



2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL 62002

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Rosi Franke, Editor

Tel: 618-396-2509

e-mail: [rgfranke@frontiernet.net](mailto:rgfranke@frontiernet.net)

# 2013-14 MWHI Gun Raffle

**One Winner Every Month**



**Ticket will be drawn on first of every month,  
beginning at the October 16, 2013  
MWHI General Membership Meeting.**

**For more information, please see page 16 of this issue.**

**For tickets , please contact Eric Rhuede at 618-410-9853.**

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### 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 2013

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

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618-377-0397

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618-978-8285

Brian Arnold  
Refuge Chairman  
618-535-9979

Bob Schneider  
618-960-9906

Scott Bryant  
618-535-0151 (cell)

Larry Franklin (Advisor)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Monday, May, 6, 2013

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

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

**Area Projects Meeting**  
**MWHI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
at Alton-Wood River Sportsmen Club  
in Godfrey, IL at 7:00 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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# The Gun Wars Begin

Duane Hahnenkamp

By now you are probably witnessing the first wave of gun ban regulations being pushed or fought in the new congress. One of the first things that President Obama said at his inauguration in January was that he would push for new gun regulations. He then sat back so Sen. Harry Reed and every other liberal senator could come up with every gun ban or new gun regulation they could think of.

To all of you out there who said that the government was never going to take your guns, look what is going on around you. To all of you that said that the NRA was making up the anti gun propaganda just to get more members, look again. The news media attacks the NRA daily because they know if it were not for the NRA, the gun owners in this country would be in full retreat. You may not own an assault weapon but you probably own a shotgun and maybe a pistol. Both of these have been used in previous mass shootings and your Benelli shotgun is as deadly as any assault weapon when you are talking about shooting victims at feet or even inches like at Sandy Hook school. Your shotgun may not hold 30 rounds but at that close of a range, round for round, a shotgun will do more damage than an AR-round. Most people think a military weapon like the AR 15 is used by our government because it is the most powerful and deadly caliber built. When you get down to facts, the AR-15 round .223 cal is a light weight bullet. It was actually designed by the military to wound the enemy, not kill them. It's a good varmint round at best and is not even legal to hunt deer with in most states.

I know that this information does nothing to justify owning an AR weapon. I'm just trying to point out any deer rifle is more powerful than this military round and therefore any deer rifle could be next on the hit list for guns to ban in their minds. Once they start banning any guns for certain reasons, then why would you need a gun that is more powerful than a military weapon. Second, if they are going to ban military style weapons, does that include all weapons ever used by the military? If so, pump shotguns have been used by the military for years. Then there are the colt .45 autos or 9mm auto pistols used by our military today. Almost all semi auto pistols today were some type of military weapon at one time or are a close copy thereof. How about bolt action hunting rifles? Are they going to be safe from the ban? Bolt action rifles were originally designed for the military before WWI and became popular with hunters after they used them in the war. In all honesty, most of our guns come from some type of military design or use, so where are they going to draw the line. Then there is the chance that they can always come back and expand the ban because precedence has been set against military weapons. This is something you better think about before

you start giving up certain guns. Remember, you did not commit these terrible shootings, so why are you being penalized.

The Sandy Hook school shooting and all the mass shootings we've seen over the past years are terrible. Truthfully, I have been afraid for a while that a mass shooting at a grade school or day care was forthcoming. You hate to think that you need a guard at a grade school, but the people who do these horrible things are looking to make as big as a splash as possible. These guys look for areas that contain large numbers of unprotected or unarmed people who they can easily control. Look at where these shootings have happened over the years. Shopping Malls, restaurants, churches, movie theaters, high schools and now even grade school children were targeted because they are easy to control plus they can not protect themselves. Our government has always been reactive to tragedies, yet does nothing in advance to stop the problems until it becomes advantageous to their goals. Politicians and government agencies like schools, like to spend tax payers' money on what they want or what the local public wants. I've seen first hand how hard it is to persuade parents to spend school money on security when they want more money spent on sports or teachers. Most people don't realize that many new schools built over the last ten years have new security designs built in not only because of school shootings, but also because of the threat of a terrorist attack on our schools. About ten years ago a terrorist attack at a Russian school killed hundreds of children and since then our government has worried that a terrorist cell could plan such an attack here

For years liberals in this country have tried to find a way to out law guns and now see a chance to do so. Why is it they always blame everyone but the people who actually commit these crimes? They feel sorry for criminals and will go totally out of their way to protect the rights of the worst law breakers in the country. It has been 6 month since the attack at the Denver movie theater and the lawyers are still trying to figure out how to defend the rights of the shooter. Liberals feel that anything is ok in regard to drugs or morality of the people around us. Yet the idea of religion in schools or the right to own guns to protect your family just scares them to death. Do you ever wonder if there was just a little religion in our schools, that we may not have so many drugs and killings.

So get ready for a fight that may determine your freedoms as you know them. Watch out when they tell you how other counties, like England, gave up their guns to be safe. They don't tell you how England's crime rate is now soaring out of control with stabbings and beatings on their streets. I heard the other day that England is trying to outlaw butcher knives because it is the choice of street criminals. England is just another liberal government that passed laws to control law abiding

citizens but does nothing to penalize the criminals. Remember gun bans and laws are made to control the honest citizen, because criminals will not pay attention to either of these. ###

## **Illinois 2012-13 Deer Harvest Totals 180,669**

**IDNR News Release 1/25/2013**

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 180,669 deer during all 2012-13 seasons. Illinois deer seasons closed last weekend as hunters concluded the Archery Deer Season and the last segments of the Late-Winter and Special Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) deer hunting seasons on Jan. 20.

The total preliminary deer harvest for all seasons of 180,669 compares with a total harvest for all seasons of 181,451 in 2011-12. During this year's deer seasons, hunters took 49 percent does and 51 percent males. Illinois' record deer harvest occurred in the 2005-06 season, when 201,209 deer were taken.

“We hope Illinois deer hunters had an enjoyable time afield this year, and took advantage of the many hunting opportunities afforded them,” said Paul Shelton, IDNR's Forest Wildlife Program Manager. “In the coming months, deer biologists will be reviewing all available data and making any needed program changes in order to ensure the continued well-being of Illinois' deer herd for this and future generations.”

The 2012-13 Illinois Archery Deer Season concluded on Jan. 20, and hunters in Illinois took a preliminary total of 59,728 deer during the archery season (Oct. 1, 2012-Jan. 20, 2013), compared with the archery deer harvest of 61,974 in the 2011-12 season.

The 2012-13 Late-Winter Antlerless Only and Special CWD deer seasons also concluded on Jan. 20, with a combined preliminary harvest total for both seasons of 14,726 deer, compared with a harvest of 14,906 deer taken during those seasons last year. The seven-day split seasons for the Late-Winter and CWD hunts were Dec. 27-30, 2012 and Jan. 18-20, 2013. Hunters in Boone, DeKalb, Grundy, Jo Daviess, Kendall, LaSalle, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties and Kane County west of Ill. Rt. 47 participated in the CWD season, while another 56 counties were open for the Late-Winter season. The Special CWD season is used to assist in controlling the spread of chronic wasting disease in the Illinois deer herd, while the Late-Winter season provides additional harvest opportunities as a deer population management tool.

Hunters took a preliminary total of 99,461 deer during the 2012 Illinois Firearm Deer Season (Nov. 16-18 and

Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2012), 3,630 deer during the 2012 Muzzleloader-Only Deer Season (Dec. 7-9, 2012), and 3,124 deer during the 2012 Illinois Youth Deer Season (Oct. 6-7, 2012).

## **Illinois Fall Wild Turkey Harvest Totals 1,330**

**IDNR News Release 2/5/2013**

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) today announced that wild turkey hunters in the state harvested a preliminary total of 1,330 birds during the 2012 Fall Archery and Fall Firearm Wild Turkey seasons. The Fall Archery Wild Turkey Season began on October 1, 2012 and concluded on January 20, 2013, while the Fall Firearm Wild Turkey Season was open from October 20-28, 2012. The preliminary harvest compares with a total wild turkey harvest of 1,316 birds during the 2011 seasons. Fifty-one counties were open to fall firearm turkey hunting, while 96 counties were open to the fall archery turkey season.

Interest in fall turkey hunting remains strong, and much of the harvest is from archery deer hunters who also enjoy the option of being able to harvest a wild turkey while afield. Fall firearm harvest fell slightly this past season (6.7%), in part reflective of the greater interest in deer hunting during the fall in Illinois. Fall archery harvest for wild turkeys increased by about 8.4%.

“We are hopeful that the drier spring last year produced a better hatch,” said Paul Brewer, IDNR Wild Turkey Project Manager. “Our brood counts were down slightly, but reports from the field have indicated a good year for reproduction. Broods were difficult to observe as crops were planted and grew quickly early last spring. Later in the spring when temperatures soared, young turkeys seemed to remain in the shaded areas where they were not as easy to see.”

Other Midwest states also reported better reproduction this past spring.

The top five firearm counties for fall turkey harvest were Jo Daviess (73), Pope (34), Jefferson (34), Union (32) and Williamson (32). The top five archery counties for fall turkey harvest were Fulton (27), Jefferson (26), Peoria (24), Jo Daviess (23), and Cass and Ogle (19 each).

For complete county harvest totals for wild turkey hunting, check the IDNR website at:  
<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/news/Documents/2012FallWildTurkeyHarvestCountyList.pdf>

## **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** – 50<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-782-8206 Email: SenatorSam@frontier.com

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

**Sen. Chapin Rose** – 51<sup>st</sup> District  
Tel: 217-558-1006

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

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

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

**Sen. Gary Forby** - 59<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-782-5509

**Rep. Dan Beiser** – 111<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-782-5996 E-Mail: [dvbeiser@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dvbeiser@sbcglobal.net)

**Rep. Natalie A. Manley** – 98<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-782-3316

**Rep. Adam Brown** – 102<sup>nd</sup> District  
Tel: 217-782-8398

**Rep. John D. Cavaletto** – 107<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-548-9080

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

**Rep. Jay Hoffman** – 113<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-782-0104

**Rep. Eddie Lee Jackson, Jr.** – 114<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-875-9950

**Rep. Mike Bost** – 115<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-457-5787 [mikebost@midwestmail.com](mailto:mikebost@midwestmail.com)

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

.....  
**Rep. Rodney Davis** - 13<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 202-224-3121

**Rep. John Shimkus** - 15<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-344-3065 E-mail: [house.gov/shimkus](http://house.gov/shimkus)

**Sen. Richard J. Durbin**  
Tel: 202-224-2152 E-mail: [dick@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:dick@durbin.senate.gov)

**Sen. Mark Kirk**  
Tel: 202-224-2854 Email: [kirk.senate.gov](mailto:kirk.senate.gov)  
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### **Legislation Update John Popov**

Isn't it sad that politicians will take a tragedy like Sandy Hook School and turn it into a power grabbing assault against law abiding gun owners.

Remember Mayor Rahm Emanuel's classic statement when he was in the Obama White House, 'to never let a tragedy go to waste,' or words to that effect? The media will exploit this tragedy and tell the people that the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution is not needed or is no longer viable in this century. I could write a book on this because I have been writing about gun legislation in the Sentry for over 30 years and the same group of politicians way-back-when are basically the same now. They try to drown out the pro-gun people.

There are enough laws on the books – enforce them! The major weakness in the background checks is the mental health issue. That needs to be addressed. Do we have a violence problem – you bet! Look at Chicago. The gang bangers have killed more people than troops we have lost in Afghanistan in just a few years.

Sen. Feinstein of California and Rep. McCarthy of New York want to ban the sale and manufacturing of a lot of semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity magazines. Sen. Feinstein's bill would ban 148 semi-automatic guns. This could affect semi-automatic shotguns.

Remember Vice President Joe Biden said on TV that all you need to protect yourself is a double barrel shotgun.

All I can tell you is that you need to be ready for the fight of your life to keep your guns. I am asking that you contact your state and federal representatives and senators and tell them to enforce the laws on the books, to make mental health and issue, and to secure our schools and vulnerable places. Also tell them to make our porous borders safer.

I talked to a lot of people after the November 2012 election and asked them if they thought their vote counted. Most said no. I told them if you think your vote doesn't count now, wait until they take your guns away.

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

# MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA 2012 WATERFOWL SEASON REPORT

[Excerpts]

Submitted by Kim Postlewait, IDNR MRA Site Superintendent

## 2012 WEATHER CONDITIONS

Weather services said that 2011 one of the wettest on record; 2012 turned out to be one of the worst droughts on record. Lack of flooding allowed us to make repairs to levees and water control structures that haven't been touched in years. Water levels were drawn down on all areas. The drought further dried areas that we either do not have the ability to draw down, i.e. Riprap Landing.

The extremely warm December surely had consequences on the migrations. Once again we escaped a freeze up that allowed hunting through the entire season.

## POPULATION STATUS

In the Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey traditional survey area, the total duck population estimate was 48.6 million birds. This was 7% higher than last year's estimate of 45.9 million birds and 43% above the 1955-2011 long-term average.

Overall habitat conditions for breeding waterfowl in 2012 were average. The total pond estimate was 5.5 million ponds, 32% below last year's estimate of 8.1 million ponds and 9% over the long-term average of 5.0 million ponds.

The projected mallard fall flight index was 12.7 million, 18% over to 2011's estimate of 11.9 million birds.

Peak population level on the Illinois River was 617,565 observed on December 12<sup>th</sup>. On the Mississippi River the peak of 531,040 was counted during the December 12<sup>th</sup> census.

## MRA HABITAT CONDITIONS

The overall habitat conditions were excellent for the entire area. Submersed aquatics were not found on any of the areas.

## 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

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA 2012 WEEKLY HARVEST

The highest daily harvest occurred opening weekend of 10/27-10/28 with an average of 1168 ducks per day. The second highest was the week of 11/12 - 11/18 with a 482.86 ducks per day average, followed by the week of 12/10 to 12/16 which averaged 466.29 ducks per day.

<b>BATCHTOWN</b>				
	2010	2011	2012	1966-2012AVE.
HOURS	13,215	24,484	28,038.5	26,234
DUCKS	2,889	6,807	7,499	4,472
HUNTERS	2,224	3,867	4,534	4,343
D/H RATIO	1.3	1.76	1.65	1.04
Hrs/DUCK	4.57	3.59	3.74	5.93

<b>GODAR DIAMOND</b>				
	2010	2011	2012	1966-2012AVE.
HOURS	12,802	23,116.5	16,924	17,822
DUCKS	2534	4,902	2,742	3,348.5
HUNTERS	2028	3,645	2,823	2,966
D/H RATIO	1.25	1.34	.97	1.12
Hrs/DUCK	5.05	4.72	6.18	5.34

<b>CALHOUN POINT</b>				
	2010	2011	2012	1966-2012AVE.
HOURS	11,613	14,866.5	15,311	10,566.4
DUCKS	2,731	2,692	3,077	1,552.9
HUNTERS	2,343	2,920	2,949	2,003
D/H RATIO	1.17	.92	1.04	.77
Hrs/DUCK	4.96	5.52	4.98	7.00

<b>STUMP LAKE</b>				
	2010	2011	2012	1966-2012AVE.
HOURS	12,534	20,922	25,396.5	20,105.6
DUCKS	2,297	4,198	7,426	3,252
HUNTERS	2,542	4,170	4,766	3,618.5
D/H RATIO	.90	1.01	1.56	.90
Hrs/DUCK	5.46	4.98	3.42	6.27

<b>GLADES 12-MILE</b>				
	2010	2011	2012	1966-2012AVE.
HOURS	10812	17,506.75	12,863	11,634
DUCKS	1789	3,411	1,516	1,672.5
HUNTERS	2103	3,132	2,419	2,106
D/H RATIO	.85	1.09	.63	.79
Hrs/DUCK	6.04	5.13	8.49	6.96

## **MALLARD HARVEST**

The best mallard per day average of 309.15 was during the week of 12/10 -12/16. The second best average of 257.72 occurred during the week of 11/12 to 11/18 followed by the opening weekend 10/27 to 10/28 with at 236.5.

<b>GOOSE HARVEST AT CHECK STATION AREAS OCT. 27 TO DEC. 25</b>						
Species	Batchtown	Calhoun Point	Glades	Godar Diamond	Stump Lake	Totals
Canada	60	30	12	98	27	227
Snow /Blue	28	2	2	5	6	43
White Front	3	6	4	7	3	23
Totals	91	38	18	110	35	297

# The Cost of Political Correctness

Gary A Liley

Political correctness is like a poison.

Experts say that if you drink a little poison every day your body can actually build up immunity to it. Tragically, too many well intentioned people have drank that poison and now believe it's totally natural and acceptable.

I hope that the vast majority of you reading this are not blinded by political correctness. I never have been what one could call "politically correct". And I don't intend to change!

I can't remember us ever being in a battle of core values and basic beliefs with a group of people whose values and beliefs are both anemic and illogical to the degree that we see in today's world. Never before has our nation been so full of people who prefer to have others do for them what they should be doing for themselves. This is true in all aspects of life, but has become even more apparent in the gun debate that has again deluged our country.

Personal responsibility and self reliance are two of the most important attributes you can possess in this life, and many of the politically correct people on the other side of this gun debate simply lack both of them. To think that the police or the state can keep you safe in the heat of a crisis is a delusion that I hope our fellow Americans wake up from sooner than later.

The time has come for self-reliant, responsible citizens like you and me to lend our voices to this noble cause like never before. Our natural born rights are more than worth fighting for, and what we could lose by remaining quiet or apathetic is too valuable to allow it to happen.

I would like to leave you with two quotes from British orator, philosopher, & politician, Edmund Burke (1729-1797). He said: "*All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.*" He also said, "*No one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.*" You may think you can't do anything that would make a difference. But, that phone call or letter or that conversation with someone who is uninformed may do more than you think. We often move individually, but collectively, we become a force to reckon with!

Those who seek to strip us of our rights are nothing more than politically correct clones that are paving the way for evil to triumph. Will we let them win this war, or will we cast aside political correctness and stand for what we believe?

## Two Rivers NWR Announces Summer Employment for Youth

Debbie Kuhn , USFWS Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge, 2/13/2013

Brussels, IL.- Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge will hire three youths for the summer of 2013 to be part of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program. The program will run from June 3 to July 26, for a total of eight weeks.

YCC is a well-balanced work-learn-earn program that develops an understanding and appreciation in youth participants of the nation's environment and heritage. YCC enrollees are employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, part of the Department of Interior.

Projects may include preparing for public events, building trails, facility maintenance and improving wildlife habitat. An education component is incorporated into weekly projects.

The program is open to youths ages 15-18. Interested applicants must be 15 years of age by June 3, 2013 and cannot turn 19 years old on or before July 26, 2013. Three participants will be selected by random drawing. Selected applicants will be paid the Illinois minimum wage of \$8.25 per hour and work 40-hours per week.

If you meet the age criteria and have an interest in the outdoors and wildlife conservation, visit the refuge's website at [www.fws.gov/refuge/Two\\_Rivers](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Two_Rivers) to download a copy of the YCC application.

Applications must be mailed or delivered in person on or before April 26, to Two Rivers NWR, HC 82, Box 107, Brussels, IL 62013.

For more information about the YCC program, call Debbie Kuhn or John Mabery at 618-883-2524.

# Duck Harvest Comparison

Submitted by Kim Postlewait, IDNR MRA Site Superintendent

The following is the reported harvest of other state waterfowl areas for the 2012 season and how we compared to the rest of the state.

Site	Ducks Harvested 2012	Ducks Harvested 2011	Hunters 2012	Hunters 2011
<b>Region 1</b>				
Anderson Lake	2,673	2,716	2,569	2,318
Banner Marsh	982	1,319	1,717	1,638
DePue/3-I Unit	512	738	768	822
Donnelley	138	223	521	548
Marshall	1,547	1,693	1,644	1,542
Powerton	520	393	478	450
Rice Lake	3,887	4,636	3,571	3,479
Spring Lake	864	1,055	1,317	1,260
Starved Rock	149	86	348	316
Woodford FWA	2,519	4,127	2,179	2,861
<b>Region 2</b>				
Mazonia/Braidwood	1,534	1,946	2,367	2,781
William Powers	78	229	480	451
<b>Region 3</b>				
Shelbyville As of 1/24/13	198	471	119	
<b>Region 4</b>				
Batchtown	7,499	6,807	4,534	3,867
Calhoun Point	3,077	2,692	2,949	2,920
Glades	1,516	3,411	2,419	3,132
Godar-Diamond	2,,742	4,902	2,823	3,645
Horseshoe Lake SP	3,640	4,035	3,395	3,666
Kaskaskia	2,526	1,613	2,767	2,073
Sanganois	6,349	7,865	6,347	4,815
Sangchris	659	905	1,236	1,250
Stump Lake	7,426	4,198	4,766	4,170
<b>Region 5</b>				
Cache River	1,188	628	1,047	1,164
Carlyle Lake	8,483	6,708	11,601	5,970
Mermet	2,976	1,514	2,422	1,746
Rend Lake	12,044	8,264	8,965	7,366
<b>Totals</b>	<b>75,726</b>	<b>73,174</b>	<b>73,349</b>	<b>64,160</b>

The five check station areas harvested a total of 22,254 ducks by 17,584 hunters by my calculations. MRA harvested 30% of the waterfowl harvested in Illinois by 24% of the public hunters in Illinois.

Our harvest on the Illinois River was down close to 20% (Glades and Godar); that decline is comparable to the harvests on the rest of the areas on the Illinois River.

## Do NRA Members Support an "Assault Weapon" Ban?

By BullShooters Staff, American Hunter, 2/8/2013

### The Myth

"74 percent of NRA Members Support a Ban on Assault Weapons."

### The Lies

You've likely heard it reported several dozen times across news media outlets. Michael Bloomberg's anti-gun group, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, claims responsibility for conducting this Frank Luntz poll that claims 74 percent of NRA Members support a ban on so-called assault weapons. Then President Obama mentioned this stat in his address in which he presented 23 executive orders on gun control.

### The Facts

The NRA was founded in 1871 to train military men and civilians in the proper marksmanship of the military arm of the day, which now happens to be AR-style rifles, the civilian versions of the M16 that was adopted by the U.S. military in 1964. The NRA has legions of competitive shooters, enthusiasts, collectors and hunters who use these rifles. NRA's flagship magazine, American Rifleman, contributes significant pages to AR rifles each month. Another magazine, Shooting Illustrated, is dedicated to these useful guns. Feedback and surveys indicate the magazines are well received by NRA membership. So, it's difficult at best for me to believe this "poll," one that happens to be sponsored by one of the most notorious and certainly the most well funded anti-gun group on the planet. In fact, I'm dialing the toll free 1-800-BullShooters hotline for immediate help.

### The Real Poll

If there is any group that has its finger on the pulse of NRA members, it's the NRA. After all, its membership rosters are private. To combat the Bloomberg nonsense, NRA, via a professional third-party polling company, recently conducted its own scientific poll of its members.

Findings are as follows:

- 91 percent of NRA members support laws keeping firearms away from the mentally ill.
- 92 percent of NRA members oppose gun confiscation via mandatory buy-back laws.
- 89 percent oppose banning semi-automatic firearms, often mistakenly called "assault rifles".
- 93 percent oppose a law requiring gun owners to register with the federal government.
- 92 percent oppose a new federal law banning the sale of firearms between private citizens

That's right. Bloomberg, Obama and the majority of the leftist media are off by 63 percentage points. Fact is, 89 percent of NRA members oppose banning assault rifles.

### The Anti-BS Quote

"Mayor Bloomberg's claims that gun owners are divided are totally false. It is nothing more than an attempt by anti-gun activists to further their long-standing political agenda," said NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox. "American gun owners and Second Amendment supporters are ready for Washington to put politics aside and come together to fix our broken mental health system."

### The Answer

When it comes to its Membership and about guns, Chris, the NRA and millions of law-abiding gun-owning Americans are the experts. Period.

### The Lesson

Don't trust the polls and the stats parroted by politicians and the mass media. Find them for yourself, for freedom can be found in the truth.

## Registration Open for 2013 Illinois Conservation Congress



The mission of the Illinois Conservation Congress is to give IDNR constituencies a formal process to propose and advocate actions that can be taken by elected and appointed officials to protect and conserve the natural resources of the State of Illinois. The goal of Conservation Congress is to ensure through professional management that sustainable use, recreational opportunities and enjoyment of these resources is available for this and future generations.

Regional meetings are scheduled at these locations to gain interest and feedback from the public: Carterville – February 19 & 20; Normal - February 26 & 27; Moline - March 4 & 5; Chicago – March 12, 13 & 14; and Belleville – March 21 & 22.

## **Does Your Church Support Gun Control?**

Gary A Liley

While doing some research on current gun laws and attempts underway to change them or add more to the already existing ones, some friends and I have recently come across some truly staggering findings. At the end of this article are two links I encourage you to check into. They concern the position that at least one major denomination has taken at the hierarchy level. It truly is very disconcerting!

Please take a look at them when you have time and maybe share what you see with your friends and family. If you are a part of a denominational church or any social or local organization that may report to a national or state group, take the time to see what your leaders are doing and where they stand on issues that you might agree or disagree with. Be vocal in replying and letting your opinion be heard.

In reference to the links listed here, it turns out that the national headquarters has joined with a coalition to support Obama and his party's position on gun control and gun violence. They claim to be speaking for 80 million Americans! Yet, local parishioners who support them with their money, time, efforts and prayers were totally unaware that they were being used in that way; particularly, when they disagreed 100% with what they were saying.

I know in my own case if I belonged to local chapter "xyz" and I found out that the national "xyz" was claiming to represent me and was pushing something that I was diametrically opposed to, I would let my voice be heard and take appropriate action! This is exactly what we have done in regards to the links posted here. Do your own research and let others know what you find and encourage them to become engaged. The line has been drawn in the sand, and the time to sit back and do nothing is past!

<http://umc-gbcs.org/faith-in-action/moral-imperative-to-stop-gun-violence>

<http://umc-gbcs.org/blog/gun-violence-must-end>

## **2013-14 MWHI Gun Raffle**

**One Winner Every Month**

**Ticket will be drawn on first of every month,  
beginning at the October MWHI General Membership Meeting**

**\$40 per ticket      Only 500 sold**

<b>October -</b>	<b>Super X 3</b>
<b>November-</b>	<b>Savage 20ga Bolt Action w/Nikon scope</b>
<b>December-</b>	<b>T/C Endeavor camo</b>
<b>January-</b>	<b>T/C Venture 22-250</b>
<b>February -</b>	<b>Browning A5</b>
<b>March -</b>	<b>Glock 22 40 cal</b>
<b>April -</b>	<b>Rem 870 Supermag Turkey Gun</b>
<b>May -</b>	<b>Rem 1911 45 cal</b>
<b>June -</b>	<b>Ruger Mini 14 Ranch</b>
<b>July -</b>	<b>Beretta 92 9mm</b>
<b>August -</b>	<b>CMMG AR15 .223</b>
<b>September -</b>	<b>Rem Versa-Max 12 ga</b>

**For tickets or more information, please contact Eric Rhuede at 618-410-9853**