



2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL 62002

VOLUME 44 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2014

Rosi Franke, Editor

Tel: 618-396-2509

e-mail: rgfranke@frontiernet.net

Attention!

**The MWHI 2014
AREA PROJECTS MEETING**

will be held

February 19, 2014

at the MWHI General Membership Meeting

Alton-Wood River Sportsmen Club

in Godfrey, IL at 7:00 pm

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

Kevin Dowdy

Bo Adcock
618-535-6585

Larry Franklin (Advisor)
John Popov (Advisor)

2

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 3, 2014

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

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

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

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

Visit us at our website:

mwhi.us

***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.

A Tough Year!

Duane Hahnenkamp

Well I hope you had a better duck season than I did. Except for some wood duck shooting the first week, the rest of my duck season pretty well sucked.

I know the boys at Rosedale might tell you that it was a decent season on paper, but it sure did not seem like it. It was hit or miss at the "Point" as far as seeing any ducks or if you had to work during the week goes, it was mostly a miss. And what I heard from other hunters in the area and on the internet, I wasn't the only one to have a slow season. Truthfully I had a better season 2 years ago when it was warm all winter. I was able to be there for one flight day and it started out looking good. From the first bunches of mallards that went over our blind we were able to break off a few and kill a couple. But then all the flights moved over a quarter mile and we never got any more chances that day. The next day things just went downhill since there were less ducks flying around and, as I was afraid of, most of the new ducks were already gone.

I'm sure that the absence of natural feed in our hunting areas really hurt us at the "Point" this year. Then you factor in that West-Alton plowed under all the corn fields by the second week of the season, Calhoun Point was doomed to fail this year. I had been hoping all summer that the late corn crop would save our duck season. But the Missouri farm boys made short work on plowing under the picked corn fields and my hopes for a good season at the Point "vanished." I truly believe that the lack of feed in our hunting areas hurt everyone because, like I said, I heard complaints from all areas.

Another thing I noticed was that the mallards seemed a lot harder to work this year (like old mature birds). I heard this statement up and down the flyway on the internet. Makes you wonder if the so called "good duck hatch" was that good. You all saw how screwed up teal season was. The mallard hatch was real late too and a lot of young birds didn't make it. It sure seemed to me like there was lack of young mallards.

And then, after the first ice hit about Thanksgiving, there were very few ducks flying around my blind from then on. Now I don't know about you, but my season was over 3 weeks early because of the ice. And would you believe that I still heard some guys say that duck season started too soon? They had a flock of ducks come into their goose spread after Christmas, and so now they tell everyone that IDNR should open duck season 2 weeks later. You would be surprised how many more corn field hunters who hunt up north near power plants want a later season. They need to talk to southern zone boys who opened their season on Thanksgiving and had already missed 3 flight days, plus they had already lost most of their ducks. Then they were fighting deep snow and ice by the second week of their season. By Christmas some of the clubs down there said it has been the worst duck season they can remember. If we ever have to go back to a 30 or 40 day season here, there will be an all out war in getting duck season dates that will be fair. Trust me, we will be lucky to get a season that will open by Veterans Day.

The only really good note for me was the goose season. As you saw, the hard winter sent the geese south in big numbers. I got in on 2 days of good goose hunting between Christmas and New Year. It felt like the old days at Crab Orchard. Right now the big January blizzard is just over and the geese are pouring into Southern Illinois. My hope is to kill a lot more before the goose season ends. Looks like a good year to be a goose hunter down south.

Franchi Intensity

By NRA Staff (RSS) January 15, 2014

The Franchi Intensity waterfowl shotgun embodies the feel of smaller gauge guns, yet packs the punch of the powerful 3 1/2-inch loads.

Franchi's latest offering in its semi-automatic lineup is a 3 1/2-inch magnum waterfowl shotgun. The 12-gauge Intensity shotgun embodies the feel of smaller gauge guns, possible because the recoil spring encircles the magazine tube located forward of the receiver, keeping recoil in line with the shooter and helps reduce muzzle flip.

The shotgun comes with either a 26- or 28-inch barrel and sports a stepped, ventilated-rib, red fiber optic front sight and a set of three extended choke tubes.

MSRP is \$1099 to \$1199.

Something's Up In Connecticut

Gary A Liley

Something's been going on for about a year or more in Connecticut.

I think you are probably familiar with it. It's commonly called gun control. But it is really more about people control.

As prophesied in the wake of the Sandy Hook school shooting that occurred in Newtown in December of 2012, politicians' knee jerk reaction was to pass more gun laws. One of the new laws requires anyone in possession of a so-called "assault" weapon or high-capacity magazine to register that firearm or firearms with the state police, or risk felony charges and a minimum of one year in prison if found not in compliance.

So, January 1, 2014, thousands of law-abiding, responsibly armed American citizens lined up in Connecticut to comply with the new law. (i.e. register their semi-automatic rifles and declare their possession of high-capacity magazines). They lined up not to prevent any more gun related atrocities or curtail gun crime. They lined up so that an over intrusive, arduous government could mandate their will and infringe upon their natural-born rights and exploit their willingness to follow the law.

President Obama stated, when congress failed to pass any new Federal gun legislation in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook shooting, that it was a "sad day for America." Well, January 1, 2014 was a SAD DAY FOR CONNECTICUT! AND AMERICA!

How ironic, considering Connecticut Governor Malloy's claim to the gun owners of CT that "you don't lose the right to have them, you just have to say you have them."

But even more ironic than that is that honest, law-abiding citizens are the ones who are lining up to register their weapons! And you have to have a reality check about that one; law-abiding citizens are the very last people we need to be keeping tabs on.

In an online report that I read, it stated that, "Not one gun owner who was registering firearms or magazines said they think the new laws will reduce gun violence."

"If people are going to do things illegally, they're not going to be here registering their gun," declared one resident registering his firearms.

Another claimed that if the state wanted to, all they had to do was go back and check purchase records sent to the state police at the time of purchase; that a de facto registration was already in effect because of the form that listed the guns' "stats" that was filled out at time of purchase. So if one didn't comply, he argued, it would be easy for the state to check registrants against a list that they already had! So, he was registering his and stated that if they ever wanted them back, that they could have them, bullets first! Millions of people in America feel that same way.

Suppose a couple of low lifes do register their weapons. Even if they don't have a record, how is having his or her name on a list going to prevent them from committing a crime with it if they choose? Not to mention the ones who already have them illegally and have no intention of registering them.

The real truth is this law does nothing more than destroy the rights of law-abiding Americans.

If our legislators continue to create new gun laws in response to every tragedy or every call from a "mothers group", they will eventually eliminate our ability to protect ourselves and our families. While all this is going on, the real bad guys and thugs will continue to hide their guns and magazines until they decide to use them in the commission of a crime! Or God forbid, shoot up another school!

You know, if you are willing to kill your own mother in cold blood, steal her guns, and then kill 26 people with those firearms, then you probably don't give a damn about your state's gun laws.

It is up to me and you to see that we never have to stand in a line like that!

January 5, 2014 became the first day to apply for concealed carry in Illinois, and state police said they received about 4500 applications that day, bringing a total of about 15,000 that have applied. Some predict up to 400,000 may eventually apply. The next day on Monday, a federal judge ruled Chicago's ban on gun sales unconstitutional. "That is one of the fundamental duties of government: to protect its citizens," U.S. District Judge Edmond E. Chang wrote in his opinion "But on the other side of this case is another feature of government: certain fundamental rights are protected by the Constitution, put outside government's reach, including the right to keep and bear arms for self-defense under the Second Amendment." The judge issued a temporary stay on his decision until the city could decide whether to appeal, but the decision is still a victory for gun-rights advocates.

Sign up a friend or family member to the ISRA or the NRA or both. It's the easiest thing you can do to fight any more infringement on our rights guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Be Careful and Be Safe!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



ISRA Thursday Bulletin – January 9

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Right now, many people are in the throes of trying to complete their online CCL application. We are hearing everything from "it wasn't bad" to "I keep getting kicked out." Like any online application process, there are problems. I'm sure the Illinois State Police (ISP) is trying to rectify the glitches as rapidly as possible. To do that, they need to know exactly what, when, where, and how you had difficulty; it will be hard for them to identify and address the issue without knowing specific details of the problem you encountered.

So far, approximately 11,000 CCL applications have been filed on the ISP web site. Over 2,500 of those applications were filed in Cook County alone. It seems the citizens of Chicago and Cook County like to have and exercise their Second Amendment rights just like people elsewhere in the State of Illinois. Look at the positive side-the ISP web site did much better than the Affordable HealthCare Act web site did on its first day.

The recent decision by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division in the Illinois Association was very favorable to gun owners not only in Illinois, but everywhere in the United States. The Chicago Ordinance banned gun sales and transfers other than inheritance. In essence, it outlawed legitimate firearm dealers. Judge Edmond E Chang declared the Chicago Ordinance unconstitutional. While this case is appealable, it certainly sends a clear message to other municipalities that want to mess with banning law abiding citizens legally purchasing firearms. This case was a spin-off of the Ezell v. Chicago case from several years ago.

Thanks for being a member.

Richard Pearson
ISRA Executive Director

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
.....

Blind Draw Information

Kim B Postlewait, Site Superintendent, IDNR Mississippi River F & W Area

Following are the requirements for the drawing as per administrative orders:

No mention of a FOID card to draw only as an acceptable form of photo ID. Good Luck.

d) Public Drawing

- 1) Time and place for all sites holding drawings shall be publicly announced by the Department.
- 2) A registrant for a drawing must be at least 16 years of age and possess a current or preceding year's Illinois hunting license, a current or preceding year's Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp unless exempted by law. Persons exempted by law from possessing a hunting license or waterfowl stamp must have valid photo identification (example: Firearm Owner's Identification Card, driver's license). In order to be an eligible applicant for the drawing, the participant must not at the time of the drawing have his/her hunting privileges suspended or revoked by the Department or any other jurisdiction. Applicants must be present for the registration and drawing to be eligible for allocation of blind sites.
- 3) No person is eligible to draw for a waterfowl blind who has had his or her hunting privileges suspended by Illinois or any other state, or is prohibited from possessing a firearm due to a conviction for violation of a State or federal law, or is prohibited from possessing a firearm by action of law regardless of conviction status (such as homeland security, under order of protection, etc.). Any ineligible person who submits an application to draw for a waterfowl blind shall be refused, if known by the drawer at the time to be ineligible, or shall have his or her draw declared void upon NOVEMBER 14, 2013 17 ILL. ADM. CODE CH. I, SEC. 590 discovery of ineligibility by the Department. A refused or voided application shall be referred to the appropriate State's Attorney for possible prosecution under the Criminal Code of 1961 [720 ILCS

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA

2013 WATERFOWL SEASON REPORT [Excerpts]

Submitted by Kim B Postlewait, Site Superintendent, IDNR Mississippi River F & W Area

POPULATION STATUS

In the Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey traditional survey area, the total duck population estimate was 45.6 million birds. This was 6% under than last year's estimate of 48.6 million birds and 33% above the 1955-2012 long-term average. Mallard abundance was 10.4 million birds, which was similar to last year's estimate of 10.6 million birds and 36% above the long-term average. Blue-winged teal abundance was 7.7 million birds, which was 16% lower than last year's estimate of 9.2 million, and 60% above the long-term average. Estimated abundances of gadwall were 3.5 million, similar to 2012 and up 80% above their long-term averages. Northern shovelers at 4.8 million were similar to last year's estimate of 5 million and 96% above their long-term averages. Estimated abundance of American widgeon, 2.6 million, was 23% over last year's and similar to the 2.6 million long-term average. Estimated abundance of green-winged teal was 3.1 million, similar to last year's 3.3 million and 51% above their long-term averages. Redheads at 1.2 million, were similar to last year's estimate of 1.2 million and 76% above their long-term averages. Canvasbacks at 0.8 million were similar to last year's, and 37% above their long-term average. Estimates for Northern pintails were 3.3 million, similar to 2012, and 17% below the long-term averages. Scaup estimates were 4.2 million, 20% under 2012 and 17% below the long-term average. Abundance estimates of ring-necked ducks .6 million and goldeneyes, common and Barrow's 0.5 million were 24% and 17% above 2012 estimates and 25% and 10% above the long-term averages, respectively

Overall habitat conditions for breeding waterfowl in 2013 were improved to similar. The total pond estimate was 6.9 million ponds, 24% over last year's estimate of 5.5 million ponds and 35% over the long-term average of 5.1 million ponds.

The projected mallard fall flight index was 13 million, similar to 2012's estimate of 12.7 million birds.

AERIAL CENSUS

Peak population level on the Illinois River was 875,255 observed on November 8th. On the Mississippi River the peak of 708,025 was counted during the November 29th census. The peaks were well over 2012 peaks by over 200,000 birds.

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

MRA HABITAT CONDITIONS

The overall habitat conditions were poor for most of the area. Submersed aquatics were not found on any of the areas. The following is an area by area description of conditions.

Michael Bottoms, Hurricane Island, Diamond Island The draw down was late on Diamond Island, but we had good moist soils. The other areas were not drawn down, so we had little to no production.

Godar Refuge There was no attempt to draw down because of the late flooding - little to no food production.

Helmbold Slough There was no attempt to draw down because of the late flooding - little to no food production.

Glades There was no attempt to draw down because of the late flooding - little to no food production.

Fuller Lake There was no attempt to draw down because of the late flooding - little to no food production.

Stump Lake Complex Crull Impoundment was down and 70 acres were seeded with Japanese Millet - stand was very short and little food production.

Calhoun Point There was no attempt to draw down because of the late flooding - little to no food production.

The goose pit area was disked and plans were to plant winter wheat, but we were unable to get that job done.

Rip Rap Landing There was no attempt to draw down because of the late flooding - little to no food production.

The walk-in area could not get enough water pumped to it to supplement the standing ponds. Pumping started near the end of August and did not stop until the freeze up. The EMP seems to have hit a road block and may never be started.

Reds Landing The walk-in area was drawn down in an attempt to preserve the trees. The lake was not drawn down, but due to the drought, it lost a considerable amount of water. We had good moist soil production in the walk-in area as well as the exposed shore line in the lake.

Batchtown

Very good moist soil production. Production was more in line with the late drawdown as we had more sedges millets and sprangletop not nearly as much knotty smartweed but more pink top smartweed. The drawdown fell short of our objective as we did not get the full drawdown. It appeared that the Corps had some sand deposition and only drew down to 431 to keep the barges moving. The refuge area was not planted but did have some moist soil production. Thanks to the help of some volunteers we were able to get some water pumped in the area.

HARVEST INFORMATION FOR THE COMBINED CHECK STATION AREAS

The opening day harvest was 1,686 birds, which represented 9 % of the total season harvest.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA COMBINED CHECK STATION AREAS				
	2011	2012	2013	1966-2013 AVE.
HOURS	100,895.75	98,533	78394	86,143
DUCKS	22,010	22,260	18,409	14,654
HUNTERS	17,734	17,491	12906	14,969
D/H RATIO	1.24	1.17	1.43	.97
Hrs/DUCK	4.58	4.43	4.26	6.04

The combined check station areas hosted 12,906 hunters which was a 26% decrease from 2012 and 14 % decrease from the long term average. Hunters harvested 18,409 ducks, which was a 17 % decrease from last year and a 26 % increase from the long term average. Hours hunted, 78,394 were down 20 % from 2012 and 9% under the long term. The bird per man average of 1.43 was over the 1.17 of last season and 48% over the long term average. The bird harvested per hour hunted was 4% under the 2012 season and 29% less than the long term average.

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

SEASON SUMMARY

Weather is always the major determining factor of what we can accomplish. The wet spring resulted in not being able to dewater in a timely manner. We opted to hold water on most of the areas as we thought it was too late to get much food production. We went into the season with very little waterfowl food. We had attempted to drain Batchtown, Crull Impoundment, and take the rest of the areas down to waterfowl season heights. Someone drained Diamond Island that was not part of our plan but it worked out in the end.

The drawdown at Batchtown was not as good as it should have been as the COE did not go to full drawdown. We hoped for a drawdown of 429 and they only took the level to 431. The result was a little more than half of the production I had hoped to attain.

We were unable to plant anything at Godar Refuge, but we did sow seventy acres of millet at Crull Impoundment but the production was marginal. We were unable to get anything planted at Batchtown Refuge. I was not looking forward to a good duck season at all. My past mentors always said duck hunting is all about weather and they were certainly right this year. Near normal temperatures brought the ducks down early in enough numbers that kept the harvest at good numbers. We had very good harvest by man numbers. Had we not lost a third of the season to freeze up, we would have had potential for some great numbers; as it was, we finished the year with 18,407 ducks that is only 500 or so ducks from making it a top ten year. The Glades finished with their eighth best year; Godar finished five hundred ducks below their tenth best year; Stump was four hundred ducks short of their tenth best year; and Calhoun Point ended up with their sixth best year.

As always, a big part of our success had to be USFWS Swan Lake's bird holding ability.



Conservation Congress Take the online survey today!

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is gearing up for "Conservation Congress 2014: Charting a Course to Protect & Preserve Our Natural Resources" with a series of pre-event activities designed to inform and engage the public on key issues facing the State of Illinois.

IDNR is inviting Illinois residents to fill out an online survey on natural resources and outdoor recreation issues expected to be discussed at the Conservation Congress statewide meeting on April 11 and 12. The online survey is available until January 20th, 2014 at the IDNR website.

The IDNR will also host a series of live, interactive webcasts – "Thursdays with IDNR" – focused on topics that were discussed at last year's regional meetings. The live webcasts will feature IDNR staff, and will be held every Thursday from January 23 to February 20 from noon to 1:00 p.m. Viewers can access the live webcasts from <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov> on the following dates:

- January 23: Habitat Restoration & Protection
- January 30: Land & Water Management
- February 6: Outdoor Recreation
- February 13: Partnerships to Promote Education & Volunteerism
- February 20: Communications & Customer Service

On April 11 and 12, IDNR will host Conservation Congress at its headquarters in Springfield. The event, which will be free and open to the public, will also be available in real time for members of the public who cannot attend in person. Registration and a detailed agenda will be available in February. For more information on the online survey, live webcasts, or the Conservation Congress statewide meeting, check the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov, or contact Elizabeth Norden by email at Elizabeth.Norden@Illinois.gov.

A Message from Director Marc Miller

Is there a future for mountain lions, wolves and black bears in Illinois?

The recent occurrence of a mountain lion in Whiteside County has generated much public discussion about the future of this species in Illinois. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources welcomes that discussion, and believes it's equally important to talk about the possible return of other apex predators such as the gray wolf and the American black bear.

While we believe this and other recent confirmed mountain lion sightings are isolated occurrences for now, we have been actively preparing for the time when mountain lions, wolves, and black bears may once again establish populations in the state. We have funded scientific research where suitable habitat models have been developed for these species, and have also researched attitudes and opinions of Illinoisans regarding these large carnivores.

In the spring of 2011, we supported a bill in the General Assembly (HB 1437) that sought to add the gray wolf, American black bear, and mountain lion to the list of protected species under the Illinois Wildlife Code. While that effort was not successful, the IDNR remains interested in finding ways to achieve protections for these animals by working cooperatively with a wide range of constituencies.

We believe there is room on our Illinois landscape for apex predators, but these species also will require management as they re-establish and grow in numbers to deal with human-wildlife interactions, nuisance animals, and to keep a balance in predator-prey numbers within suitable habitat areas. Placing the species on the protected list is a necessary step.

The agency is also trying to educate and inform residents on wildlife-human interactions and their role in wildlife management, and has worked with the University of Illinois Extension to develop a useful website, "Living with Wildlife in Illinois": <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/>

While our attitude surveys revealed that a large number of people in Illinois support carnivore protection, they also show that a majority of people don't want them close to their home. Like so many of the resources that we manage, we recognize that there are differing views on how mountain lions, and other large predators, should be managed within the state.

Our current work is focused on understanding people's views on these carnivores and other wildlife, including urban and rural residents and all other cross-sections of citizens in the state, and then using that information to manage this resource in a way that best meets the needs and expectations of our residents. In the near future we will be sharing the results of public surveys on these issues on the "Living with Wildlife" website.

Aldo Leopold, the father of modern conservation, wrote his 1933 book *Game Management* at the time when much of North America's big game animals, like wolves and deer, were nearly extinct, and the wildlife management profession was beginning to be institutionalized. Leopold stated, "The hope of the future lies not in curbing the influence of human occupancy – it is already too late for that – but in creating a better understanding of the extent of that influence and a new ethic for its governance."

In the eighty years since, we have seen great strides in conservation and species recovery, including deer, wild turkeys, coyotes, beaver, raccoons, river otters and large carnivores. Countless sportsmen, conservationists, land owners, environmentalists, and natural resource professionals have all played a significant part in these accomplishments. Now we must focus on the next step of creating a better understanding and new ethics to support the future management and protection of large carnivores in Illinois.

Federal Premium 10 mm Hunting Ammo

By John Zent (RSS) NRA January 14, 2014

Federal Premium is giving handgun hunters a new option with the introduction of its 180-grain 10 mm load. Once it was thought that the 10 mm might replace the .45 ACP as the preeminent big-bore personal-defense round, but for reasons of stout recoil, gun availability/cost and the staying power of the M1911, that didn't happen. The big 10 is still with us, of course, but it never really has carved out more than a cult following. That cult is bound to get a little bigger now as a result of a new load from Federal Premium featuring their 180 gr. Trophy Bonded Jacketed Soft-Point bullet. This loading settles old questions about semi-auto handgun suitability for hunting deer-sized game, or perhaps more importantly, for use as a backup protection for hunters and others who might find themselves in close encounters with bears, wild hogs or mountain lions.

Harnessing all the 10 mm's power potential, the load produces a muzzle velocity of 1275 fps and delivers ample downrange energy for ethical kills on deer and hogs, and enough at attack ranges to give shooters at least a fighting chance with dangerous beasts.



Illinois State Rifle Association

Since 1903 - Dedicated to Education, Safety Training and Support of Illinois Firearm Owners

WHAT TO DO ABOUT THOSE PESKY "NO-GUNS" SIGNS

As you may know, the concealed carry law enacted last year ironically includes provisions that will greatly impede your ability to defend yourself against violent criminals. Among these impediments to self defense is a provision allowing private property owners to prohibit concealed firearms on their property. The law requires such property owners to post government-approved "no guns allowed" signs on property entrances.

As implementation of concealed carry goes forward, more and more of these "no guns allowed" signs will be springing up in businesses across Illinois. Although law-abiding firearm owners are offended by such signs, most of us accept that private property owners are free to limit access to their property as they see fit. Nonetheless, the placement of such signs poses some serious public policy implications to those who honor free exercise of basic human rights.

In practical terms, the official "no guns allowed" sign actually declares, "No Self Defense Permitted Beyond this Point." Thus, a property owner who posts a "no guns allowed" sign is telling you point blank, "I don't care if you and your family are in danger, I will not allow you to defend yourself." The net effect of the property-owner's self-righteous indignation is that anyone who enters the posted property unarmed is being set up for violent attack.

The beauty of concealed carry is that only handful of citizens need to be armed in order to protect the greater part of society from harm. This benefit arises out of the fact that would-be criminals are never really sure which citizens around them may be armed. As a result, their criminal urges may be stifled in the interest of not getting shot.

Given the deterrent value of concealed carry, the posting of "no guns allowed" signs openly invites criminals to enter a business to commit mayhem without the fear of facing an armed citizen. Under the concealed carry statute, persons licensed to carry must obey these signs. By their very nature, criminals will not be deterred by a plastic pictogram stuck to a window. Consequently, armed criminals will be absolutely assured that nobody in the establishment is capable of warding off their violent behavior. "No guns allowed" signs give a distinct advantage to those who seek to harm others.

For thugs who may be too shy to perform for an audience, the parking lots of "no guns allowed" establishments would be little more to their liking. It would be a given that anyone leaving such a business would be unarmed and, thus, easy pickings for robbers or rapists. Likewise, these criminals would be free to burglarize cars in the parking lot to harvest guns dutifully left behind by permit holders who enter the antigun business.

All in all, it's distinctly possible that posting a "no guns allowed" sign makes patronizing a business more dangerous now that concealed carry has been passed than it had been to patronize the same store before the passage of concealed carry.

Quite a few people have contacted ISRA headquarters to report businesses that have posted "no guns allowed" signs. Many of the people ask how they should respond to the posting of such signs. Below are our recommendations.

1. Carrying a concealed firearm in to an establishment bearing an official "no guns allowed" sign is not lawful and should not be attempted.
2. Business owners who post "no guns allowed" signs consider lawful firearm owners to be social outcasts. Therefore, those businesses should be avoided, but not without first hearing how displeased you are with their decision. We recommend that you ask to see the manager and then politely tell him or her that you are a lawful firearm owner and that you disagree with their position on concealed carry. Advise the manager further that, as long as the offensive sign is posted, you will not spend money at their establishment and that you will tell all your friends to avoid doing business with them as well.
3. Reward businesses who allow concealed carry by spending money in their establishments.
4. Remain active in the gun rights movement at a local level.
5. Join the ISRA.
6. Donate to the ISRA so that we may carry on the fight to preserve, protect, and enhance gun rights in the state.

Life is a long lesson in humility.

-- Anonymous

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:



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)