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GETTING READY 2

Well, I got a rare draw to one of my favorite areas, yes, BK came through for me, probably because nobody likes it there, but I have always had success in one way or another at BK, even almost killed myself at BK. Did you get drawn this year for the preseason draw?

I thought I would continue this story line with getting ready for the up and coming duck and goose season with something discovered during Teal season.

I should of put this in on the last newsletter but for now it is a bit late since Teal season is over with but you can file this away for next year. I like to go over what went well last year and think of things to improve this year and try them out over Teal season before the main duck season starts. As you know, we got a bunch of Animators last year and I tried them out again this year. After watching George's videos (CEO of the Animator) I saw his Mojo was closer to the water and looked at my stakes to see what can be done, a simple fix was found. All I need to do was drill a similar hole up to the cross member of the middle stake to shorten the pole. I found a similar drill bit the same size of the hole and drilled it. This worked GREAT out in the marsh during Teal season. One caveat though, do not put the hole on the same side as the existing hole since the detent will catch when inserting the bottom stake. I also put in another hole midway down so I can adjust the Mojo height to any height I want. Also found out my Mojo was not spinning as fast in years past, no matter if I oiled it or not. I am guessing it being dunked into the water over some five years of hunting the water got into the windings of the motor causing it to slow down so I went out and got two more new AA Baby Mojos.

Those two new Mojos had issues of their own. They do not have a mounted battery holder, the batteries sit loose in their holder sliding around in the body of the Mojo. I also wanted to put my remote in, but it too would just slide around. I decide to JB Weld the remote transmitter into the body of the Mojo and then took some Velcro and super glued the hook side of the Velcro onto the transmitter and made a sleeve of the other side of the Velcro for the battery holder. After all is said and done, it works great! Now I can simply pull out the battery holder, slip it out of the Velcro sleeve, replace the batteries, slip it back into the sleeve and put it back into the Mojo. There will be no rattling inside the Mojo when running, nor will it fall out of the Mojo if the lid opens up unexpectedly. The new Mojos run super fast and I am quite pleased. Hope this bit of info helps you too!

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MEMBERS MEETING

For this month's members meeting we will have a discussion about re-loading, plus a bit more tidbits, sub gauge shotgun loads. Ever wanted to take your trusted 410 bore, 20 gauge or any other sub gauge out to hunt ducks? Well, you can, so come on out and learn how. If your sub gauge or 410 bore can shoot steel then you can shoot TSS. Come on out and learn about the wonderful world of Tungsten Super Shot!



2024 FUND RAISER

The fund raiser for 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

Huge thanks to Kenny for making this knife.

We will be drawing the winning ticket at the up and coming Holiday party in December.

If you have any money or tickets from this fund raising please make sure you get them to Jerry before the drawing.

Thanks to all for your assistance in this fund raiser.

BOSS SHELLS

WE SET OUT TO MAKE THE MOST DEPENDABLE STEEL SHOTSHELL ON THE MARKET.

<p>COPPER-PLATED STEEL SHOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground smooth for true flight with minimum drift. • Copper-plated to demonstrate uncompromising quality regardless of price. 	<p>MODIFIED WARCHIEF WAD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biotech additive to aid in environmental breakdown of the plastic. • Double gas seal for efficient powder burn. • Cushioned section to dampen recoil and stabilize shot during setback. Steel Reserve may very well be the smoothest shooting steel shell ever made. • Fast opening wad petals to separate shot from the wad for dense, uniform pellet distribution at 30 yards. • Wad stripping chokes are not needed. We recommend a Factory Modified or similar constriction aftermarket choke.
<p>1500 FPS VELOCITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our testing found that 1500 fps yielded the best patterns and most consistent velocities and pressures across our internal testing criteria of 0F-72F. • Average pattern percentages are 95-98% at 30 yards through a Modified choke. • Average pressure of 11,000 PSI 	

GET 'EM WHILE YOU CAN!

It is that time of the year again to look at gear. Last year I talked about Boss Shells, which are quite an excellent product.

Now, you cannot buy Boss shells from a dealer, they come directly from Boss. The pellets are bismuth with a thin layer of copper over them. You can get 2 3/4 shells up to 3" shells. Duplex loads or any single shot size. They come in 12, 16, 20 and 410 gauges. Granted, they are a bit pricey, \$1.90 a round for 12 gauge, on average, and you get twenty rounds per box of shells. After the season I bought some 20 gauge shells that I am looking forward in trying out. These shells are perfect for legacy guns that cannot shoot steel without damaging the barrel.

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The folks at Boss listen to us waterfowlers and know that the shells they produce are quite pricey, but for the performance you get from them and they are a top tier shell you should expect to pay a bit more. Plus it is the knock down power of these shells that sell. But as I stated, they listen, and developed the Steel Reserve line of shells



Easy on your shoulder... and your wallet.

which cost in the range of a \$1.20 a round. The 1 1/8 oz load of copper plated steel is smoking round traveling at 1500 fps.

Check them out at:
<https://bosshotshells.com/>

SURVEY

From Delta Waterfowl:

Annual Breeding Waterfowl Population Survey Estimates 33.99 Million Ducks, Up 5% From 2023

Mallards, wigeon, green-winged teal, and scaup post increases; Pintail bag limit for 2025-2026 season will increase to 3 daily in all flyways

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA — Duck numbers are up, and wetland habitat conditions have

improved over important portions of the key prairie pothole region.

The breeding population of ducks was estimated at 33.99 million, a 5% increase over last year, according to the 2024 Waterfowl Population Status report released today by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, May pond counts, a key indicator of breeding habitat conditions and potential production, also increased by 4% over the previous spring.

The report details the results from the Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey, which has been conducted annually by the USFWS and Canadian Wildlife Service since 1955. The survey is used to set hunting regulations for

the following year, so in this case, for the 2025-2026 season. Based on these results, waterfowl hunters will again enjoy a liberal season framework next season.

“An increased breeding population of ducks and pair counts, along with wetland habitat conditions that improved throughout May and June with good spring rains across most of the prairies, should help boost duck production,” said Dr. Frank Rohwer, president and chief scientist for Delta Waterfowl. “We definitely have potential bright spots for duck production in the eastern Dakotas and possibly in Manitoba. The spring rains really helped in those areas, as well as



2024 WATERFOWL BREEDING POPULATION AND HABITAT SURVEY

SPECIES	2024	2023	% CHANGE FROM 2023	% CHANGE FROM LTA
MALLARD	6.61	6.13	▲ 8	▼ 16
GADWALL	2.28	2.56	▼ 11	▲ 11
AMERICAN WIGEON	2.92	1.89	▲ 55	▲ 12
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	3.01	2.50	▲ 20	▲ 38
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	4.60	5.25	▼ 12	▼ 10
NORTHERN PINTAIL	1.98	2.22	▼ 11	▼ 49
NORTHERN SHOVELER	2.65	2.86	▼ 7	0
REDHEAD	0.78	0.93	▼ 16	▲ 6
CANVASBACK	0.57	0.62	▼ 8	▼ 4
SCAUP	4.07	3.52	▲ 16	▼ 17
TOTAL DUCKS	33.99	32.31	▲ 5	▼ 4

NUMBERS IN MILLIONS. LTA (LONG-TERM AVERAGE)

parts of Alberta that started the spring quite dry.”

The survey, which was completed in May, estimated 5.16 million total ponds, a 4% increase overall. However, the location of those ponds differed greatly from 2023. The ponds estimate on the Canadian prairie and parklands, which includes southern regions of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, decreased 19%. Meanwhile, ponds in the United States, including Montana and the Dakotas, increased by 49%.

“The prairies didn’t have a good snowpack last winter,” said Mike Buxton, waterfowl programs director for Delta Waterfowl.

“Heading into last fall, conditions were OK in the Dakotas, but prairie Canada was dry. Manitoba got decent snow, but not so much in Saskatchewan and Alberta. So, the wetland habitat there started spring in poor condition. That really affects where ducks settle. If the table isn’t set early on, ducks don’t stick around to nest. Alberta was really dry, so not many ducks settled there. Saskatchewan was a little bit better.”

While the number of total ducks in the Traditional Survey Area increased slightly over 2023, all of the gains were in the far north and west. Just three survey regions (out of eight) posted increases. The Central and Northern Alberta/Northeast British Columbia/Northwest Territories estimated 11.25 million ducks, up 35% and 49% above the long-term average for the region. The Alaska Yukon Territory/Old Crow Flats region showed a 28% increase over 2023, while Northern Saskatchewan/Northern Manitoba/Western Ontario was up 5%. In contrast, duck estimates across the prairie pothole regions were down 10% to 16%,

except for the Eastern Dakotas, which was down less than 1% from 2023.

THE ANIMATOR

A lot of you bought the Animator for last years season and I received an email from The Animator that stated they came out with a new splasher that is 30% lighter than the original one. Evidently for those who were running their MOJOS on AA batteries the original ones were draining the battery too quickly and the owner/President, George Parker, came up with a solution and stated to contact them, which I did. He sent me 13 new splashers for the baby mojos and lucky duck decoys at no costs. Now that is SUPERIOR CUSTOMER SERVICE! Thanks George!

For more info about this product go out to:

<https://bluebirdwaterfowl.com/>

I will have the replacement splashers at the next members meeting.

PROPOSED RULE

This is an article from Outdoor Life and is a rather lengthy article so will probably run it in the next few newsletters, but for the full article you can find it at:

<https://www.outdoorlife.com/conservation/wildlife-refuge-predator-control-rule/>

This is scary stuff for us waterfowlers, our passion is in more jeopardy each and every day.

(continued, third part)

What’s Best for Wildlife?

The directional flow of authority may be as critical to BIDEH’S reception as its specific rules. While national wildlife refuges operate under common guide-

lines and categorical expectations, individual managers historically have had wide latitude to manage their properties according to their establishment charter, site-specific constraints, and conservation opportunities.

The imposition of headquarters-level rules could hamstring refuge managers, reduce their flexibility and effectiveness, and potentially make them less conciliatory to their neighbors. On the other hand, the package of rules could also make refuge management more uniform across the system, ensuring that wider environmental goals are achieved, and confirming that natural processes — as opposed to human-manipulated operations — define refuge management.

But most hook-and-bullet groups say the BIDEH rules are not based on sound science, and will negatively impact migratory birds with little consultation from the international flyway committees, individual states, or conservation groups.

“The Refuge System plays a critical role in sustaining habitat and species, especially in landscapes where habitat has been lost or degraded,” wrote Delta Waterfowl in its official comments on the BIDEH rules. The waterfowl organization noted that a prohibition on GMO farming practices on refuges will simply shift bird use to surrounding agricultural landscapes, reducing the capacity of refuges to adequately sustain waterfowl.

“As waterfowl habitat has been lost or degraded over time, especially in key wintering areas, the role of the refuge system takes on even greater importance and as a result necessitating more intensive management, not less,” Delta wrote.

“Any proposal which reduces the ability to manage habitat and foraging resources in light of these developments may very well result in refuges that provide far less habitat for migratory birds — an outcome wholly contrary to the very purpose of the refuge system.”

However an Interior Department source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, says the very definition of federal refuges, where property is managed primarily for wildlife, is guiding BIDEH’s intention and emphasis.

“The refuge system is the only public land use in this country where wildlife comes first,” the Interior Department source says. “It’s not multiple use. We don’t have to cut timber or do oil and gas on these properties. These are special places, lands meant for wildlife, and I think that’s a purpose that should unite users, not divide them. Ecological diversity and environmental health go hand in hand with the purposes at both the unit level and system wide. You cannot have healthy wildlife populations if you don’t have biological integrity in your system.”

Hunting and conservation groups generally welcome opportunities to support the USFWS in its efforts to address current and future impacts of climate change, says Taylor Schmitz, director of federal relations with the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation. But Schmitz says the rule isn’t clear about how it would achieve those goals.

“While the BIDEH proposal in its entirety represents a monumental shift in how the Fish and Wildlife Service has managed the Refuge System for more than a century, it is important to

look at the provided reasons for this proposal, which are climate change and anthropogenic stressors facing the Refuge System. We struggle to understand how the land and wildlife management de facto restrictions in the BIDEH proposal will strengthen the ability of refuge managers across the country to tackle the stated goals of the proposal.”

(To be continued)



TERRY BERTHOLOMEY

Last week MDC had a retirement get together for Terry who has been a long time friend to YOUR MVDHA putting on our annual trap shoot out at Jay Henges along with giving us the annual waterfowl status presentations in the fall. He will be greatly missed, but we congratulate him on a well deserved retirement.

Thanks Terry for all the help and well deserved!!

YOUTH CLINIC

From MDC website:

<https://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/free-duck-hunting-clinic-youths-be-held-oct-15-busch-shooting-range-followed-two-mentored>

Free duck hunting clinic for youths to be held Oct. 15 at Busch Shoot-

ing Range, followed by two mentored hunts

This youth duck hunting clinic with two hunt options is the perfect way to give first timers a start in the sport.

DEFIANCE, Mo.—

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) wants to help young hunters discover the allure of duck hunting. MDC is holding a free youth duck hunting clinic on Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 5 - 7 p.m. at the August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center in Defiance. Participants who attend the clinic will then have the chance for a first-hand field experience at one of two youth duck hunts on Oct. 26 or 27. As the clinic and hunts are both part of a two-part program, attendees must be signed up for one of these hunts to attend the clinic.

This program is for youths, age 11-15, who have not duck hunted before and want a safe gateway into the sport. It will cover all the basics of duck hunting. These will include safety measures, duck habitats and migration, proper cover, clothing, firearms and ammunition, and tips on using duck hunting blinds and decoy placement. The class will also look at duck hunting regulations, limits, and identification. Attendance at the clinic is required before participating in the hunts.

Interested participants should register online for the hunt of their choice.

Up Coming Events

Oct 9: SUB GAUGE RELOADING TSS

Nov 13: NO MEETING

Dec 18: 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: October 9, 2024

Next Board Meeting: October 28, 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"

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