



2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL 62002

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 2

MARCH 2014

Rosi Franke, Editor

Tel: 618-396-2509

e-mail: rgfranke@frontiernet.net

MWHI 14th ANNUAL
WATERFOWL CONSERVATION BANQUET



**March 29, 2014 at the K.C.
Hall, Godfrey, IL**

**For more information please contact
John Gineris at (618) 786-2596.**

**Volunteers and donations
are needed!**

MWHI OFFICERS 2014

President

Banquet Chairman
John Gineris
618-708-8117 (cell)
618-786-2596 (home)

Vice-President

Mike Arnold
618-786-2300

Treasurer

Shane DeSherlia
618-639-0855 (home)
618-946-4520 (cell)
desherlia3@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary

Mike Devening
618-259-6181

Correspondence Secretary

Rosi Franke
618-396-2509
rgfranke@frontiernet.net

Recording Secretary

Cheri Gineris
618-786-2596

MWHI DIRECTORS 2014

Bob Jones
Area Projects Chairman
IFOR Board Representative
618-578-9547 (cell)

Chris Tite
Co-COE Chairman
618-610-3513

Dave Geisler
Nilo Chairman
618-535-3889

Eric Rhuede
Wood Duck Nest Box Chairman
Gun Raffle Chairman
618-410-9853

Justin Wolfe
Carlyle Lake Area Projects Chairman
618-377-0397

Don Taul
618-978-8285

Brian Arnold
Refuge Chairman/COE Chairman
618-535-9979

Bob Schneider
618-960-9906

Ron Ragus
618-977-2730

Kevin Dowdy
618-444-8711

Bo Adcock
618-535-6585

John Popov (Advisor)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 3, 2014

MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 pm

Saturday, March 29, 2014

MWHI 14th ANNUAL
WATERFOWL CONSERVATION BANQUET
at K.C. Banquet Hall, Godfrey, IL
For more information call John Gineris at 618-786-2596

Monday, April 7, 2014

MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 pm

Monday, May 5, 2014

MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 pm

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

MWHI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
at Alton-Wood River Sportsmen Club
in Godfrey, IL at 7:00 pm

***MWHI Scholarship Deadline
for submitting applications -***

March 10, 2014

**For more information please contact Rosi at
rgfranke@frontiernet.net**

The *Sentry* is published monthly except for December and January by Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., 2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL, 62002. The *Sentry* deadline is always the second Monday of each month.

Statements and opinions expressed in the *Sentry* are those of the individual and do not necessarily represent the views of Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. Officers, Directors, Advisors, Members or the Editor. The appearance of an ad in this newsletter does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of a product or service. We encourage our members to take note of those businesses advertising in our newsletter and shop with them when they are in the market for their product or services.

Old Time Winter

Duane Hahnenkamp

I hope you got some goose hunting in when you were able to. I had high hopes of killing a bunch more Canada geese before the season ended, but Mother Nature got me again. Things were just starting to look good when the blizzard in early January did its part and pushed a lot of geese south. The problem was it also ran all the geese out of the area that I hoped to hunt and they did not come back till the last day of the season.

Most years the geese that do come, come to southern Illinois. They start to move north as the season goes on, and they usually stage around Effingham till they migrate north in the spring. This normally gives the boys over there a good month of great hunting till the season ends. I was sure that as soon as the weather warmed up the geese would be back. I would have bet money that the hunting would be great for the last 2 weeks of this year's season. However, this long cold spell we had was exactly the worst thing that could have happened to my goose hunting. The geese just spread out across Southern Illinois and Southern Indiana for weeks. We did have a small warm up in mid January, but what geese did come north went right on back to Chicago. Regardless, the boys over there did get to kill geese for about 8 days total, but they have had high hopes of a lot more this year.

Now you have to admit that this has been one of the toughest winters we have seen in years. I remember trying to hunt in some other tough winters, like in 1976 when Stump Lake was frozen solid by the 15th of November. That year we had planned our vacation to duck hunt all that week, but instead we stood on 4 inches of ice in the Prairie and kissed our season good bye. Then there were the hard winters in the late 80's and early 90's and even the early winter of 2000 that cut my duck season short by 3 weeks. I sure hope the boys who wanted ice so they could kill (northern) mallards were happy this year because it sure screwed everybody else up.

The surprising thing that I and others noticed was that as hard as this winter was the bulk of the geese never left northern Illinois. Back in the 80's, even if duck season was poor, you could always count on a good goose season if it got cold. This year they had 10 to 14 inches of snow on the ground along with sub freezing temps in the Chicago area and the geese only migrated as far as the local power plants, like at Braidwood some others in that area. Even the guys at Braidwood said they never have seen so many geese before and that, as tough as conditions were this year, the geese never left.

Things have sure changed when 100,000s of geese don't migrate south even when the winter was as tough on them as it was. It is kind of hard to blame global warming [mild winters] as the reason geese no longer come south anymore. Even back in the hard winter of 2000, when we had over 500,000 geese in southern Illinois, I had friends killing geese at the power plant at Canton. Even then there still were a lot of geese staying on that hot water lake. The surprising thing was that the geese they did shoot were almost skin and bones. In a way it negates the theory that geese don't migrate because it has been bred out of them, like the giant Canadian geese.

I believe that and corn fields everywhere has changed our goose hunting. The big question is how long before most of the mallards end up following the geese to the power plants and how long before they quit coming south also?

You would not believe the duck hunters around the country, (north and south), who want their duck season to run into February. I have a suggestion for all of them. Why don't we just forget about a fall duck season altogether and just open up in March. The old timers always claimed: "Spring season was always the best!"

USFWS Announcement

E-mail from USFWS Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Manager John Mabery

I'm sorry to inform you that the hunting plan for Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge will not be finalized in 2014. At the headquarters level of the National Wildlife Refuge System a decision was made to forgo the approval of new and expanded hunting programs on Refuges in 2014. What this means for Two Rivers is that no hunting will be allowed on the Clarksville Island Division, and migratory game bird hunting will not be allowed on the hutable portion of the Calhoun Division.

Hopefully our hunting plan will be finalized and ready for implementation in 2015. I sincerely apologize for any problems or inconveniences this delay might cause. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

What the 2014 Farm Bill Means for Ducks and Upland Birds

Kyle Wintersteen (RSS), American Hunter Magazine 2/10/2014

With passage in the House and Senate, the Agriculture Act of 2014—commonly known as the Farm Bill—has all but been signed into law. Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, and Pheasants Forever are among the groups urging President Obama to sign it into law. Here are the key ways that the bill benefits waterfowl, upland birds and other grassland- and wetland-dependent wildlife.

Reauthorizes Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The bill reauthorizes CRP, which provides financial incentives to farmers to essentially farm their best land while leaving the rest as cover habitat. Any CRP acres are better than none, but the program is weakened: By 2018 the acreage cap is 24 million acres, 8 million fewer than afforded by the 2008 Farm Bill.

Re-links conservation compliance to crop insurance

Farmers who drain wetlands will once again risk losing their crop insurance. According to Delta Waterfowl, this conserves about 1.375 million critical wetlands in South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana alone. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that region involves about 1.4 million breeding pairs of ducks—32 percent of North America's entire breeding population.

Creates regional "Sodsaver" program

Sodsaver" protects the nation's last remaining native prairies—vital to many upland species and nesting waterfowl—in the very states where they're most threatened: South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Montana and Nebraska.

Continues Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program ("Open Fields")

Operated by state fish and wildlife agencies, this program improves hunter-access through such initiatives as Montana's "block management" and North Dakota's "Private Lands Open to Sportsmen." Funds of \$40 million were approved through 2018.

Creates new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

he priorities of which include targeting wetland and grassland easements. Three hard-fought years led to the Farm Bill's passage. It remains a controversial piece of legislation, even dividing sportsmen to some degree. However, when faced with the conservation components, one would have a hard time arguing that the bill isn't of vast benefit to ducks and upland birds.

ISRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

ISRA 2/13/2014

Beretta USA has announced that the business will leave the gun unfriendly state of Maryland and move to the friendly confines of Tennessee. Beretta USA is the oldest company in the world having operated continuously for more than 500 years. It has had a long tradition of fine quality firearms. They will like Tennessee.

In Illinois, the legislative session has barely begun and we are already getting a glimpse of what the antigun left wingers would like to do to gun owners. Representative Kelly Cassidy (D-14) of Chicago has introduced HB4715—a bill that would require you to register every firearm you own. Moreover, you wouldn't be able to purchase or be in possession of any ammunition that you didn't have a firearm in which it could be fired. The bill goes on, but the point is this bill shows everyone what the anti-gunners have planned for us. I must warn you—they are not kidding.

I am getting calls and emails about HB4715. We are watching this bill and others like it. Remember: lobbying is a bit like elephant hunting. Anyone can see an elephant 500 yards away, but if you want to get the elephant, you will have to stalk him. If you are going to bag it, you must get as close as possible. It is best to hold your fire until you can smell the peanuts on its breath. We'll be there waiting for HB4715.

What we have to learn from this is that we must always remain strong and organized, and that each day, we must be bigger and stronger.

The ISRA is currently hovering around 31,000 members; this is not enough for what we are going to face in the future. Please go out and recruit a new member or make a donation to the ISRA. This struggle for freedom is never going to end. At the moment, we need members and money.

As of Tuesday, February 11, 2014, there are 39,549 submitted Concealed Carry applications; 548 objections.

Remember, IGOLD is coming up on Wednesday, March 5, 2014. It is important to be there so you can help face the elephant. The IGOLD mailing should be in your mailbox today or within the next few days. Please make every effort to come to IGOLD and please send a donation. Reservations are now being taken on-line or over the phone for the charter buses headed to Springfield. Visit the IGOLD page at IGOLD.isra.org for the latest info!

Thank you for being a member.
Richard Pearson, ISRA Executive Director

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

NRA Update on Gun Bills **1-800-392-8683**

Federal Senate Office **1-202-224-3121**

Federal House Offices **1-202-225-3121**

Illinois State Rifle Association **1-815-635-3198** www.isra.org

Illinois Senate Information **1-217-782-4517**

Illinois House Information **1-217-782-8223**

Sen. Wm. Sam McCann – 50th District
Tel: 217-782-8206 Email: SenatorSam@frontier.com

Sen. Kyle McCarter– 54th District
Tel: 217-782-5755 E-mail: senatormccarter@gmail.com

Sen. Chapin Rose – 51st District
Tel: 217-558-1006

Sen. William R. Haine – 56th District
Tel: 618-465-4764 E-mail: haine@senatedem.state.il.us

Sen. James F. Clayborne – 57th District
Tel: 618-875-1212 E-mail: clayborne@senatedem.il.us

Sen. David Luechtefeld – 58th District
Tel: 618-243-9014 E-mail: sendavel@midwest.com

Sen. Gary Forby - 59th District
Tel: 217-782-5509

Rep. Dan Beiser – 111th District
Tel: 217-782-5996 E-Mail: dvbeiser@sbcglobal.net

Rep. Natalie A. Manley – 98th District
Tel: 217-782-3316

Rep. Adam Brown – 102nd District
Tel: 217-782-8398

Rep. John D. Cavaletto – 107th District
Tel: 618-548-9080

Rep. Dwight Kay – 112 District
Tel: 618-307-9200

Rep. Jay Hoffman – 113th District
Tel: 217-782-0104

Rep. C. D. Davidsmeyer – 100th District
Tel: 217-243-6221

Rep. Mike Bost – 115th District
Tel: 618-457-5787 mikebost@midwestmail.com

Rep. Dan Reitz – 116th District
Tel: 618-443-5757 E-mail: [dreitz@egyptian.net](mailto:dreiz@egyptian.net)

.....
Rep. Rodney Davis - 13th District
Tel: 202-224-3121

Rep. John Shimkus - 15th District
Tel: 618-344-3065 E-mail: house.gov/shimkus

Sen. Richard J. Durbin
Tel: 202-224-2152 E-mail: dick@durbin.senate.gov

Sen. Mark Kirk
Tel: 202-224-2854 Email: kirk.senate.gov
.....



Legislation Update

John Popov

Duck season is over, the holidays and the Super Bowl are gone. 2014 is a new year and could be a very bad year for gun owners. I hope you read Wayne LaPierre's *Standing Guard* article in your February NRA magazine. He tells about the majority power grab in the U.S. Senate. This will stop any debate for judicial appointments. Thank you, U. S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. I am sure our President will appoint pro-Second Amendment judges.

I hope you can call or write your elected House members and Senators. If you want to keep your guns, you must do so.

According to the NRA, these are the reasons:

- Ban your semi-automatic rifles, handguns and shot guns.
- Force law-abiding gun owners to be licensed and fingerprinted.
- Tax our firearms and ammunition to the point where millions of Americans can no longer afford them.
- Strip you of your fundamental freedom to defend your life and the lives of your loved ones, Tour right to carry a firearm for personal defense and even your right to self-defense in your own home.
- Destroy your sovereign right to keep and bear arms by ratifying the UN Gun Ban Treaty that Obama signed a few months ago. If the Senate ratifies this treacherous treaty, the UN will have an open invitation to dictate gun policy right here in the United States.

In Illinois it is always open season on the gun owner. Now they want to tweak the concealed carry law.

Don't forget the United Nations agenda 21. This effects your taxes, Second Amendment rights, property rights and your future U.S. citizen rights. If this doesn't sound an alarm, nothing will.

If it is to be, it is up to you and me.

Bill Status of HB4715

98th General Assembly

Short Description:

FIREARMS REGISTRATION

House Sponsors: Rep. Kelly M. Cassidy

Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
2/5/2014	House	Referred to Rules Committee

Statutes Amended In Order of Appearance

New Act

720 ILCS from Ch. 38, par. 24-3
5/24-3

Synopsis As Introduced

Creates the Firearms Registration Act. Provides that every person in the State must register each firearm he or she owns or possesses in accordance with the Act. Provides that a person shall not purchase or possess ammunition within this State without having first obtained a registration certificate identifying a firearm that is suitable for use with that ammunition, or a receipt demonstrating that the person has applied to register a suitable firearm under the Act and that the application is pending. Provides that the Department of State Police must complete a background check of any person who applies for: (1) a registration certificate for a firearm that was lawfully owned or possessed on the effective date of the Act, was brought into the State by a new resident, or was acquired by operation of law upon the death of the former owner; or (2) a renewal of a registration certificate unless, within 12 months of the date the renewal application is submitted, the applicant passed a background check conducted by the Department in connection with the applicant's acquisition of another firearm. Provides exceptions. Amends the Criminal Code of 2012. Provides that it is a Class 2 felony to sell or transfer ownership of a firearm to another person without complying with the registration requirement of the Firearms Registration Act.

Actions

Date	Chamber	Action
2/5/2014	House	Filed with the Clerk by Rep. Kelly M. Cassidy
2/5/2014	House	First Reading
2/5/2014	House	Referred to Rules Committee

States Mulling Legislation to Ban Drones

U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance 2/21/2014

Several states are considering legislation to protect hunters, anglers and trappers from harassment by unmanned, aerial drones while exercising their legal right to pursue and take wildlife. As reported by U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA) in October of last year, PETA has offered small drones for sale and is encouraging its members to utilize them to monitor sportsmen in the field.

Following the example set last year by Illinois, which passed a law to prohibit the use of drones to interfere with sportsmen, the USSA is seeing similar bills put forward in other states early in 2014. Bills to outlaw harassment of sportsmen with drones are currently being considered in Alabama and Tennessee. While in Hawaii, a broader bill addressing unmanned aerial vehicles contains a prohibition against causing a nuisance with drones, and a New Jersey bill increases the penalties for harassing a person legally taking wildlife.

"It is encouraging to see legislation arising that takes a stand against the extreme actions of the animal rights lobby," said Nick Pinizzotto, USSA's president and CEO. "Hunters are the driving force behind wildlife conservation in this country and should not be painted as criminals by radical anti-hunting organizations."

ISRA News 2/20/2014

Legislation:

House Bills:

We are currently watching a total of 52 House Bills.

Oppose the following:

HB4517-CCW banned in restaurants
HB4515-Firearms registration
HB4753-Handgun dealer licensing
HB4779-CCW reversal of posted signage

Senate Bills:

We are currently watching a total of 36 Senate Bills.

Oppose the following:

SB3094-Firearms registration
SB3559-CCW one firearm, 10 round limit
SB3560-Semi-auto ban
SB3561/3572-CCW banned in House of
Worship

****Total Concealed Carry Applications submitted as of Feb 18th: 42,323**

2013 Duck Hunting Results

Horseshoe Lake S.P., Madison County, Region 4

Submitted Jim S. Gowen, IDNRSite Supt. , Horseshoe Lake S.P. (forwarded by Kim Postlewait)

Thankfully we tried to dewater our 200 acre "moist soil" area last summer and were able to get at least a little bit of natural feed for the ducks. It wasn't what we wanted, but due to high water and low staff, what we did get to grow possibly benefited the sites hunting and the birds themselves. Even though our harvest was down by 100 ducks from last year, we had a very good year considering the amount of days that were hunted were limited due to ice.

For 2013, we had: 29 of 29 public duck blinds hunted.

Every day of the 60 day season was hunted by at least one hunter. Ice / weather conditions put a damper on access to many duck blinds for approx 2 weeks. With that being said, I personally and professionally believe our season dates were perfect.

of hunters = 2,983

of hours hunted = 5,653 (these are not man-hrs but hrs a blind was hunted by at least one person).

of crippled / lost ducks reported = 148

of coots harvested = 51

of geese = 74 (60 were Canada geese, 10 snow geese, 4 white-fronted geese)

total # ducks = 3,521

of mallards = 778 (488 drakes, 290 hens)

bluebills /scaup = 498 # shovelers= 351 # ruddy ducks = 329 # gadwall = 291

ring necked ducks = 286 # green winged teal = 229 # redheads = 170 # canvasbacks = 150

mergansers = 123 (mostly hooded mergs with a few commons taken. No redbreasted that I know of).

buffleheads = 119 # wood ducks = 63 # blue winged teal = 48 # pintail = 34

wigeon = 30 # goldeneye = 18 # "others" (species not listed on harvest cards) = 4

I know of one surf scoter, 2 "others" taken from another blind but species is unknown to me as I didnt see them & the species wasn't logged by the hunters on their card, and another blind had what was logged in as a "mottled duck". I have my doubts on the mottled duck, but you never know.

black ducks = 0 (I don't recall the last time that no (at least a couple) black ducks were reported for the site.)

PRODUCT WARNING AND RECALL NOTICE

WINCHESTER® 22 LONG RIFLE RIMFIRE AMMUNITION

January 26, 2014

Olin Corporation, through its Winchester Division, is recalling two (2) lots of M*22™ 22 Long Rifle 40 Grain Black Copper Plated Round Nose rimfire ammunition.

Symbol Number: S22LRT

Lot Numbers: GD42L and GD52L

Winchester has determined the above lots of 22 Long Rifle rimfire ammunition may contain double powder charges. Ammunition with double powder charges may subject the shooter or bystanders to a risk of serious personal injury and/or death, or cause firearm damage, rendering the firearm inoperable.

DO NOT USE WINCHESTER® M*22™ 22 Long Rifle RIMFIRE AMMUNITION WITH LOT NUMBERS GD42L or GD52L. The ammunition Lot Number is imprinted (stamped without ink) on the left tuck flap of the 500-round carton. The 1000-round intermediate carton does not have a Lot Number.

To determine if your ammunition is subject to this notice, review the Symbol Number and Lot Number. If it is Symbol Number S22LRT with a Lot Number containing GD42L or GD52L immediately discontinue use and contact Winchester toll-free at 866 423-5224 or visit <http://www.winchester.com/Product-Service/Pages/Contact-Us.aspx> for free UPS pick-up of the recalled ammunition.

This notice applies only to Symbol Number S22LRT with Lot Numbers GD42L and GD52L. Other Symbol Numbers or Lot Numbers are not subject to this recall.

If you have any questions concerning this 22 Long Rifle rimfire ammunition recall please call toll-free 866-423-5224 or write to Winchester (600 Powder Mill Road, East Alton, IL 62024 Attn: S22LRT Recall), or contact Winchester Customer Support online.

We apologize for this inconvenience.

WINCHESTER

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA COMPARE 2013 WITH THE TOP TEN YEARS

Copied from the MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA 2013 WATERFOWL SEASON REPORT

YEAR	MRA	YEAR	BATCH TOWN	YEAR	CALHOUN POINT
2006	24,266	1971	10,176	2008	3,103
2000	22,537	1975	9,699	2012	3,077
2012	22,260	1969	9,002	2006	2,927
2011	22,010	1978	8,951	2000	2,927
1999	20,168	1966	8,781	1995	2,886
1978	19,314	2012	7,499	2013	2,751
1975	19,253	2011	6,807	2010	2,731
1997	19,234	2006	6,720	2001	2,700
1971	18,954	1983	6,644	2011	2,692
2001	18,887	1979	6,594	2003	2,597
2013	18,407	2013	4772		

YEAR	GLADES 12-MILE	YEAR	GODAR DIAMOND	YEAR	STUMP LAKE
2011	3,411	2000	6,278	2012	7,426
2008	3,359	2001	6,079	2006	6,555
2006	3,157	1995	5,852	1997	5,467
2000	3,052	1998	5,625	2000	5,375
2003	3,001	1997	4,996	1955	5,248
1978	2,756	2006	4,907	1967	5,167
2013	2,747	2011	4,902	1999	4,887
1998	2,755	2005	4,714	1956	4,835
2001	2,433	1996	4,708	1976	4,442
1999	2,361	1999	4,674	2007	4,393

Critical Federal Hunting and Fishing Bill Passes U.S. House of Representatives

Sportsmen's Alliance 2/21/2014

The U.S. House of Representatives voted this week to pass H.R. 3590, a bi-partisan package of pro-sportsmen legislation. The measure, which passed by a vote of 268-154, includes vital language ensuring over 700 million acres of federal public lands remain open to fishing and hunting.

H.R. 3590, sponsored by Congressman Bob Latta (R-OH), addresses the top concerns of American hunters, anglers and recreational shooters. Known as the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2013, it includes many important provisions for the future of hunting.

"This legislation is extremely important for the sportsmen's community and the future of access to public lands," said Nick Pinizzotto, USSA president and CEO. "We're only half way home, however. Sportsmen must urge their Senators to take up these important bills today."

A key feature of H.R. 3590 is the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA) supported "Open Until Closed" language, which spells out that hunting, fishing and recreational shooting are legitimate and important activities on the more than 700 million acres of federal land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The language will help stop frivolous lawsuits brought by animal rights and anti-hunting organizations when federal agencies move to open land to sportsmen. The bill is similar to the 1997 Refuge Improvement Act USSA championed to make hunting and fishing "priority public uses" on National Wildlife Refuge lands.

In addition to "Open Until Closed," the bill includes language to:

- prohibit the U.S. EPA from regulating lead ammunition and fishing tackle;
- allow for the importation of 41 legally harvested trophies taken before Polar Bears were listed as an endangered species in 2008;
- promote the construction of shooting ranges on public lands; and
- permanently authorize the online sale of duck stamps.

MWHI Presidents - Past to Present

1971	Ed Hurley	1972-73	Donald Davenport
1974-76	Miles Brueckner	1977-78	Cecil Becker
1979-80	Don Page	1981-84	John Popov
1985-86	Gary Liley	1987-89	Greg Franke
1990	John Allen	1991-93	Dan Hudgins
1994	Dennis Schuetz	1995	Dan Hudgins
1996-98	Duane Hahnenkamp	1999-2003	John Gillespie
2004-12	Scott Bryant	2013-now	John Gineris



Deer hunting under review by IDNR

Two Rivers Outdoors / 2.21.14 8:29 a.m. By BETH ZUMWALT

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) plans to revise deer population objectives for more than 40 counties beginning with the 2014-15 deer season, following a two-year review of Illinois deer management efforts.

Two years ago, IDNR started a number of measures in an apparent effort to control the deer herd, that many felt was out of control. The number of deer-car crashes and loss of crop production led to that conclusion.

The plan was to cut the deer herd 14 percent overall.

The statewide objective was met in 2012, but several counties were still above their recommended level. Some counties fell below their projected target number and the late winter deer season was eliminated for those counties this year.

But, what a difference two years can make. Now there is a general consensus that deer numbers are down overall.

According to IDNR, there were 99,546 deer harvested in 2012 and only 74,191 in 2013.

Not everyone thinks it is the measures IDNR enacted.

"It's the EHD (a deer disease)," Scott Andress of The Archery Shop in Pittsfield, said. "It's not just Pike County, it's not just Illinois, it's the entire Midwest."

Andress said he has attended hunting shows and has talked to a number of people and all are reporting fewer deer.

"It's from Ohio to Kansas, from Kentucky to Minnesota," he said.

Andress said lot of people are pointing fingers and blaming different scenarios for the decrease, but he says even IDNR can't control Mother Nature.

"I don't care how good your conservation measures are, when a disease like that hits the herd, there nothing anyone can do," he said. "IDNR couldn't plan for that."

Andress said he didn't have a quick fix for the problems but felt if given a chance the deer herd will rebound.

There is talk about making one of the three-day seasons a two-day season and eliminating the over-the-counter sales.

Andress said he doesn't think the two-day hunt is a good idea nor moving a three-day hunt to Saturday, Sunday and Monday. He said he has mixed feelings on over-the-counter sales.

"The hunt on Monday would probably discourage a lot of the out-of-area hunters, but maybe that's what they want to do," he said. "The same with over-the-counter sales being eliminated. Maybe a guy doesn't know until the last minute that he is going to be able to come and hunt. The OTC works out well for him. But we had deer hunting for 25-30 years using the lottery."

Brian Hill, a part-time outfitter in the Pleasant Hill area, agrees the numbers are down.

"There is no doubt about it," he said. "I don't know why. I think the disease has something to do with it, but the state won't cut back on the permits, because they need the money too bad."

Doug Pruett, also an outfitter, said he agrees the numbers are down and says he understands the reasoning behind eliminating the late winter antlerless season but thinks the situation will resolve itself.

"Mother Nature usually takes care of those things herself," he said. ###

Uncle Joe's Gunsmithy

104 State St PO Box 57

Fidelity, Il. 62030

Ph 217-248-6337

Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:00 am -5:00 pm

Call for special appointments

S and J Outdoor Services

Sign & Light Repair – Seal Coating – Mowing Services – Infrared
Pothole Repair – Power Washing – Board Up Services – Snow Removal

Keith Linkeman
President / Owner
618-616-9090

Add life to the spread — Any place, any time!
duxtrac.com 618-535-1599

Gain the edge with:


DuxTrac
Easy-Set Decoy Animations

15263 Otterville Road - Grafton, Illinois 62037

Bertoglio Drywall

Shawn Bertoglio HANGING
616-779-0424 TAPE and FINISHING
618-498-5268 TEXTURING
PAINTING

TRIGGER TALENT

Mark Maggos
618-972-1600
1maggos@gmail.com



- Illinois Concealed Carry
- Basic Pistol
- Personal Protection Inside The Home
- Personal Protection Outside The Home

Support Your Club –

Sign Up a New Member!

Thank you!

2013-14 MWHI Gun Raffle Winners

Winners for the December and January guns were drawn at the
January 2014 MWHI Board Meeting

- Jason Brayton** - October gun (Super X 3)
- Rob Probst** - November gun (Savage 20ga Bolt Action w/Nikon scope)
- Roger Hurley** - December gun (T/C Endeavor camo)
- Dwight Hagen** - January gun (T/C Venture 22-250)