 8 daily and 24 in possession

American Woodcock

Season: Oct. 18 through Dec. 1

Limits: 3 daily and 9 in possession

2024-2025 WATERFOWL HUNTING

Teal

Season: Sept. 7-22

Limits: 6 daily and 18 in possession

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Ducks

Season:

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

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

Season: Nov. 11 through Feb. 6, 2025

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

White-Fronted Geese

Season: Nov. 11 through Feb. 6, 2025

Limits: 2 daily and 6 in possession

Canada Geese and Brant

Season: Oct. 5-13 and Nov. 11 – Feb. 6, 2025

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

Light Goose Conservation Order

Season: Feb. 7 through April 30, 2025

Limits: No daily or possession limits

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

YOUTH HUNTING DAYS

North Zone: Oct. 26 and 27

Middle Zone: Oct. 26 and 27

South Zone: Nov. 23 and 24

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.

CHANGE TO FEDERAL DUCK STAMP

Per the Federal Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023, the Federal Duck Stamp has been converted to a digital version and hunters are no longer required to carry a paper copy. Hunters must have a digital version in their possession.

Up Coming Events

May 8: Waterfowl Dogs

June 11: Trap Shoot

July 10: TBD

Aug 14: NO MEETING

Sept 11: MDC WATERFOWL

Oct 9: TBD

Nov 13: NO MEETING

Dec 11: Annual 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: **MAY 8, 2024**

Next Board Meeting: **MAY 27, 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"

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

