



2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL 62002

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VOLUME 43 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2013

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# ***2013 MWHI AREA PROJECTS MEETING!***

will be held

February 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm

at the

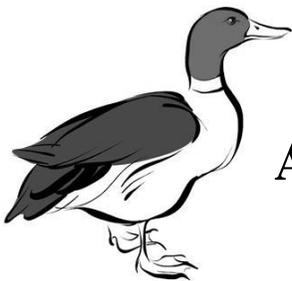
Alton-Wood River Sportsmen Club

in Godfrey, IL

in conjunction with the

**MWHI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Please call Bob Jones for additional information at 618-498-4724.



## MWHI OFFICERS 2013

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618-786-2596 (home)

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618-978-8285

Brian Arnold  
Refuge Chairman  
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618-535-0151 (cell)

Larry Franklin (Advisor)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 4, 2013

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

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

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

Monday, March 4, 2013

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

Saturday, March 23, 2013

**MWHI 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**  
**WATERFOWL CONSERVATION BANQUET**  
at K.C. Banquet Hall, Godfrey, IL  
For more information call John Gineris at 618-786-2596

Monday, April 1, 2013

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

**Support Your Club –  
Sign up a new member today!**

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.

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# *MWHI Welcomes New President*



**Out-going  
MWHI President Scotty Bryant (r)  
hands over gavel to our new  
President John Gineris (l)**

**On behalf of all MWHI Officers and  
Board Members, I would like to  
thank Scotty Bryant for his nine years  
of strong leadership and hard work.**

**We truly appreciate all the long hours  
you put in and the thousands of phone  
calls you took to make this club  
what it is today!**

## **Newsbits from the Illinois DNR – January 17, 2013**

**2013 Illinois Licenses Available Jan. 21:** Illinois fishing, hunting and sportsman's combination licenses for 2013 will be available starting Jan. 21 from DNR Direct license and permit vendors, online through the IDNR website [www.dnr.illinois.gov/online/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/online/Pages/default.aspx) or by calling 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648). The system is available 24 hours a day. The 2013 licenses purchased beginning Jan. 21 will be valid through Mar. 31, 2014 unless otherwise noted.

**Spring Turkey Applications:** Hunters may apply for 2013 Illinois Spring Wild Turkey Season permits online. Go to the IDNR website for more information at this link:

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/turkey/Pages/SpringTurkeyHunting.aspx>

The application **deadline for the third lottery for spring turkey permits is Feb. 11.**

**Spring Youth Turkey:** Spring Youth Turkey Special Hunt Area online permit applications will be accepted online from Jan. 15-Feb. 18. For more information on 2013 spring turkey hunting, check the IDNR website at this link:

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/turkey/Pages/SpringTurkeyHunting.aspx>

Spring Youth Turkey Season County Permits will be available over-the-counter from IDNR license/permit vendors beginning on March 5.

## A Good Year or A Weird One?

Duane Hahnenkamp

First let me say that the recent shooting at Sandy Hook Grade School is terrible and tragic for all. We all feel so sorry for the ones lost and their families. I actually wrote an article on the shooting and the repercussions that are coming. Afterwards, I decided to stay away from the subject for now and wait for emotions to settle. But let there be no mistake, the gun ban war has started and it will effect you.

Now did you ever see a duck season like the ones we had the last two years? Both were reported by the government to be record years for the fall duck flights, which should have been a warning to all. Last year we had no feed in Swan Lake and most of the corn fields were plowed under. All you had to do was look up and watch as the majority of the migrating ducks flew on through our areas. Still, some areas had a record season while others like Calhoun Point was a slow drag. Just like you, I watched all this summer with anticipation as the wild feed came up in our areas and Swan Lake refuge. The dry summer and the absence of the spring floods sure did the job of firming up the lake bottoms. I believe some of these areas have not been totally dry since they were first flooded 60 years ago. We happily admitted that we had never seen so much feed in Swan Lake or Calhoun Point before.

As I looked at all the feed in lower Swan last August, I thought of another year when Swan also had a lot of feed. When I got home I looked up in my old hunting notebook and checked back the years to 2003. I found a notation from Greg Franke and I on a tour at Swan Lake with Refuge Manager John Mayberry that September. I remembered during that tour, Greg and I walked out several hundred yards onto lower Swan on dry cracked ground that was full of feed. Half of the lake was still open, but we knew that we were still looking at a record amount of feed. The center of the lake held a lot of open water, along with a ton of teal and early ducks. As we left the meeting, we both laughed about how good the refuge looked and how good the season was going to be because of all of that feed. But my records showed that later that fall, I and others sat in the Glades waiting for the record amount of ducks that would not leave the refuge. As I looked over my book, I hoped that year was just a fluke and that this year all that feed would not effect our chance for a great season. I also wondered if all the corn fields in Missouri would be plowed under again like last year, which had put a major hurt on Calhoun Point.

When John Mayberry reported back in October that Swan already held a 100,000 ducks before season, I thought we were going be okay. Surely as we picked up more ducks, they would start pouring out and it would be game on. The season started slow in Calhoun Point but since it was almost the full moon, I wasn't too surprised. But as the moon started to fade and the ducks stayed on the refuge, I started to worry. About the only good news was that all the areas were slow and a lot were doing worse than the Point. Finally, the Veterans Day flight came and it looked like the great season that the government predicted was finally here. As you know, that lasted about 2 days before things went back to the slow drag of a season that we had before. I even hoped that after a couple of days the new ducks would start coming out, but instead they fell in with the old ducks at the refuge smorgasbord. I knew then that we were in trouble and chances were not looking much better for the rest of the season. There was just too much feed to eat and it was going to hurt us as long as it was there. I figured it was going to be the odd days with wind, rain or fog that would change our luck. Finally Batchtown and Stump areas did pick up while others like the Glades and Diamond Island seemed to being dying a slow death. Why Stump ended up with a record year and the Glades just a couple of miles away suffered so badly is hard to explain. I guess the only explanation was that the ducks were on a flight path to Upper Stump and later Fuller Lake as the refuge feed ran out. They just never got as far up as the Glades or Diamond Island. The Point even ended up with a near record year, but it sure did not feel like it.

Anyway duck season is over, everything froze up and it's time to compare notes like 'did the bulk of the mallards get here or did they fly on south; was it too much feed, too many old ducks, too early a season, or are the duck migrations changing along with the changing farm practices of the Midwest.' These are some of the million dollar questions to think about in the months to come. Chances are we could be looking at big changes next duck season because of a lot fewer ducks and therefore a shorter duck season. Expect the debate over season dates to only get worse if a shorter season does become a reality, but that will be something we can talk about later on. All I know is that the 2012 duck season was a weird one and I was sure expecting something a lot different.

It's 2013 now, and my only hope is that a blizzard hits Chicago in the next 3 weeks and the geese come down to where we can kill some. Good luck and expect things to hit the fan in the months to come.

## **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](http://www.isra.org)

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

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

**Sen. Wm. Sam McCann** – 49<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-782-8206

**Sen. Kyle McCarter** – 51<sup>st</sup> District  
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**Sen. John O. Jones** – 54<sup>th</sup> District  
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**Rep. Eddie Lee Jackson, Jr.** – 114<sup>th</sup> District  
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**Rep. Mike Bost** – 115<sup>th</sup> District  
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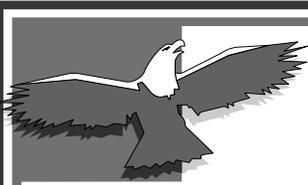
**Rep. Dan Reitz** – 116<sup>th</sup> District  
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**Rep. John Shimkus** - 19<sup>th</sup> District  
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**Sen. Richard J. Durbin**  
Tel: 312-353-4952 E-mail: [dick@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:dick@durbin.senate.gov)

**Sen. Mark Kirk**  
Tel: 217-492-5089  
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## **URGENT ALERT FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY**

### **LISA MADIGAN FILES CHALLENGE TO APPEALS COURT RULING ON CONCEALED CARRY ISRA 1/8/2013**

As many of you have heard by now, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has filed a challenge to last month's appeals court ruling that struck down Illinois' ban on concealed carry. That decision was rendered by a 3-member panel of the appeals court. Madigan has petitioned the full court of appeals to review the panel's ruling.

We fully expected Madigan to file this challenge. We see it as a desperate attempt to capitalize on the Newtown murders. We are confident that Madigan's challenge will go down in flames and the clock on the 180-day implementation of concealed carry will continue to tick.

No action is required of you at this time. This alert is for your information only. Just rest assured that the ISRA is prepared to meet this challenge and will faithfully represent your interests before the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

**WARNING: DO NOT** make any calls to the federal judges or you might jeopardize our case. If you would like to call Lisa Madigan and let her know that you do not appreciate her efforts to leave you defenseless, go right ahead.

Please distribute this alert to your friends and please post it to any internet blogs or bulletin boards to which you belong.

###

# The Proper Answer, Is, uh, NO!!

By Gary A Liley

We've had another gruesome massacre, this time of school children in Connecticut, and while our deepest and sincere prayers continually go out to them, most of the news stories have had a common thread – that law abiding gun owners and gun advocate groups are to blame and now are “ready to compromise” on guns. Surprisingly, too many of those who should be on our side seem intimidated by the media, and unwilling to fight back. In doing so they are making a huge mistake, concerning public safety, and our basic freedoms.

If one has any knowledge at all about violent crime and the criminal mindset, they should know that an assault weapons ban or further restriction on high-capacity magazines is not going to save a single life or reduce crime in any way. This is just not a matter of opinion, or “my” opinion – we now have decades of data, from the Federal ban of Assault weapons and high capacity magazines of 1994 thru 2004 and through what has now been termed our “laboratories of gun control” (i.e. the States and cities with extreme restrictions on lawful gun owners). And the results are clear and blatantly obvious – gun control actually increases the probability that one will be the victim of a violent crime. (See: New York, Chicago, Detroit, Washington D.C., or Los Angeles).

Be aware also, that “assault weapon” is just another term like “saturday night special” that the libs have coined to give an unwary passerby a way to identify an inert item with bad connotations. Any firearm or object could be termed an assault weapon if it is used to assault someone or something.

Same goes to the imaginary “gun show loophole” – which is a bogus claim that felons and other prohibited people can just walk into a gun show and buy a gun from an unlicensed dealer. But research shows that felons **DON'T GO TO GUN SHOWS**, at least not in numbers that the anti-gun crowd would have you believe. Research shows that they buy their guns from the black market almost exclusively. I hate to beat an old drum again, but, how has outlawing illegal drugs and drug trafficking working out for ya?

The Force Science Research Institute at the University of Minnesota (Mankato State) reported on a 5-year nationwide study by the FBI of over 800 incidents involving the most dangerous armed street criminals, and concluded: ***“Contrary to media-generated myth, not a single weapon in the study was purchased at a gun show.”*** But, hey, why listen to the FBI? Right? It's much more enjoyable to let emotions rule!

In reality, the “gun show loophole” is just a maneuver to distract the uninformed. Because actually an unlicensed dealer is ANY private citizen who sells a gun, including you and me. In Illinois, there is a protocol for that and I suggest you know it before selling a firearm to anyone! The real purpose behind this scheme is to mandate a background check on every private sale. Be aware that this will likely require going to a gun store (if you can find one) and paying another burdensome fee. On top of the fact that no measurable crime, especially these heinous crimes of mass murders, resulted from the so called “gun show loophole”. (Too bad the same can't be said about our own government's scandal, “Fast and Furious”.)

This latest bit of bureaucratic deck stacking will not prevent a single felon or mentally disturbed whacko from getting a gun – they will NOT subject themselves to any background check. It is another attempt to institute a back-door gun registration scheme. Besides, it is already a **FELONY** for anyone to sell a gun to a convicted felon or a juvenile. Purchasing a firearm on behalf of any prohibited person (the so-called “straw purchase”) is also a felony.

The other thing we need to be concerned with is a genuine threat to our liberty and associated freedoms. The moment we give even the slightest concession to the gun control argument, we basically agree with their position. But, consider this. Neither you nor I, nor any of the nation's 90 to 100 Million gun owners, had anything to do with the Sandy Hook School shooting. Giving in will just be considered admission to guilt. Just because you own a couple shotguns to hunt ducks and a 22 for plinking and an occasional squirrel hunt, do you honestly think you don't have a dog in this fight?

Continued on page 11

## Continued from page 10

If I were in control of the Republicans in Washington, I would turn this whole discussion around. I would tell my fellow republicans to grow a pair and lob this pitch to the Democrats. “Your laughable ‘**gun free zones**’ have failed! It’s time to do what’s necessary to protect our kids – not further stripping of lawful gun owners rights!”

As NRA exec. VP Wayne LaPierre recently declared at the NRA’s public statement concerning Newtown, CT: “The only way to stop a Bad Guy with a gun, is a Good Guy with a gun!” The media would have you think that the NRA is to blame for these types of shootings. Don’t believe it for a minute. We need to be **praying** and **generously contributing** to both our state ISRA (Illinois State Rifle Association) and the NRA (National Rifle Association) They ARE our front line Patriots in this battle!! God Bless Them!! The media and populace have treated the NRA and its leaders in the most despicable, disgusting way I’ve ever seen. If any other nationally recognized organization was treated this way, it would not be tolerated. The very people who speak out against hate groups and bullying have become guilty of it themselves! Makes me want to vomit at the hypocrisy they exhibit. I have yet to see the antis propose one of their edicts and not present it full of lies to prove their point.

By the way, just in case you haven’t noticed, while the talking heads on TV are nodding their heads up and down to “reasonable restrictions” the American public is reacting by flocking to gun stores, buying up the very guns that the liberal Democrats are targeting – those evil military style rifles, many of them driving cars with “Obama 2012” stickers on them! And these same people are going to vote in 2014...Don’t forget that!

Brownells, advertised as the world’s largest gun accessories and related parts supplier, recently announced that it sold 3½ years worth of high capacity magazines in 72 hours!! This after the Democrats announced their intentions to introduce legislation to reinstate the AWB (assault weapons ban). Obama should be awarded the gun salesman of the decade award!

I get it! The pressure to sound “reasonable” and “willing to compromise” is enormous! But instead of knuckling under to more gun control, we should all be taking the fight to the enemy. And that means every one of us **MUST** start by demanding that our legislators, whether Democrat or Republican, refuse to go along with ANY new gun laws. I mean, after all, there are over 20,000 gun laws now in effect. Do you or does anyone really think one or two or even five more laws would make a difference? Compromise is when **both** sides give up something. There is no compromise in giving up any more of our gun rights.

Our own state senator, Richard Durbin, recently commented, when asked his thoughts on arming security guards or policemen at our schools to protect our children, that the thought of having more guns in schools was repulsive to him and not the answer! Duh! (See previous statement by NRA’s LaPierre on bad guy/good guy)

Hypothetically, let’s say we reinstate the assault weapons ban. So, you think the left wingers will be satisfied with that and go away. **NO WAY!!** They will just be waiting for the next tragedy to attempt further restrictions against the lawful gun owning citizens. This really could lead to someday your hunting ducks with a single shot! Don’t laugh my friend. It is that serious. There are people in this country that would relegate you to that today if they could! Never forget that!

What we really should demand is that they begin repealing many of the ineffective 20,000+ gun laws that we already have on the books. History shows that we have about 20 of this type mass or hate shootings per year. During the 10 years that the AWB and high capacity magazine ban was in effect, it had little to no effect. That is why it was allowed to expire.

We all need to become astutely aware of how we store and how accessible our personal firearms are. That *is* common sense. We do have personal responsibility in those areas. We also need to have some discussion about mental health and forms of “violence” indoctrination in our society. In shootings of recent and past, almost every one of the perpetrators had exhibited signs or had indicated to someone their unspeakable plans. So, there was a chance to have prevented them. But, no one acted. Their choice was to ignore them, remain silent, and do nothing. Sometimes, and a lot of the time, especially in the realm of new gun laws, giving in is just plain wrong, and the only proper answer is “NO!”

# The Dirty Dozen

Courtesy of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance ([www.ussportsmen.org](http://www.ussportsmen.org)) 1/2/2013

There are groups that undermine and manipulate systems across America to end hunting, trapping and fishing. These same "less-than-honest" groups also often then exploit wildlife and conservation issues in the name of raising dollars for their devious causes. Here are a dozen organizations that have taken efforts in the past year to prevent you from hunting or trapping:

1. **Humane Society of the United States (HSUS):** After losing an effort to have the chairman of California's Game Commission removed because he went legally hunting for mountain lions in another state, HSUS then pushed legislation to end the hunting of bears and bobcats with hounds in California. HSUS has also threatened to sue to stop wolf hunting in the Western Great Lakes region. Shame on them.
2. **Center for Biological Diversity:** This group has repeatedly sued the federal government to end the use of traditional hunting ammunition through attempts to ban lead. This ban would also apply to fishing tackle and would affect all sportsmen and women. The group's information is based on flawed details about lead and bullets. The CBD is also working—and suing—to stop Western Great Lakes region wolf hunting seasons.
3. **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA):** This radical animal rights group issued a request for its minions across America to break established hunter harassment laws. PETA urged followers to interfere with hunts by protesting, spreading human hair, and other unlawful acts.
4. **Defenders of Wildlife:** This group has been working to end wolf management in Wyoming and misguiding the public on the truth about overpopulated Yellowstone wolves. Defenders of Wildlife has filed a number of anti-hunting lawsuits and often seeks to recoup its legal costs for the suits from taxpayers.
5. **Sierra Club:** This group's board of directors worked for—and implemented—a policy officially opposing all trapping. The Sierra Club also tried to end a decades old elk hunt on public land in Wyoming.
6. **The Fund for Animals:** They have threatened to sue to halt established Western Great Lakes region wolf hunts after hunters and state game management supporters were successful in removing the long recovered wolves from the Endangered Species List. They have also filed a suit that would stop wolf management in Wyoming.
7. **Howling for Wolves:** A Minnesota-based group suing to stop wolf hunting in that state. The group claims that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources didn't properly adopt the hunting season even though it went through the same process as other hunting seasons.
8. **American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals:** Supports laws to prevent keeping dogs in outside kennels (a standard practice across America). They have also filed a brief supporting the lawsuit aimed at shutting down wolf hunting with dogs in Wisconsin.
9. **Western Environmental Law Center:** A ring leader in a group of eight anti-organizations that want to ban wolverine trapping in Montana until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determines if the wolverine will be placed on the federal threatened and endangered species lists. This is just another "backdoor" ploy to end all trapping.
10. **In Defense of Animals:** This anti-hunting group sued to stop bear hunting in Virginia, has called for a boycott of Alaska over its highly successful and sustainable wolf management program, strongly opposes wolf management in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and is pushing for a federal ban on animal testing for medical research.
11. **Friends of Animals:** This Connecticut-based group believes "hunting in all forms is unethical, socially unjustifiable and ecologically disruptive." The group worked against bear hunting in New Jersey, deer hunting in Connecticut, and against many science-based conservation programs. This group claims "hunting is an important cause of many deer/auto collisions... by inciting the deer to be incautious."
12. **WildEarth Guardians:** They earn a place on this shame list for working to ban trapping on public land in New Mexico. This group has also sued the federal Wildlife Services department over their wolf management program and has called on Congress to end funding for this important federal wildlife management entity.

Please spread the word on these anti groups. Your next hunting, fishing or trapping trip depends on it.



## Swimming upstream faster than the current... (part 1)

IDNR News Release 12/27/2012

Dear DNR constituent:

The passage of the DNR Sustainability Bill (SB1566/FAQs) is a significant victory for conservation and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). What the bill does is allow the agency to keep state parks and sites open and begin to address a backlog of needed facility repairs, which now totals \$750 million. It also allows us to address other program problems for the agency.

The bill took nearly a year to negotiate and included over 40 DNR constituent groups in talks, who worked with sponsor Rep. Frank Mautino for a consensus bill. A key component and big "win" for conservation included in the bill was the rarely used anti-sweeps language that ensures funds would not be used for other purposes than keeping state parks open and programs working. Governor Pat Quinn's management and budget director also signed a letter committing to not sweep these funds and hold DNR's funding level.

This level of commitment to DNR should not be a surprise. During Governor Quinn's first week on the job and my first day on the job as Director, he signed a different bill that replaced diverted sportsmen's funds that were swept by our predecessors. We have been working diligently ever since to protect these funds and use them for conservation.

The Sustainability Bill will take effect as law on January 1st, and we project that eventually it will provide DNR with an estimated \$30 to \$33 million dollars annually to be deposited into dedicated funds connected with each revenue source. There are several steps that the agency needs to take start collecting funds, such as creating rules and regulations and implementing IT infrastructure, and it will be 9 to 12 months before the agency begins to receive the new funding.

I would like to thank those organizations who supported the Sustainability Bill, negotiated its details, and worked for its passage. It is our intent to work as quickly as possible to take the necessary steps to capture new revenues and apply these funds to DNR parks and programs, create new jobs and promote economic development, and to restructure DNR for future generations.

We will uphold our mission of managing the state's natural resources and begin to repair some of the past neglect from budget cuts. DNR constituents need to understand, however, that victory could be temporary because the state's budget problems will threaten our progress in the near future. Pension obligations and unpaid bills squeeze agencies like DNR and make General Revenue funds less available for everyday operations. If lawmakers do not act to address the pension squeeze, then everyone's hard work towards DNR sustainability will be erased by these larger fiscal problems.

Our success at the legislature is one step towards sustainability and demonstrates that we are swimming upstream faster than the current. Stay tuned and I will explain in a second email how you can help DNR and secure the progress we have already made.

Yours in conservation,  
Marc Miller, Director  
Illinois DNR

### ***Frequently Asked Questions on SB1566 [Excerpt]***

#### **4. What will the IDNR use the money for?**

Funds generated from the Motor Vehicle Registration fee will be used solely in state parks and other IDNR sites in two ways; hire more staff to maintain our parks properly and to fix aging infrastructure. The Illinois State Parks System faces over \$750 million in deferred maintenance and capital needs, including deteriorating bath and shower facilities, outdated and dangerous electrical systems, concerns with potable water systems because of well failures and testing issues, failure of sewage treatment facilities, and repair work on roads, bridges, and trails damaged because of storms and age related deterioration.

#### **5. Are there restrictions on how the money can be spent?**

Yes certain fees are designated to support specific functions. Also, revenues may be restricted based on the fund in which the money is deposited. Many special funds have existing designations for how the money in them can be spent. The \$2 motor vehicle registration fee is statutorily split: \$1 for the Department's normal operations and \$1 for construction and maintenance of our sites.

## **URGENT ISRA ALERT – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY 1/6/2013**

### **ILLINOIS HOUSE ADJOURNS WITH NO MOVEMENT ON GUN BILLS – BUT DO NOT BE MISLED**

As reported earlier, the House version of the Cullerton Gun Grab Bill was supposed to be debated before the House Judiciary Committee I at 2:00 PM today. The Chairman of the committee convened the committee, announced that there would be no gun bills debated for the rest of the session, then adjourned.

From all appearances, this was the end of the push for gun control in the legislature this session. But, don't be confused – the session ends Wednesday. There is nothing saying that the legislature couldn't call the bills anyway. So, be on guard and watch for alerts from the ISRA.

Also, be advised that the newly elected legislature, the 98th General Assembly, gets gaveled into action on Wednesday as well. With several pro-gun stalwarts leaving the legislature, and several brand new gun grabbers to contend with, the next session of the General Assembly promises to be turbulent times for law-abiding gun owners. We will update you as issues arise.

In short, the entire ISRA lobbying staff would like to say “THANKS” to all those gun owners who stood up this week and told the General Assembly, “NO . . . you can't take our guns!” The huge response and reaction by the gun-owning public is largely responsible for the failure on the part of Senate President John Cullerton to move his massive gun grab this week.

We really hate to sound like a broken record, but protecting your rights this past couple of weeks has severely depleted our cash reserves. We honestly don't like going to the well this often, but we badly need your financial help or we will not be able to field a full staff of lobbyists next week. It would be great if everybody receiving this alert could donate as little as \$25, we would be able to continue full speed ahead against the Emanuel/Cullerton attacks on your gun rights. If you don't step up to help protect your rights, nobody else will!

On behalf of all law-abiding Illinois firearm owners, thanks for your continued support!

### **Rehabilitated Bald Eagle to be Released at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Cortney Solum, Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge 1/18/2013**

Brussels, Ill.- TreeHouse Wildlife Center will release a rehabilitated bald eagle into the wild at noon Sunday, Jan. 27, at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge visitor center near Brussels, Ill.

The eagle which was wounded by a gun shot was brought to TreeHouse Wildlife Center in Dow, Ill. to receive care in the spring of 2012. Treatment was provided by Hawthorne Animal Hospital in Glen Carbon, Ill. and the eagle completed rehabilitation at TreeHouse Wildlife Center.

The eagle nicknamed Clay after the Illinois county in which it was found, is thought to be a female due to its large size. Clay is now strong enough to capture food and survive on her own indicating that it is time for her to return to the wild.

The visitor center at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge will be open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 27. Staff and volunteers will be available to answer questions about wildlife and eagle watching. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call or email Cortney Solum at 618-883-2524 or [Cortney\\_solum@fws.gov](mailto:Cortney_solum@fws.gov). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to this event for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, close captioning, or other accommodation needs to Solum at 618-883-2524 or TTY 1-800-526-0844 with your request by close of business on Jan. 22, 2013.



### **Winchester Announces AA TrAcker Shotshells**

Shooting at a moving target with a shotgun has never been considered the easiest thing a hunter does—but Winchester has developed a way to make tracking those shots a bit easier. The company has announced a colored wad system that lets you see exactly where you placed your shot—high, low, left or right—helping you track leads on crossing birds in the field or clay birds on the range.

**Excerpts from the  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA  
2012 WATERFOWL SEASON REPORT**  
Submitted by Kim Postlewait, IDNR MRA Site Superintendent

**SEASON SUMMARY**

The story of the season this year had to be the drought. While it enabled us to accomplish some long overdue work projects and produce the most moist soil plant production that I've seen in thirty six years, it cost us dearly in pumping costs. Godar refuge was pumped 970 hours or 40.41 days, we started 17 days prior to the season and pumped enough water to cover 2,359 acres one foot deep. That is enough water to cover Godar refuge to a depth of 6.74 feet. Between July 1, 2012 and January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, we have spent over \$87,000 on gas and diesel.

Once again we had the third highest harvest on record, but some areas had comparatively dismal seasons. Stump Lake set its best season ever by 871 ducks, Calhoun Point came within 27 ducks of setting its best season ever, and Batchtown had its 6<sup>th</sup> best season on record. Godar Landing and the Glades finished 20 % and 18% below their long term averages. Fuller Lake reported an excellent season while Red's, Helmbold and Riprap reported slow seasons.

We had a typical duck push on Nov.11 but the main push of ducks did not show up until mid-December when we are typically experiencing freeze ups. Through December, the weather stayed about 13 degrees above the average high and 17 degrees over the normal low temperatures until the end of duck season. The main natural food component we were missing was submersed aquatic plants, some of which have made a reappearance in lower Stump, and we will be checking the other areas in planning for next year's management plan. A big part of our success had to be USFWS Swan Lake's bird holding ability, with it holding over 100,000+ birds all season helping the harvest at Fuller, Stump, and Calhoun Point.

**HARVEST INFORMATION FOR THE COMBINED CHECK STATION AREAS**

The opening day harvest was 1,643 birds, which represented 8 % of the total season harvest.

<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA COMBINED AREAS</b>				
	2010	2011	2012	1966-2012 AVE.
HOURS	60977	100,895.75	98,533	86,311.2
DUCKS	12240	22,010	22,260	14,489.2
HUNTERS	11240	17,734	17,491	15,014
D/H RATIO	1.09	1.24	1.17	.96
Hrs/DUCK	4.98	4.58	4.43	6.08

The combined check station areas hosted 17,491 hunters which was a 1% decrease from 2011 and 17 % increase from the long term average. Hunters harvested 22,260 ducks, which was a 2 % increase from last year and a 54 % increase from the long term average. Hours hunted, 98,533 were down 2 % from 2011 and 15% over the long term. The bird per man average of 1.17 was under the 1.24 of last season and 2% over the long term average. The bird harvested per hour hunted was similar to 2011 and 27% less than the long term average.

*See next Sentry issue for more excerpts from the 2012 MRA Waterfowl Season Report*

