



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



MAY 2025

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ODDS AND ENDS

For an update HB261 has not change, not scheduled for a hearing, nor on the House calendar, hopefully it will stay that way. Just a reminder this bill was submitted by Representative LaKeySha Bosley out of District 079 of St Louis back in Dec of 2024 where after December 31, 2025, no person or entity shall sell any firearm ammunition unless the person or entity is designated by the secretary of state as a licensed ammunition seller.

If you look back at your March newsletter I wrote a short story about the Great Rivers Habitat Alliance (GRHA) and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), a short excerpt from that article to refresh your mind:

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Great Rivers Habitat Alliance (GRHA) recently entered into a cooperative agreement to protect habitat and add public and educational opportunities on nearly 785 privately-owned acres of prime wetland habitat in St. Charles County previously known as the Whistling Wings Duck Club. The Missouri Conservation Commission formally recognized the new partnership at its Feb. 7 open meeting in Jefferson City. Now, this cooperative agreement includes \$2 million in financial support from MDC to GRHA of YOUR tax dollars.

Recently I was forwarded an article that came from the GRHA website, www.grha.org, that they are holding a workshop called the 2025 GRHA Wetland And Habitat Management Workshop. From my reading, it is mainly for those managers of Privately Owned Duck Clubs, the cost is \$1,000 to attend and it is a three day event being held July 28 - 30 2025. Looking at the agenda, it does look very promising and the \$1,000 would cover the costs of everything they have going here. It almost looks like a conference, with dinners, social hours, networking etc. The sessions they are having, to me, looking at the presenters credentials, look very impressive. So I have mix feelings about this. All in all, it looks like a great thing that GRHA is doing, but I cannot get past that MDC gave GRHA \$2 Million of our tax payer dollars for this when it appears all of the members (at least the Board) are very well off individuals. How is the individual duck hunter who depends on the MDC management areas going to benefit from this which is being supported by your tax dollars? Yes, I currently hunt at a club, but I was for over forty years hunting only public land, and I still do. I just don't know how this will benefit the public hunting waterfowler and would like your feedback, let me know!

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MEMBERS MEETING

At this month's members meeting we will once again have Dr. Brian Reiter who is a veterinarian who specializes in waterfowl dogs and is a hunter as well. If you recall from last year he gave a very interesting discussion in emergency care of your dog in case anything might happen in the field. We have asked him to bring in the staple tool he recommended also. Many of you showed interest in this discussion and missed it and wish to of been there, so here is your chance!

TROUT TRIP UPDATE

We had our annual fishing trip this past month to Lake Taneycomo where we stayed at Trout Hollow and we all had a fantastic time! Even found a new fishing spot when they are running 3/4 of a generator. Fishing this year was a challenge though, we had 17 anglars and caught 17 fish.

Here are some pictures of the event.



In the annual fishing tournament Logan won the biggest stringer of 3.5 lbs. Story goes that he did lose about 15 set ups while he was fishing which kept his dad quite busy resetting him up. Plus he had some initial issues with the wind. It was

very windy that day and when he first started out he began casting high which sent his rig back at him making it rather fun in the boat dodging his rig when it came back at him and those in the boat. Great job Logan for a great stringer!



Jerry Sr won the Biggest Fish measuring out at 14.5"



MVDHA BOARD

President: Ken Liebel

First V. Pres.:

Scott Thoele

Fin. Secretary:

Rob Mueller

Rec. Secretary:

Bill Hilgeman

Correspondence

Secretary: Bill Hilgeman

Membership Chairman:

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Jerry Mercurio

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Directors:

Brad Douglass,

Jerry Mercurio Jr.,

James Edwards

Nick Witte

Gary Hirsch

Second biggest stringer prize went to Lucas of 2 lbs.

As stated before, fishing was tough, but we all managed to still have a great time.



Could not have had a great time without there support in cooking, excellent as normal! We had fried trout, and various other fish. Excellent food.



Chilling on the deck, literally, and enjoying each others company while we discussed the day and enjoying great food!!

BOARD MEETING

Due to Memorial Day falling on the fourth Monday this month, we decided to move our monthly Board Meeting to 19 May in case any member would like to come.

FAMILY FUN DAY

We have a date for our annual Family Fun Day. Mark your calendars for 28 June 2025. We will be going to:

1350 Loughboro Road
Bismark, MO
63624

This is the home of Mark Haberman. Looking at google maps, this looks like an outstanding location, the lake looks awesome!

Couple of notes:

- Scott Thoele stated he is going to set up signs for directions
- This is a persons home, so respect that
- There will not be any restrooms here, but Bismark is about two to three miles down the road with a nice gas station
- The lake is 30 acres in size
- The lake is stocked, primarily with bass and Crappie
- The lake is very accessible from shore
- Bring chairs, drinks, bug spray, sunscreen, everything you need for an outdoor activity, fishing etc.
- Hotdogs, chips and water will be provided for lunch
- There are two docks and a cleaning station for your use

- There is no boat ramp, but hand launch boats are ok with no motor restrictions
- Not sure yet on where to park but follow the group since many will arrive early

This looks like it is going to be a great time, so come on out and enjoy the day!! Thanks Scott for arranging this for us!

LIFETIME PERMITS

Art Meister brought to my attention last month when I posted about getting your fishing permits is that did you know that if you are between the ages of 60 and 64 that the life time fishing permit costs \$38 and that it includes the trout permit which costs \$12 annually? The lifetime hunting permit also cost \$38 which also includes the Conservation Order permit which costs \$5.50?

The life time fishing permit alone will pay for itself in about three years if you are over 64.

Thanks Art for this info!

JUNE MEETING

The June meeting will take place on 10 June, **WHICH IS A TUESDAY**, out at Jay Henges. We are fortunate to be able to have the Trap Night again this year on Tuesday, June 10th at Jay Henges Conservation Area. The scenario is the same as last year. Show up between 5 PM and 5:30 PM to get the MDC safety briefing. 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. **AGAIN**, plan on arriving **BETWEEN 5 AND 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.

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

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

Sora and Virginia Rails

Season: Sept. 1 through Nov. 9

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

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Wilson's (Common) Snipe

Season: Sept. 1 through Dec. 16

Limits: 8 daily and 24 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

American Woodcock

Season: Oct. 18 through Dec. 1

Limits: 3 daily and 9 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Coots

Season: Same as duck season dates in the respective zones (See dates under Waterfowl Hunting for Ducks)

Limits: 15 daily and 45 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

2025-2026 WATERFOWL HUNTING

Teal

Season: **Sept. 13 - 21**

Limits: 6 daily and 18 in possession

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Ducks

Season:

North Zone: Nov. 1 through 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

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, 2026

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, 2026

Limits: 2 daily and 6 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Canada Geese and Brant

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

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, 2026

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. 25 and 26

Middle Zone: Oct. 25 and 26

South Zone: Nov. 22 and 23

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.

MFOR

Craig Sondker is getting together a new, it is not necessarily a club, I guess it would be considered an organization called MFOR, Missouri Federation of Outdoor Resources, similar to IFOR in Illinois.

To give you an idea, from the IFOR website of:

<https://if-or.com/>

What is IFOR?

IFOR is a unique coalition of individuals and organizations. We are one of the most unusual sportsmen's groups anywhere because we don't blow the horn or promote the cause of any single special interest group. IFOR represents all outdoorsmen, all sportsmen, and all recreational users. We believe it is critical that we all band together under one large umbrella organization

to form a united front against those who would take from us what is rightfully ours.

MISSION STATEMENT

To unite all outdoor resource user groups and conservationists (ex. hunters, fishermen, trappers, trail riders, etc.), dedicated to preserving, restoring and developing the State's natural resources, and to provide a professional liaison to the Illinois Legislature and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), to protect sportsmen's rights and recreational opportunities; and to work together to ensure long-term, adequate dedicated funding for, and professional management of the IDNR.

IFOR is a not-for-profit 501 C (4) Conservation Organization whose main purpose is to unite Illinois Outdoorsmen under one statewide umbrella and protect and defend the recreational rights of natural resource users in the state of Illinois. Currently we have united over 100 conservation groups and in excess of 76,000 outdoorsmen as members of IFOR.

This is exactly what we need here in Missouri. Granted, after chatting a bit with Tony, CFM does this similarly, however, if we have another avenue to voice our opinions would be a great thing. More organizations and individuals under one voice to ensure our outdoor activities, be it hunting, fishing or any outdoor activity is to remain here currently and for the next generation. With the current policies that MDC is doing now, it is more than important to get organized, in which case we might be too late, for example: River blinds taken away, even when it was totally against by hunters, MDC turned a blind ear. Columbia Bottoms, the once jewel of MDC looks like a slum and now this cooperative agreement with the Great Rivers Habitat Alliance.

We need a larger voice to be heard. Not just single individuals or group voicing concerns to MDC and Jefferson City and this could be the answer.

Craig has set up an organizational meeting of MFOR on :

1 June 2025 at 12:30 PM

At American Vets Post 106

360 Brown Road

St. Peters MO

Craig would like a head count of who might show up. You can either let him know or reply to this email if you plan on going and I will get the word to him.

FOR SALE

Garmin Xero C1 Pro Chronograph. I bought this chronograph to test out my shotgun rounds I was developing for TSS but it only picks up about the fourth round. After I bought it I was looking into why it only picked up about every fourth round. After doing a bit of research, Garmin states it is not for shotshell rounds and that it is for a single projectile rounds, IE rifle or arrows. I tested it on an air soft gun I have and it picks it up every time. I only used this about a dozen times. It retails for \$599.99 at Cabellas. I will sell it for \$400 or best reasonable offer. Contact me at bjd7960@att.net.

Up Coming Events

May 14 : Brian Reiter the Vet

June 10 : Trap Shoot

July 9 : TBD

Aug 13 : NO MEETING

Sept 10 : TBD

Oct 8 : Waterfowl Forecast

Nov 12 : NO MEETING

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 14, 2025

Next Board Meeting: May 19, 2025 (Due to Holidays)

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"

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