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Rosi Franke, Editor

Tel: 618-396-2509

e-mail: rgfranke@frontiernet.net

Waterfowl Hunting Season 2013-2014



Have Fun and be Safe!

MWHI OFFICERS 2013

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

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Area Projects Chairman
IFOR Board Representative
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618-535-9979

Bob Schneider
618-960-9906

Scott Bryant
IFOR President
618-535-0151 (cell)

Bo Adcock
618-910-2061

Larry Franklin (Advisor)
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 6, 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

2013-14 MWHI Gun Raffle Winners

Winners for the October and November guns were drawn at the
October MWHI General Membership Meeting

Jason Brayton - October gun (Super X 3)

Rob Probst - November gun (Savage 20ga Bolt Action
w/Nikon scope)

Visit us at our website:
mwhi.us

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MWHI President John Gineris Tours the Two Rivers Refuge with USFWS Manager John Mabery



Lower Swan Lake pump intake



Calhoun Moist Soil Unit vegetation



MWHI President John Gineris – Vegetation at Lower Swan Lake

On October 2, 2013, John Mabery, Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Manager, gave John Gineris a tour of the Refuge. John Mabery wrote the following:

The attached photos were taken today as John Gineris and I toured a bit of the Refuge looking at habitat conditions for waterfowl. Overall, the moist soil management units contain very healthy and diverse stands of vegetation commonly eaten by waterfowl. Dominant plant species include redroot flatsedge, sprangletop, wild millet, Walter's millet and various smartweeds. Unfortunately there is no shortage of cockleburr either. I suppose we have to take the bad with the good.

The partial drawdown of Lower Swan Lake produced several hundred acres of the same plant species, and will provide high quality habitat for waterfowl in the weeks and months ahead. Prairie Pond (Batchtown Division) and Gilbert Lake also have healthy stands of moist soil vegetation around their perimeters which will offer significant food resources for waterfowl.

Considering the extensive flooding that lasted well into July, the habitat conditions are quite good in wetland management units on the Refuge.

Learn to Cook You Wild Game

Duane Hahnenkamp

A lot of new hunters came on board in the last 20 years with the return of ducks in the 90's and the boom in deer hunting around us. This sounds great for the sport of hunting, but at the same time, we have had an awful lot of older generation hunters who are dying off or just giving up. Truthfully, we are probably just holding on with our numbers.

I also hunt a lot at the Otter Creek Hunting Club after duck season and I see a lot of new hunters shooting game birds for the first time. Most of these hunters enjoy their hunt, but what I have noticed is that they and other hunters don't know what to do with the meat after they get home. I see this in all types of hunting - from game birds to big game. Most of these hunters would just as soon give the game away as to cook it. No one knows how to cook or don't want to learn how to cook their game. I have long felt that this is one of the big reasons that the numbers of hunters are not growing that much. If they do try to cook their game, they want to BBQ it or cook it too long and that is usually why many people say that wild game does not taste good. When I started hunting with my father, I had a mother who grew up on a farm and she knew how to cook farm animals and wild game. She could fry a rabbit or squirrel along with a chicken and it was all good to 5 hungry kids. For the new hunters, it's tough to find someone to cook their game. For most young guys, their first cooking experience consists of heating up a pizza in the oven and then they move up to the BBQ grill. I also know of hunters who killed hundreds of ducks in their blinds every year, yet never keep a duck. Then there are the hunters who spend a lot of more money to have someone make jerky or sausage sticks out of all their game meat.

Guys, do yourself and your sport a big favor and learn how to cook your game if you can't get your mom or wife to do it. I know, I too waited a lot of years before I sat down and made the decision to learn how to cook the ducks the right way. Believe me, I have wasted a lot of time and ducks cooking them wrong, so I ended up with meat that was so - so. Someone gave me a wild game cook book twenty years ago but that was as far as it went. About 10 years ago, I sat down with that book and discovered all kinds of recipes that are very good and easy to make. Honestly, I can now cook a duck breast in 5 minutes that I feel is better than a home cooked hamburger. In fact it is more like a steak that you get in a restaurant. I actually got that recipe out of the wildfowl magazine and I'm sure glad I did. For all the money you have spent to kill a duck every year, please take advantage of the meat you got. In the end you will find that your love for duck hunting will be even greater and you will look forward to eating your game. Guys, it's not that hard to do and I know that there are a lot of other hunters like me who are willing to share their recipes.

Trust me, if you do not take full advantage of your wild game, you are missing the boat. To the guys who already are cooking their game, good for you! For those who are not, come see me and I will show you how to cook a great duck.

ISRA Thursday Bulletin

Richard Pearson, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE, October 10, 2013

The Illinois State Police (ISP) seem to have the ball rolling in terms of getting Concealed Carry License (CCL) Instructors approved and added to their list. I'm sure some instructors have been caught in a glitch somewhere, but for the most part it is happening in a timely manner. Meanwhile, the questions are rolling into the ISRA office. We are answering them as fast as we can. To answer some of these questions, I have had to call the (ISP). They have been very helpful but some questions that I do not know the answer to, the ISP has never heard before either. I'm sure this will all get straightened out in time.

One question I keep getting is "how many people will get a CCL in Illinois?" I have no answer but my guess is about 400,000. Washington State, which is slightly just a little over half the population of Illinois has 445,000 permit holders and is still growing. Extrapolating that to Illinois population the potential is there for over 800,000—far beyond my original guess of 400,000. Right now, it is all a guessing game. We will just have to wait and see.

In the meantime, the 110th Anniversary Raffle will be over in about three weeks. If you haven't entered yet, please do so. Time is running out.

Thank you for being a member.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Rep. Dwight Kay – 112 District
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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
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ISRA Thursday Bulletin

Richard Pearson, October 3, 2013

Mark Twain once said “Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government only when they deserve it.” I always find it interesting to look at some of the writings and speeches of not only the Founding Fathers, but many famous Americans from the past and marvel at their clear eyed observations. Those observations certainly apply today even though they were made many years ago.

Recent events, such as John Kerry signing the UN Arms Treaty, the blocking of re-importation of M1 Garands and M1 Carbines, and the barricading of the WWII Memorial attempting to block an Honor Flight of WWII Veterans shows the disdain that the present administration has for Americans and our unique American experiences. Like Mark Twain said...

As most of you know, Don Moran and I attended the Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC) last weekend in Houston, Texas. What a great program. The great news is that next year they will be back in Illinois on September 26th-28th, 2014. Whatever you do next year, plan to attend. The GRPC will be at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare.

In the meantime, Mayor Michael Bloomberg is spending 250 million dollars to establish an “anti-gun think tank” at John Hopkins. So be ready—we are about to experience a new wave of attacks. There is only one way to resist those attacks and that is to build the ISRA membership. The ISRA is a strong organization—but it needs to be bigger. Please recruit a new member. Thank you for being a member.

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Gain the edge with:



PRESS RELEASE

8115 S. Branch, Godfrey, Illinois 62035

918-980-5036

duxtrac.com

DuxTrac@outlook.com



Carl and Jim Mager, owners of the Duxtrac Company, Grafton, Illinois is introducing a new decoy animation system designed to provide waterfowl hunters a quick and easy way to add motion to their decoy spread. The ease of use gives the sportsman the benefit of quickly preparing the hunt sight and getting into the blind or hunting position and being ready for action.

Unlike other products that are available on the market, this fully assembled unit can be set up and working in a matter of moments. With operational effectiveness in up to four feet of water, and the capacity to tow up to three decoys, the unit provides just the right amount of speed to give a natural swimming motion. The speed of the machine provides a very noticeable churning of the water without creating a scene that would indicate a "distress" situation. This natural swim appearance provides an attraction for ducks that have been "conditioned" to other motion devices in use over the last several years.



The self-contained, and completely submersible, unit weighs less than 7 pounds (not including the required 12V 7Am/hr battery). Because of its fold-up design and light weight, the unit can be easily transported in the boat, decoy cart; or, manually carried to "walk-in" situations. Once at the hunt sight, the decoys of choice are quickly tethered to the unfolded unit by the pre-attached swivels that are permanently fastened to the drive belt. The drive belt is powered by a submersible motor box that is part of the complete unit.



Included in the system is a submersible battery box. Although the box can be placed underwater, it can also be attached to a 1/2 diameter pole in order to prevent having to reach down into the winter cold water. Should decoy movement not be desired at particular times, the battery box is equipped with a waterproof on/off switch to conserve battery life.

More information can be obtained about the Duxtrac Easy-Set Decoy Animation System by visiting duxtrac.com.

Notes from the MWHI Guest Speakers at the October 2013 General Membership Meeting

October 17, 2013

Guest Speaker John Mabery, Manager, USFWS Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge

John told the attendees that overall the habitat looks very good.

- Batchtown has a lot of vegetation. They are having issues with the pump at Prairie Pond, but there is no problem with refilling the area.
- Swan Lake is drained and shows great vegetation and very good duck use. Gilbert Lake also has shows good vegetation despite the late draw down. The moist soil units (400 acres) look fantastic.
- A draft of the Hunting Plan is now at the Regional Office for review. About 500 acres of the entire area are being hunted. In 2014, Clarksville Island probably will be opened for hunting.
- There is still a lot of silt on some of roads from the flood earlier this year. It just a matter of getting them cleaned up.
- The Open House along with the Auto Tour on October 20 has been cancelled because of the Government shut down.
- There were 20,600 ducks on Swan Lake last week.

Guest Speaker Bob Hamel, Site Superintendent, IDNR Carlyle Lake

Bob manages a 10,000 acre sit at the upper end of Carlyle Lake and told attendees:

- They have had flooding issues at the site four out of the last 6 years. When that happens, the water stays for a long time and no crops can be planted and there is little natural vegetation.
- They did plant Japanese millet this year. Overall, they have pretty good duck food.
- The early teal season was good.
- There is a new duck stamp project that will create 50 acres new hunting area.
- The staff at the site has increased. They now have 3 fulltime employees.
- The drive through tour had to be cancelled because of the flood.
- Reminder of the regulation that hunters can't leave the parking lot till 4:30 am.
- Reminder that the Corps holds open public meetings every year.

Guest Speaker Kim Postlewait, Site Superintendent, IDNR MRA

Kim reported on the conditions of the areas:

- Overall, there is little to no food on the areas
- Batchtown has about 40% of vegetation, which is the most of all areas.
- Crull Impoundment has been planted but only shows very short vegetation.
- There is no food at Calhoun Point.
- As of today, all the pumps were running. All areas should be filled for the Youth Hunt on the weekend.
- They are still waiting for approval from the CMS for the approval of \$138,000.00 for rock for the various roads. Rock has been placed at the Glades. The next area that will get rock is Fuller Lake and then Michael. A contract for hauling rock to Reds Landing has been submitted.
- Randy Fraley was able to come back to work. The number of staff is now back to four.
- Projects for the Heavy Equipment Crew have been submitted, but only two of the 18 submitted ones could be done during duck season.
- Check stations will operate the same way as they did last year.

Continued on page 12

Guest Speaker Mark Wagner, Conservation Police Officer, IDNR

Mark brought issues of the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations 2013-2014 and the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2013-2014.

- All changes in regulations are highlighted in the booklets he brought. The changes for waterfowl hunting include that the possession limit went to three times the daily limit. Harvest for Bluebills changed to three and Canvasback to two.
- The cost of the pump at Diamond-Glades being illegally opened was \$5,000.00. A person can be charged and held liable for the cost.
- After January 1, 2014, the Want and Waste will be in effect. This means that it will be illegal to throw out anything you harvested. You have to at least breast out what you harvested. There have been complaints about snow geese, deer, and so on.
- OHV stickers should be available by January 1, 2014 and will be effective April 1, 2014.
- Paddling stickers have been implemented and will be for boats that you paddle and have no engine. The sticker will be good for one year at a time.
- Please look up the new baiting deer hunting regulations.
- It is unlawful to possess waterfowl taken out of state.
- Be aware to get permission from landowners before hunting on their land.
- It is illegal to use air drones for hunting.
- Boat renewal notices are no longer being mailed out. Be sure to check when you have to renew your registrations.

Thank you to John, Bob, Kim and Mark for being our guest speakers and providing our members with timely and helpful information!

A Message from IDNR Director Marc Miller



Illinois' busy fall hunting seasons are upon us, and I want to take a moment to salute hunters for their support of conservation, wildlife management, and Illinois' hunting heritage.

For more than 100 years, hunters have advocated for laws to protect wildlife and regulate hunting. The fees hunters pay for licenses and permits, and the excise taxes they pay when they purchase hunting equipment, provide the funding needed for science-based conservation programs and wildlife management.

Hunting is also big business for Illinois. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recent *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation* reports hunting accounted for more than \$1.2 billion in spending in Illinois in 2011.

Autumn is the busiest time of year for hunting in Illinois, and it's a good time to remind hunters to make safety a priority. Last year, there were 26 hunting incidents reported in Illinois, three of them fatal. There have been seven hunting incidents reported in the state so far in 2013.

Eleven of the hunting incidents reported last year, and one so far this year, involved tree stand falls. When using a tree stand, hunters should make sure they are using a full body safety harness (also known as a Fall Arrest System or FAS).

When hunting with a firearm, hunters should be sure to follow a few basic rules of firearm safety: Treat every firearm as if it were loaded, and never assume a firearm is unloaded; Always point a firearm in a safe direction; Be sure of your target, and make sure there are no other hunters, homes, buildings, vehicles or other animals beyond your target and Keep your finger out of the trigger guard and off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

The IDNR provides Hunter Safety Education courses throughout the state providing instruction on hunter responsibility, wildlife conservation and identification, firearms and ammunition, field safety, wildlife management, first aid, archery, muzzleloading, and state regulations. Find course schedules and more information at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety/Pages/HunterSafety.aspx>

While the vast majority of hunters are law-abiding, we encourage hunters and landowners to report any violations to our Illinois DNR Conservation Police by calling the 'Target Illinois Poachers' or TIPS hotline toll-free at 1-877-2DNRLAW (1-877-236-7529).

Best wishes for a safe and successful fall hunting season in Illinois.

URGENT ALERT – YOUR ACTION REQUIRED

ANTI-GUNNERS BEGIN CAMPAIGN TO DISMANTLE CONCEALED CARRY

ISRA Notice 10/20/2013

The Illinois General Assembly returns to session Monday, October 21st, and the anti-gunners are wasting no time in attempting to dismantle the concealed carry bill passed last spring. Your help is desperately needed to shut down the gun control movement's efforts to strip you of your fundamental right to defend yourself and your family from muggers, murderers, robbers and rapists.

We also need your help to support 3 pro-concealed carry bills that have been introduced. The details on all the bills are below:

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY AND TAKE THE ACTIONS LISTED TO HELP SAVE YOUR RIGHTS

HB3646 – DANGEROUS BILL – Bans Concealed Carry in any restaurant that has alcoholic beverages on the menu. Drastically reduces your choices on when and how to protect yourself. This bill is a foot in the door to create a growing list of places where you will be prohibited from protecting yourself and your family from dangerous criminals.

HB3669 – DANGEROUS BILL - This bill eliminates “safe haven” provisions for areas near schools – meaning that you could not even have a firearm locked in your trunk if you drive on to ANY property controlled by a school district. Once again, this bill would severely limit your self defense options and would make you a felon for doing nothing more than possessing a firearm. Under this bill, you would have to leave your defensive firearms at home if your plans called for you to enter any lands controlled by a school district. The real purpose of this bill is to pave the way for sweeping prohibitions on concealed carry that would make self defense impractical and a serious legal risk for most Illinois citizens.

HB3675 – DANGEROUS BILL – This bill would severely increase penalties for persons found to be carrying firearms in restricted areas. This bill is designed solely to scare law-abiding citizens out of carrying defensive firearms. This bill in no way targets gang-bangers or other violent criminals.

SB2594 – DANGEROUS BILL – This is another bill that would prohibit carry in restaurants that have alcoholic beverages on the menu.

HB3651 – GOOD BILL – This bill lowers the burdensome 16-hour training rule to a more reasonable 8-hour requirement. This bill also eliminates the re-training requirements for carry permit renewals. In short, this bill undoes that anti-gunners' attempts to discourage people from applying for carry permits by easing burdensome training requirements.

HB3650 – GOOD BILL – This bill provides for concealed carry reciprocity between Illinois and dozens of other states.

HB3649 – GOOD BILL – This bill reduces the exorbitant fees the State Police plan on charging people for permit applications. The state should not be allowed to price-gouge citizens who want to defend themselves. This bill would make fees more reasonable and thus allow greater access to self defense for Illinois citizens.

HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE:

1. Call your State Representative and politely tell him/her that you are a law-abiding firearm owner and you do not want your right to self defense diminished for political reasons. Ask him/her to vote AGAINST HB3646; HB3669; HB3675.

If you do not know who your State Representative or State Senator is, the Illinois State Board of Elections has an interactive search page here:

www.elections.state.il.us/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx

If you already know who your State Representative and State Senator are and just need the contact info, you can find that here: www.ilga.gov/house & www.ilga.gov/senate .

Mississippi River F &W Area Red-Tag Blind Drawing Results

Kim B Postlewait, IDNR MRA Site Superintendent, 10/15/2013

The red-tag blind drawing was held October 13, 2013. The drawing was attended by 116 people drawing for 96 blinds. 25 blinds were drawn of which 23 were registered issued, 12 cards were drawn that passed or the person had left the draw, and 87 cards remaining unopened.

News Release 10/10/2013

The annual drawing for trapping sites at Mississippi River Area and Copperhead Hollow will be held October 30, 2013 at the Mississippi River Area Headquarters building on Rt 100 near Rosedale, Il. Registration will be from 10 A.M. to 11 A. M. with the drawing at 11 A.M. Applicants will be required to have a 2013 trapping license, habitat stamp and be 16 years of age.

Governor Brown Signs California Lead Ban

U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance 10/13/2013

Late this afternoon, California Governor Jerry Brown signed a statewide ban on traditional lead ammunition for hunting—Assembly Bill 711, sponsored by Assemblyman Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood). The deadline for gubernatorial action was Sunday, October 13th

California is the first state in the nation to take such unnecessary action.

Federal Land Closures: Political Theatre at its Worst

USSA Calls on President Obama to Take Action

U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance 10/8/2013

(Columbus) – As Washington D.C. faces another government shutdown, hunters, anglers and trappers across the country are facing a shutdown of their own. From Alaska to Florida, sportsmen and women are finding that the budgetary standoff in Congress is having a direct impact on their hunting or fishing season.

The federal government has issued directives to “close” accessible public lands and waters while the government is “shutdown.” At stake are millions of acres of public land administered by agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Park Service (NPS). For decades the public has been free to access these lands for recreational purposes—including hunting, fishing and trapping—without securing any specific form of permission or authorization. But now, these agencies are being told to close access to their lands because of the standoff taking place over funding the federal government.

“These lands are generally accessible to the public without special entrance fees, passage through gates, or access via controlled roads or waterways,” said Nick Pinizzotto, USSA President and CEO. “Not only are these closures unnecessary, they run contrary to law. This is ‘political theatre’ at its very worst.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance delivered a letter to President Obama today demanding that these closures be lifted to allow American hunters and anglers to once again pursue their way of life.

These closures are occurring on lands where federal law mandates hunting and where hunting is statutorily determined to be a “priority public use.” Lack of an agreement on a federal budget does not terminate the effect of the law which clearly allows for hunting.

In 1995 and 1996, the federal government went through a similar situation as Congress and the White House locked horns. The ensuing “shutdown” did not result in closure orders for accessible public lands.

“It's a shame that these closures are being implemented as a punishment against sportsmen and women,” said Pinizzotto. “These lands are our lands, and American sportsmen and women—and the general public—deserve better than this.”

New Hunting and Trapping Digest: The Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2013-2014 edition is now available at many IDNR license and permit vendor locations. The digest is also posted online in PDF format through the IDNR website at this link: www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/HuntTrapDigest.pdf

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MWHI 2013

**Donated 5 Wood Duck Nest Boxes to the
Batchtown Sportsmen's Club**

Awarded two \$500.00 Scholarships

**Donated \$450.00 to the Wounded Warrior
Project**

**Donated 1 Wood Duck Nest Box to the Ducks
Unlimited Kansas City, MO Chapter**

**Sponsored Working Wildfowl 2013 Event
Audubon Society \$250.00**

**Donated and installed rollers at Hurricane
Island – over \$2,000.00**

**Sponsored Down Rivers Outdoors Celebrity
Youth Hunt \$500.00**

IFOR Affiliation \$750.00

**Donated 20 gun cases to Wounded Warriors
Event**

From the Otto Fischer Archives

My hunting partner was not alert this morning. When I backed the boat on the trailer into the water, I told him to unhook the boat from the trailer.

After I pulled the truck away from the landing, the boat stayed on the trailer but the trailer and the boat were in the water. What a night he must have had!

