



2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL 62002

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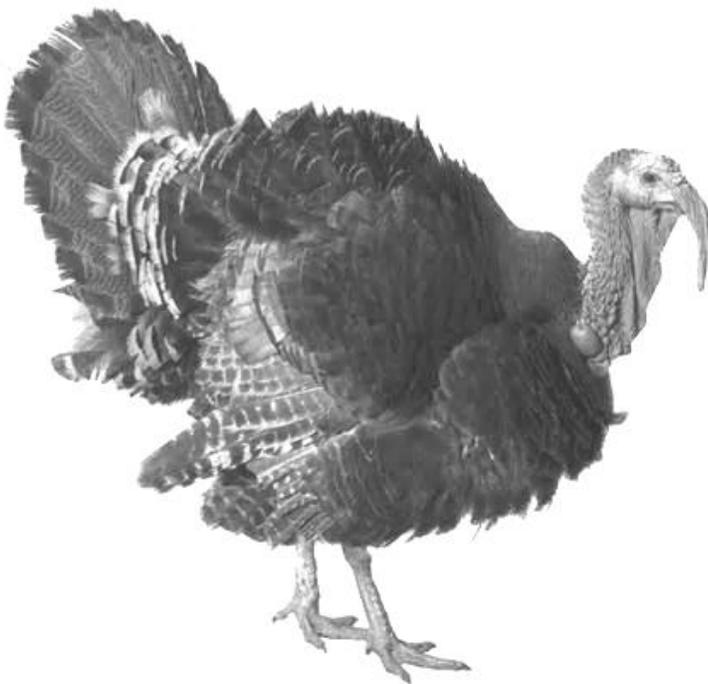
APRIL 2014

Rosi Franke, Editor

Tel: 618-396-2509

e-mail: rgfranke@frontiernet.net

## *Have a Safe and Successful Turkey Season*



*In order to hunt turkey in Illinois, a person needs to have:*

- *a valid hunting license*
- *a state habitat stamp and*
- *a turkey permit*

*You can purchase a license and the habitat stamp online through DNR Direct, over the counter from a license vendor or by calling 1-888-673-7648.*

*Illinois has three different seasons for turkey hunting. There is the Spring Turkey Season that is broken down into five different seasons for a total of 32 hunting days. Fall Archery Season opens October 1st and runs into January of the following year. There is also a nine day Fall Firearm Season. There are also specific application periods for the Spring and the Fall Turkey Seasons. For more information, see <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov>*

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618-960-9906

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618-977-2730

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618-444-8711

Bo Adcock  
618-535-6585

John Popov (Advisor)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, April 7, 2014

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

Monday, May 5, 2014

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

Monday, June 2, 2014

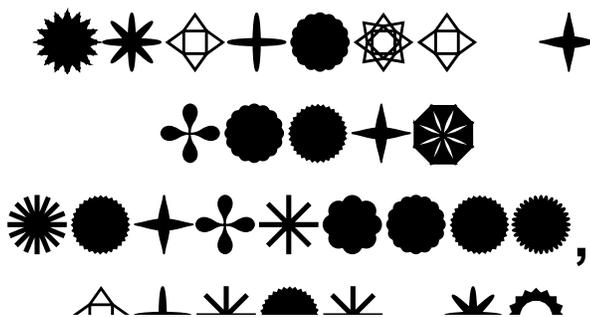
**MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 pm

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

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

Monday, July 7, 2014

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



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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.

## **Spring Season**

**Duane Hahnenkamp**

It seemed like winter would never end. First weekend of March was still in the single digits but by the second weekend we finally warmed up to the 60s. Sure seemed like it had been a long time since we have had an old-time hard winter like that. For the last 10 years all we have heard was that global warming was taking over and that a hard winter was a thing of the past. Maybe we are going back to the Ice Age again. That is what some scientists were saying when we had 3 hard winters in a row back in the 70s.

For the last 5 years, all you heard was that we need a later duck season here. I don't know why everyone thinks you have to hunt into January. I know, two years ago we had a super mild winter, but having ice in the decoys the last 2 weeks of our duck season is more of a normal season. With the winter we just had, I could not believe the idiots down south who wanted their duck season to go into mid February. One guy from Louisiana was mad because the blue wing teal were everywhere but he could not hunt them that last week of February. I don't know if he was a new hunter and did not realize the teal were coming back north from Central America or just didn't care. Maybe Ducks Unlimited needs to explain to these guys how a duck migration works and why DU was started in the first place.

Anyway the warm weather finally got here and the lakes were starting to open up. The last of the snow geese were going through and the ducks were everywhere. Makes you wonder what it was like 100 years ago when spring hunting in March was the norm. Well, I'm ready for turkey season and some fishing in the warm weather. Let's see, we have trout fishing, turkey hunting, crappie fishing, bass fishing, and bluegill fishing the next 3 months ahead. Then it will be time for the duck blind drawing in June, and if you are lucky enough to draw a blind, you will spend a lot of your spare time building a new duck blind for the rest of the summer. Ah, life of the outdoors men.

Good luck and enjoy your spring.

## **A Message from Director Marc Miller**

There has been a lot of discussion in Illinois about deer management in the aftermath of a 2013-14 hunting season in which the deer harvest declined. Illinois was not alone, as other Midwestern and Great Lakes region states reported lower harvests for firearm seasons and/or all deer seasons.

Biologists cited a number of factors for the declines, including adverse weather, herd reductions to achieve management goals and, in some locations, deer mortality due to outbreaks of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD).

Our deer management in Illinois seeks to balance hunters' desires to see more deer with the wishes of landowners and others who believe the size of the deer herd ranges from "just right" to "too large."

Each year, IDNR analyzes data on deer harvest, deer mortality, and survey results from hunters and non-hunters in determining deer management strategies, including details on deer seasons. Based on a two-year review of our deer management program, and some of the data already in from the 2013-14 deer seasons, some changes are coming.

In 2009, IDNR implemented the recommendations of the General Assembly's Joint Task Force on Deer Population Control, intended to reduce the herd from peak levels by about 14 percent. Illinois hunters have been moving the state's deer herd toward that goal.

IDNR manages its deer population on a county-by-county basis. As individual counties reach their deer population objective, IDNR adjusts permit quotas and hunting seasons so deer populations can stabilize. As a result, when population objectives were reached during the past two years, 11 counties were closed to the Late Winter deer season. For 2014-15, IDNR has identified 41 more counties for which we can adjust deer season regulations and permit quotas to allow an increase in deer population goals.

Deer hunters have also provided input, through an online survey, on a proposal to end the recent practice of selling remaining firearm deer permits over-the-counter through the end of the firearm season, except for youth under age 16. The IDNR manages deer by county and state population goals, and we're making changes for many counties to adjust our strategy from deer herd reduction to maintaining or increasing the deer population in some cases.

I am committed to professional management of our wildlife, and as always, we want to hear from hunters, landowners, and other stakeholders on our deer management program. ###



# Proposed Electronic Blind Draw Issue in Missouri

## MWHI letter to Missouri officials:

Director Robert L. Ziehmer  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
PO Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

Re: Proposed Electronic Blind Draw in Missouri

Dear Director Ziehmer:

Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. (MWHI) is the largest and oldest non-for-profit waterfowl hunting organization in the State of Illinois. Since we are geographically centered in the by-state area amidst the Illinois, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, a number of our members waterfowl hunt in the State of Missouri.

Recently we have been made aware that the Missouri Department of Conservation is proposing to change the duck blind draw to an electronic draw. After a lengthy discussion at our last board meeting, MWHI strongly urges you not to make the proposed change.

First, we have seen the number of waterfowl hunters dwindle in the past years, and we do believe that publicly held draws do raise awareness in the communities for our sport. It is not only a great avenue to create awareness, but it also brings families and the hunting community together.

Secondly, we believe that this is the most honest and fair way to draw for blinds. Since all participants are present and able to view the process, it is very unlikely that the integrity of the draw will be questioned.

Finally, we do support the *Mississippi Valley Duck Hunters River Blind Proposal* as well as their plan for the *New MDC River Blind Drawing System*.

If you have any questions or if you would like to further discuss this matter, please feel free to call me at 618-708-8117.

Sincerely,

John Gineris  
MWHI President

CC. Wildlife Chief Jennifer Battson Warren Conservation Commissioner Don C. Bedell  
Conservation Commissioner James T. Blair Conservation Commissioner T. E. Dollar

## Response Email from Bernie Urbas, Mississippi Valley Duck Hunters, 3/4/2014

### Duck Hunters

The 2014 drawing for blind sites on Upper Mississippi Conservation Area will take place on July 12, 2014 at the St. Louis Regional Office at 2360 Hwy. D, St. Charles.

Registration is 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Drawing Time is 10:00 a.m.

Please bring your:

- 2014 Missouri Small Game Hunting Permit,
- 2014 Missouri Migratory Bird Permit,
- 2014 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (signed federal stamp) and Photo I.D.

You will also need the names, addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, email addresses, and conservation numbers for all co-registrants.

For more information call:

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area at 314-877-6014 or The St. Louis Regional Office at 636-441-4554.



## 2014 a Year for Fewer Gun & Ammo Sales?

By J. Scott Olmsted (RSS) – American Hunter  
March 12, 2014

Business reports suggest 2014 gun sales may ebb, which may benefit consumers looking for their favorite brands on retail shelves.

Media reports lately suggest gunmakers can expect good business in 2014, but not as good as last year.

The FBI released data for January gun background checks recently; it was about a third lower than the same month a year earlier. One gun industry analyst wrote that the negative monthly sales comparisons he's seen recently is a trend he expects to last through May or June.

A statement from Cabela's chief executive Thomas Milner would seem to mirror that sentiment. "The surge in firearms and ammunition is clearly winding down," he told the Wall Street Journal. 2013 fourth-quarter sales at Cabela's were down 10 percent.

On the other hand, Smith & Wesson has increased its sales estimates for 2014. Said Smith & Wesson CEO James Debney to Bloomberg Business Week: "We continue to believe that our industry is in the midst of an underlying long-term growth trend and our objective is to grow faster than the market."

Either way one looks at it raises a question: Does this mean the dearth of guns and ammo we've all noticed across the country is coming to a close? Could be. Reports suggest some parts of the country are still experiencing ammo shortages.

That might continue until ammo manufacturers are able to turn their attention from high-demand lines (.223 Rem., .308 Win., .45 ACP, 9mm) that have dominated the market and focus on other lines, like .45-70 and .30-30, for instance.

## 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](mailto:SenatorSam@frontier.com)

**Sen. Kyle McCarter** – 54<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-782-5755 E-mail: [senatormccarter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:haine@senatedem.state.il.us)

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Tel: 618-875-1212 E-mail: [clayborne@senatedem.il.us](mailto:clayborne@senatedem.il.us)

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

**Sen. Gary Forby** – 59<sup>th</sup> District  
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**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. C. D. Davidsmeyer** – 100<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-243-6221

**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)

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**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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## **A bill that would make legal the hunting of bobcats in Illinois has advanced in the state Legislature**

The Springfield bureau of Lee Enterprises Newspapers reports that the legislation was approved by a House committee on Tuesday.

Bobcat hunting in Illinois became illegal in 1972 when conservationists were worried about a decline in the big cats' population.

State Rep. Wayne Rosenthal, a Republican from Morrisonville who's one of the measure's sponsors, said there are at least 3,000 bobcats living in southern Illinois, with more scattered across the state.

"This just allows (the Department of Natural Resources) and their biologists to manage them like they do any other species within the state," he said. "Bobcats are predators, similar to coyotes. This just gives us a chance to manage (their population) upfront."

The bill would allow hunters with a permit to kill one bobcat a year during a season that runs from Nov. 1 through Feb. 15.

The legislation now heads to the full House.

### **Bill Status of HB4226** *98th General Assembly*

**Short Description:** WILDLIFE-BOBCAT HUNTING

#### **House Sponsors**

Rep. Wayne Rosenthal - Daniel V. Beiser - Jerry F. Costello, II - John D. Cavaletto - Michael Unes, Patrick J. Verschoore, David R. Leitch and Jehan A. Gordon-Booth

#### **Last Action**

Date	Chamber	Action
2/26/2014	House	Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading - Short Debate

#### **Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Wildlife Code. Removes the prohibition on taking bobcats in the State. Provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to trap or to hunt bobcats with gun, dog, dog and gun, or bow and arrow, except during the open season which will be set annually by the Director of Natural Resources between 12:01 a.m., November 1 to 12:00 midnight, February 15, both inclusive. Provides that the season limit for bobcat shall not exceed one bobcat per person per season. Provides that the pelts of bobcats shall be tagged in accordance with federal regulations and the Department of Natural Resources may require harvest registration and set forth procedures, fees for registration, and the process of tagging pelts in administrative rules. Provides that bobcats may be taken during the open season by use of a small light which is worn on the body or hand-held by a person on foot and not in any vehicle.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE (excerpts) ISRA Thursday Bulletin - March 6**

Last Friday, the Illinois State Police announced they have issued the first 5,000 permits and that over 50,000 citizens have applied for permits. I saw my first permit on Monday, March 3rd. The Concealed Carry License (CCL) comes with your Driver's License photo on it just like your FOID Card does. That is what I expected. We are seeing some gun owners think the battle is over because we have gotten Concealed Carry. Again, nothing could be further from the truth.

Consider HB4215, which is total gun registration by Representative Kelly Cassidy (D-14). This is what lies ahead for Illinois if we "think the battle is over". We all have heard the expression "We won the war, but lost the peace." When that happens, it is because people don't recognize the war has simply changed form; it is not over, and there is no peace.

Too many people view these things like a football game. Our side was ahead at the end of the 4th quarter, so we win. Sorry, this is not a sporting contest. As soon as the 4th quarter is over, the 5th quarter starts to be followed by the 6th, 7th, and on and on. Prepare for a long unpleasant battle.

## Don't let this happen to Illinois!!

Support MWHI, NRA and ISRA today!! Speak out for your rights today. Don't continue to kid yourself that this couldn't happen here! For those who have said, "They'll never take my shotgun or hunting rifle," read this very carefully. Is your rifle or shotgun capable of holding more than 5 rounds of ammo? If it does, under this notice and if you lived in New York, it would be **ILLEGAL** for you to own.

(Courtesy of NRA)

### The Gun Confiscation Notice below is **REAL**. Law-abiding citizens are losing their guns **NOW**.

This could happen to every gun owner in America if we don't fight back and **STOP Michael Bloomberg** from buying the U.S. Congress.

Date: November 18, 2013

It appears that you are in possession of a Rifle and/or Shotgun (listed below) that has an ammunition feeding device capable of holding more than five (5) rounds of ammunition. Rifles and Shotguns capable of holding more than five (5) rounds of ammunition are unlawful to possess in New York City, as per NYC Administrative Code 10-306 (b).

You have the following options:

1. Immediately surrender your Rifle and/or Shotgun to your local police precinct, and notify this office of the invoice number. The firearm may be sold or permanently removed from the City of New York thereafter.
2. Permanently remove your Rifle and/or Shotgun from New York City and provide the following:
  - Disposition Report/Registration Certificate (PD Form 641-121)
  - Notarized statement of permanent removal and statement of where the firearm will be stored outside the City of New York
  - Utility bill or other proof of residency regarding the address where the firearm will be stored outside the City of New York
3. You may call to discuss the matter if you believe your firearm is in compliance, or you may request the option to bring your firearm to a licensed gunsmith for a permanent modification and certification proving that it is permanently modified and in compliance. If you are granted the option of seeking a permanent modification, you must provide proof that the firearm is in the possession of a licensed gunsmith in a timely manner.

Please provide any pertinent documentation on the below listed weapon(s):

MAKE	CAL.	TYPE	MODEL	
Marlin	22 Lr	Bolt	25N	Holds more than 5 rounds
AR-Industries	22 Lr	Semi	AR-7	Holds more than 5 rounds
zhmash	22 Lr	Rifle	B. Trainer	Holds more than 5 rounds

The investigator assigned to this case is [REDACTED]

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Disposition Report - Registration Certificate (Form PD 641-121) must be completed and submitted to this office whenever possession of a Rifle and/or Shotgun is transferred by sale or otherwise

# How the Media Manipulates Guns

Gary A. Liley

All of us know people who are either afraid of guns or simply don't like them. There are many reasons, too numerous to cover in one article, but one reason is simple. "Hollywood." Since as early as the 1960s, it's been almost impossible to watch any TV crime show without finding numerous inaccurate and false depictions of guns and gun owners.

Students of media manipulation know that the most successful propaganda hides the real agenda in subtle "themes" combined with constant repetitiveness. Roughly half of all American homes own at least one gun, with that number increasing every day. (Paradoxically, Obama has probably been the best gun salesman of all time.) But on television, about the only people with guns are cops and criminals. The hidden message here and the subliminal impression are given that "average folks" owning guns is a relatively rare occurrence.

Look at gun registration. Most people, including us gun owners, are surprised to find that only nine states (and Washington, D.C.) actually have laws requiring registration of handguns. This misconception comes easy if you watch any of the long-running crime shows, as on them gun registration appears to be the norm.

In just about any of them, when a firearm is involved, you will likely have some detective asking, "Who was the gun registered to?" or proclaiming, "The gun was registered to..." or just simply, "The gun wasn't registered."

The characters will also miraculously solve crimes by "tracing" guns, or because "ballistic records" connected the gun to "a series of homicides." Truth is, professional killers and even gang-bangers seldom use the same gun twice. And for sure, they don't register them. No matter! The underlying message is that "keeping records" will solve crimes.

Now, imagine the average person hearing the words "register" and "tracing" repeated over and over, connected with every crime show he or she watches. If a legislator in your state has just proposed a bill requiring gun registration, those unfamiliar with the issue ask, "What? You mean that ALL guns aren't already registered?" This makes it altogether that much harder for gun owners to oppose gun registration schemes, since the public has already literally been programmed to accept it.

The same kind of propaganda is used to mischaracterize guns themselves. Just look at how often you hear the term "assault weapon" in a movie or TV show. In a recent episode of the new series, Chicago PD, they resurrected the mythical "cop-killer bullets" (which were ordinary 5.56 rounds with some blue paint on the tip). They even claimed these devastating bullets could "go through an engine block" (I'm not kidding). Remember "Saturday Night Specials?"

Movies and television plots relentlessly inundate the viewer with fully automatic gunfire. Rata-tat-tat--tat-tat--tat. Every gang shootout, mafia hit, or firefight in the many international political thrillers that are currently the rage, feature AR-15's, Uzi's (or the "Darth Vader" of all firearms, the AK 47) blazing away, cascades of shell casings filling the air, never running out of ammo.

These images trump facts and reason. Trying to explain the difference between a civilian and a military carbine is as futile as telling people that full-auto firearms are used extremely rarely in real life. Their "experience" (read: TV watching and movie going) convinces them that such weapons are "everywhere," causing horrible carnage. Because of this, when new restrictions on such "dangerous killing machines" are proposed by anti-gun lawmakers, they dutifully fall in line, assuming that such laws will drastically reduce crime and death rates.

Add to this the generally negative attitude toward guns displayed by most TV characters (with the only exceptions being some of the new breed of "gun-savvy" folks appearing on some shows) and it isn't hard to understand why so many of our neighbors are easily persuaded to fear and dislike guns — and the people who carry them.

The only way the average person is going to ever be educated on the truth concerning gun laws and the lawful use of guns, is for me and you to it! Are you doing your share?                   ##



# Illinois State Rifle Association

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

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## **Firsthand Look at the IL Concealed Carry Licensing Process**

by Valinda Rowe - IllinoisCarry spokesperson, Mike Rowe – IllinoisCarry, Richard Pearson - Executive Director, Illinois State Rifle Association

The implementation of the Illinois Concealed Carry licensing process is an involved and complicated undertaking tasked to the Illinois State Police. Having worked with the ISP for a smooth roll out of the new licenses, an invitation was extended to Richard Pearson of the Illinois State Rifle Association and Mike and Valinda Rowe of IllinoisCarry to view firsthand the concealed carry licensing process.

ISP Deputy Director Col. Marc Maton has headed up the project and has been very diligent in ensuring that goals and deadlines were met on time. He and members of his staff and the Firearm Services Bureau took us through each step of the license application process.

First, the application is scrutinized for proper documentation and errors. The most common mistake by licensees are failure to sign the training certificate or submitting the wrong training certificate. Other common errors include entering 'O's instead of zeroes or zeroes for 'O's, double spacing between first and last names, and uploading a photo that does not meet the head and shoulders requirement. Any of these errors will require a correction made by the licensee. If an email address was submitted with the application, an email is sent out with instructions to correct the mistake. However, if an email address was not submitted then a letter must be sent through the mail which creates a delay in the application process.

Once the application is deemed complete it is entered into the database that is available to local law enforcement who then have 30 days to submit an objection if they have information that would indicate the applicant is a danger to themselves or others. The application is also routed to the department tasked with doing the background checks. The applicant's identification information or fingerprint number is entered into the computer system which has the ability to check multiple agencies at once. At any point during these steps, if an indication appears that the applicant has a prohibiting factor in their history, their application may be denied or if the prohibiting factor is in question, the application can be sent to the ISP concealed carry review board for further scrutiny.

When an application is approved it is routed to the printer, an amazingly impressive hi-tech piece of equipment which pretty much fills a room by itself. At one end, blank cards with only the color scheme are stacked in a tray. Each card travels along a track where the color photo, license information, and a hologram is applied via multiple spools of mylar. Simultaneously, the same piece of equipment begins printing the letter which will accompany the license, shoots a dab of glue on the card and matches the card and letter via a barcode, attaches the card to the letter, tri-folds the paper, inserts the letter into a windowed envelope, and finally glues it closed. All that is left to do is add postage. The machine and technology is very impressive.

Many things stood out to us during the tour. First of all, we found the team of people charged with issuing the licenses to be a hardworking, dedicated team who have a goal and are working hard to meet that goal. The people we talked with were open to our questions and appear to take great pride in their part of the process. Col. Maton, seems to have set the tone for the department by establishing the goals and deadlines which has made it possible for the ISP to begin issuing thousands of carry licenses before the deadlines mandated by the new law.

Our members can be proud of the hardworking, dedicated staff under Col. Maton's leadership who are doing exactly what they were tasked with doing, especially with the difficulties of a start up operation of this magnitude. It is our expectation that as they continue forward, the licensing process will become even more streamlined and proficient. Our hats are off to the ISP on this aspect of the new concealed carry law and we appreciate their tireless efforts in this process.

We would like to thank:

ISP Deputy Director, Col. Maton, Asst. Deputy Dir., Lt. Col. Matt Davis, Chief of Staff, Lt. Felix Canizares  
Staff Ofc. of Information and Technology , Sgt. Gary Clark, Firearms Services Bureau Chief, Ms. Jessica Trame  
Asst. Chief, CCL Unit, Master Sgt. Jennifer Radosevic , The card printer technical team.

###

## **Two Rivers NWR Announces Upcoming Spring Events**

**Cortney Solum, USFWS 10/10/2014**

Brussels, Ill. - Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge announces the schedule of free events to be held this spring.

March Waterfowl Madness, a ranger-led walk, will be held on the Swan Lake levee just one mile from the Brussels Ferry in Calhoun County at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 19. Attendees will have a chance to view the thousands of waterfowl that make a stop at the Refuge on their annual spring migration. Register by March 18. Participants should meet at the Swan Lake levee parking area.

Put on your boots and visit the refuge for the program A Life in Muddy Water at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 29 at the Refuge Visitor Center near Brussels, Ill. This activity is perfect for kids because we'll get wet and dirty as we discover what insects live in the wetlands at the wildlife refuge. Register by March 27.

Bring the family out to the refuge to learn which frogs sing in the nightly spring chorus. Sounds of Spring, a ranger-led walk highlighting spring frog calls, will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the refuge visitor center. Register by April 10. Participants should bring bug spray and a flashlight.

A ranger-led walk around the wetlands at the Refuge Visitor Center will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 16. Participants will learn about some of the animals that depend on this habitat for survival. Register by April 15.

Celebrate Earth Day in the prairie with a program on spring prairie flowers at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 26 at the Refuge Visitor Center. Register by April 24.

Songs of the Refuge will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, May 7, starting at the Refuge Visitor Center. In May song birds have returned to the refuge, providing many opportunities to see and hear these small performers. Participants will learn how to identify birds by their call and take a walk on the Wildlife Haven Trail to hear a few. Register by May 6.

A Mother's Day Birding Hike for beginners will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 10, in the Gilbert Lake Division. Plan a special day for mom by starting with a morning walk at the refuge to learn about bird watching. Binoculars and bird guides will be provided. Register by May 8. The Gilbert Lake walking trail is a loose gravel trail. Participants should meet in the parking area of the Gilbert Lake division, one-fourth mile west of the Brussels Ferry on Highway 100.

The refuge visitor center is located near the village of Brussels, Ill. on Hagen Rd. about four miles from the Brussels Ferry.

To register for a program call the refuge visitor center at 618-883-2524 or email [TwoRivers@fws.gov](mailto:TwoRivers@fws.gov). Event details are subject to change, call for more information or view the calendar of events on the refuge website at [www.fws.gov/refuge/two\\_rivers](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/two_rivers).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to these events for all participants. Please direct all requests for sign language interpreting services, close captioning, or other accommodation needs to Cortney Solum at TTY 800-877-8339 with your request no later than five business days prior to each event.

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## **HEC Crew at Batchtown – Update**

**Kim Postlewait, IDNR MRA Site Superintendent**

Heavy Equipment crew was supposed to bring the hydroax to Batchtown on Monday, but it broke down on the previous Thursday at Pere Marquette. My crew ended up helping HEC get it pulled out and loaded up to haul back to Pawnee.

HEC had a contract for repairs with Martin Implement for repairs on their equipment. The state is trying to get away from service contracts, to my understanding, but you can only spend so many dollars before you need to have a purchase request approved to do the work. If you are lucky you might get that done in three weeks. From what I understand, they are still trying to get a contract and Martin will not work on the hydroax until they have a contract. I'm pretty sure we will be looking at floods before we see the hydroax again. Hopefully, we can get them this summer when we are drawn down.

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## Uncle Joe's Gunsmithy

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## Student Trainee position

John Mabery, USFWS Manager Two Rivers NWR  
Application period is now open for a student  
trainee (ie. internship) position at Two Rivers  
NWR.

The announcement is available to applicants  
through USAJOBS at:

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/363068200>

## 2013-14 MWHI Gun Raffle Winners

- 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)
- Walter Jones - February gun (Browning A5 Stalker 28" Barrel)
- S. Heitzig - March gun ( Glock 22 – 40 cal.)

