



2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL 62002

---

**VOLUME 42 ISSUE 10**

**NOVEMBER 2012**

Rosi Franke, Editor

Tel: 618-396-2509

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



***Have a Safe and Happy Hunting Season!***

## MWHI OFFICERS 2012

### President

Scott Bryant  
618-535-0151 (cell)

### Vice-President

John Gineris  
Banquet Chairman  
618-786-2596

### Treasurer

Larry Franklin  
618-465-5686

### Membership Secretary

Mike Devening  
618-259-6181

### Correspondence Secretary

Craig Sondker  
COE Chairman  
618-593-8421

### Recording Secretary

Blaine Jones  
618-498-4724

## MWHI DIRECTORS

Bob Jones  
Area Projects Chairman  
IFOR Board Representative  
618-498-4724  
618-578-9547 (cell)

Eric Rhuede  
Wood Duck Nest Box Chairman  
618-410-9853

Leonard Jacoby  
618-570-1802

Dave Geisler  
Nilo Chairman  
618-576-9845

Justin Wolfe  
Carlyle Lake Area Projects Chairman  
618-377-0397

Brian Arnold  
618-535-9979

Shane DeSherlia  
618-639-0855 (home)  
618-946-4520 (cell)  
desherlia3@hotmail.com

Mike Arnold  
Refuge Chairman  
618-786-2300

Bob Schneider  
618-960-9906

Don Taul  
618-978-8285

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 7, 2013

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

Monday, February 4, 2013

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

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

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

Monday, March 4, 2013

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

**MWHI is getting a new website!  
Stay tuned for updates!**

**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.

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.

# Conservation Creed

By NICK DRAPER  
The Alton Telegraph | Posted: Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Scott Bryant of Eldred, president of the Migratory Waterfowl Hunters of Illinois and recipient of the Most Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award from the Department of Natural Resources, is finishing up the last year of his board presidency.

First assembled in 1970, the Alton-based group has consistently reached out to communities in an effort to preserve and protect the environment in addition to helping children learn about conservation.

"We want kids to have the same opportunities we had," Bryant said. "A lot of work and time is put in to help them learn."

Representatives of the hunters and anglers of Illinois, the group seeks to put an end to pollution and improve wildlife stocks.

"We have sustained thousands of dollars for habitat restoration for the Department of Natural Resources," Bryant said. "It's important to us."

With about 900 members, the group has put in a lot of hard work and time to make programs work. This year, for example, they assisted with the Two Rivers Family Fishing Fair at Pere Marquette State Park in Grafton.

The event included games, prizes, refreshments and a bluegill pond where children could fish. "About 2,600 kids caught bluegill this year," Bryant said. "Every kid that came caught a fish."

All of this would not have been possible without the roughly 200 hours of volunteer time that included set-up, working the booths, and other jobs to keep everything running. For the last three years the group has assisted with the program to help children learn about the outdoors.

Additionally, the group sponsors trap shooting teams, including two of Carrollton's trap teams and the Alton-Wood River sports trap team.

Some of the group's achievements include initiating safety duck blind inspections at Anderson Lake in Fulton County, lobbying to reinstate lease programs for waterfowl areas and initiating the Diamond/Godar Phase 2 Refuge Project.

Over its 43 years, the group has grown and received multiple awards including the NRA's President's Award, the Illinois Wildlife Federation's Most Outstanding Club Award and the National Wildlife Federation's Best Conservation Award.

During his nine years as president, Bryant has seen the group change and grow with pride. Working hand in hand with IDNR's director Mark Miller, Bryant and his group have done their best to protect wildlife.

"It's been my pleasure working in the area," Bryant said. "I'd like to thank the board of people that I have, 15 people. They've done a great job and have made it all possible."

The group extends an invitation to anyone who would be interested in joining. Membership registration is available online at [www.mwhi.org](http://www.mwhi.org) as well as a calendar of events.

"We encourage everybody to get involved," Bryant said. "One guy can make a difference if you work hard enough at it."



## *Congratulations, Scott!*

# A 'Good' Year or the 'Last Good' Year!

Duane Hahnenkamp

The 2012 Teal season came and went with most hunters at least killing some teal. I saw at least 2 flight days myself and missed 1 or 2 more. For the hunter who was able to go hunting a lot, this year finally turned out to be a pretty good teal season.

It's the first weekend in October and, as you know, the temperature has dropped again. The last two days, ice and some snow has hit the pothole region from Montana to Minnesota. All summer long we had heard how dry the pothole region was and I had hope that the leftover water from last year would carry the hatch over the hot summer. But the first hunting reports out of North Dakota tell how dry the areas are and how greatly things had changed in just 1 year. I heard of one group of hunters out there that shot 0 ducks on opening day. When they got to their favorite hunting areas on opening morning, all the sloughs were bone dry. I have hunted almost every year since 1997 in North Dakota and that is hard to believe. Many hunters are killing some ducks, but they had to work hard to find them and it didn't sound like it was great hunting. The few reports out of Canada talked about the geese starting to arrive but that most of the mallards were still north. The report everyone now is hoping for is that the snow front will push a big migration down. I guess by the time you read this we'll know if the record season is under way or not.

As I sit here the next couple weeks waiting for our season to start, I hope like most of you that our good year has finally arrived. With all the talk of a record fall flight and our areas having tons of feed this year, it sure looks like it could be our year.

My problem is that I'm already worrying about next year and how bad next year's season could be. If they don't get a lot of snow in the pothole country this winter, then things could start sliding downhill fast. Something like 2 million acres of CRP grassland is going to disappear just in the Dakotas. Do the math and you're probably talking a million less ducks next fall from the Dakotas alone. The standard farm practice in pothole country is to burn the cattails on a dry pothole after the crops are out and plow it under as soon as possible. If you've never seen a pothole burned, it looks like an atomic mushroom cloud and can be seen for miles around. One of the reports I read from North Dakota this week talked about seeing 10 to 15 slough fires a day. He said it reminded him of the oil fires during Desert Storm and he was afraid there wouldn't be a pothole left. When you consider the high grain prices we have today, you can bet that the drain tile machine won't be far behind either and that means lost forever.

When you put all these things together and add a stretch of dry years on top of that, things could get real bad. In a year or two we could be back to the conditions of the 1980's with a 3 duck limit and a 30 day season for a LONG TIME. If I sound like a dooms day sayer, I'm sorry and I do hope we all have a good season this fall. But without the CRP and the lost potholes next year, it is going to have to snow and rain an awful lot for us keep the kind of duck hunting we've got used to the last 15 years. Anyway, I hope you have a good season and we hope it's not the last. So remember the words that a Grafton duck hunter said during the bad years of the late 80's, "better kill what you can boys, for this may be the last of the Buffalo."

Good Luck

P.S. It's an election year, so vote like your job, your guns and your future depended on it because it just might!

## More Hunting Allowed

USFWS, Posted on October 5, 2012

If you are looking for a place to hunt these days, then search out a national wildlife refuge near you. Hunting opportunities are increasing at many NWRs.

As an example, for the first time, the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge in Michigan is open to hunting for migratory birds, upland game and big game, including deer.

In all, hunting activities have recently expanded at 16 refuges in 14 states.

Hunting, however, is not allowed on every refuge. Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (managers of the National Wildlife Refuge system) can permit hunting and fishing along with some other types of wildlife-dependent recreational uses where they are compatible with refuge purpose and mission. Hunting, within specified limits, is permitted on more than 300 national wildlife refuges. Fishing is permitted on more than 270 national wildlife refuges.

Visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuges> to locate a refuge. October 14-20, 2012 is National Wildlife Refuge Week. Even more reason to go hunting on a refuge during that period.

## **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

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

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

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

Illinois State Rifle Association **1-815-635-3198** [www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org)

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

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

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

**Sen. Kyle McCarter** – 51<sup>st</sup> District  
Tel: (217) 428-4068

**Sen. John O. Jones** – 54<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-242-9511 E-mail: [jojones@mvn.net](mailto:jojones@mvn.net)

**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)

**Sen. James F. Clayborne** – 57<sup>th</sup> District  
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)

**Rep. Jim Watson** – 97<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-243-6221 E-mail: [jimwatson@localnetco.com](mailto:jimwatson@localnetco.com)

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

**Rep. Wayne Rosenthal** – 98<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-324-5200

**Rep. Ron Stephens** – 102<sup>nd</sup> District  
Tel: 618-667-8669 E-mail: [stephens@apci.net](mailto:stephens@apci.net)

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

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

**Rep. Thomas Holbrook** – 113<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-394-2211 [tholbrook@housedems.state.il.us](mailto:tholbrook@housedems.state.il.us)

**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. Jerry F. Costello** - 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-233-8026 E-mail: [jfc.il12@mail.house.gov](mailto:jfc.il12@mail.house.gov)

**Rep. John Shimkus** - 19<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: **618-344-3065** E-mail: [house.gov/shimkus](mailto:house.gov/shimkus)

**Sen. Richard J. Durbin**  
Tel: 312-353-4952 E-mail: [dick@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:dick@durbin.senate.gov)

**Sen. Mark Kirk**  
.....



## **Legislation Update**

**John Popov**

I'll try to make this short. In a few days we will be voting for the future of our country. All gun owners know, I hope, we can be one Supreme Court justice away from loosing the Second Amendment. Think about it!

Our State Department is for a United Nations tax on U.S. citizens. The United Nations has a plan for a global government.

They have 12 principles to help achieve this. I wrote about this and reported on it a MWHI General Membership meeting. Please vote for the future of our country.

I have some good news. HR3594, the Second Amendment Protection Act that was drafted by Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and was introduced by Congressman Joe Walsh, if passed it would send the international anti-gunners back to square one.

It would be the first time that the United States House of Representatives has gone on record to withhold funding from the United Nations and prevent the U.S. from adopting any treaty that threatens national sovereignty or abridges the Second Amendment rights of Americans. It would also be a major blow to all the global gun ban people.

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

***VOTE***

***NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> !!***

***VOTE***

## 2013 Spring Turkey Applications IDNR 10/16/2012

RESIDENTS MAY START APPLYING TUESDAY OCTOBER 16 AND NON-RESIDENTS MAY START APPLYING TUESDAY DECEMBER 4.

YOUTH SPRING TURKEY SPECIAL HUNT AREA ONLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE JAN. 15—FEB. 18. COUNTYWIDE PERMITS GO ON SALE MARCH 5.

WHEN APPLYING ONLINE WITH A CREDIT CARD OR ELECTRONIC CHECK, YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION NUMBER SO YOU KNOW THAT YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

### FEES

#### RESIDENT FEES

SHOTGUN APPLICATION - \$15.00

#### NON-RESIDENT FEES

SHOTGUN APPLICATION - \$125.00

#### YOUTH FEES

SHOTGUN APPLICATION - \$10.00

### 2013 Spring Turkey

#### Season Dates

#### North Zone

1st Season: Monday, April 15– Friday, April 19  
2nd Season: Sat., April 20 – Thursday, April 25  
3rd Season: Friday, April 26 – Wednesday, May 1  
4th Season: Thursday, May 2 – Wed., May 8  
5th Season: Thursday, May 9 - Thursday, May 16

#### South Zone

1st Season: Monday, April 8 – Friday, April 12  
2nd Season: Sat., April 13 – Thursday, April 18  
3rd Season: Fri., April 19 – Wednesday, April 24  
4th Season: Thursday, April 25 – Wed., May 1  
5th Season: Thursday, May 2 – Thursday, May 9

#### 2013 Youth Spring Turkey Season Dates

#### North Zone

Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7

#### South Zone

Saturday, March 30 and Sunday, March 31

###

## Baiting Laws

IDNR News Release 8/29/2012

Dear Waterfowl Hunters:

Due to ongoing drought conditions in Illinois, some farmers are mowing or tilling their unharvested crop fields to collect crop insurance payments. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reminds hunters that the manipulation, including mowing or tilling, of unharvested crop fields is not a normal agricultural practice for waterfowl hunting purposes. The IDNR has received guidance on this issue from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal baiting laws still apply, even during times of drought.

Therefore, it is a violation of the baiting laws under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act if scattered grain is not totally removed 10 days prior to hunting. Hunters should familiarize themselves with baiting laws in Illinois. For more information on waterfowl baiting regulations, refer to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service website link regarding baiting regulations at <http://www.fws.gov/le/waterfowl-hunting-and-baiting.html>.

Questions regarding hunting crop fields mowed or tilled due to drought insurance claims;

1. If a standing grain crop is 100% void of any ears (corn field produced no ears), can the field be mowed then hunted? Yes, as long as there is no grain present in the field. A field that produces NO ears of corn will probably be a rare occurrence.
2. If a standing grain crop has any amount of grain present after it is mowed, can it be hunted? No, it is a "baited area" until 10 days after the complete removal of the grain.
3. Can a standing crop that was mowed be disked and made legal for hunting? The field can only be hunted after all exposed grain has been completely removed or buried for a period of 10 days. Hunters should keep in mind that if a dry field is tilled to the extent that no grain is visibly present, strong winds or the first rain is likely to wash off some covered grain, thus still making it a baited situation.

4. Why can a person not hunt over a mowed area? Under federal baiting regulations, mowing or tilling of a standing crop is not a "normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice" as determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service.

For questions about federal baiting regulations, please call 217-782-6431, Monday-Friday 8:30 am 4:30 pm.

###

# **THINK HARD BEFORE YOU VOTE**

by Don Bekeleski, Illinois State Rifle Association, 10/2/2012

The November elections will soon be upon us. I am not talking Republican or Democrat here. I want to talk about the Bill of Rights and freedom.

I have always said the party doesn't matter, but where the candidates stand does very much. There is a lot going on in this election. You name it from the debt to jobs to housing and much more. There is one thing that is very much in the balance here, including the keeping and cherishing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. On the federal level I am asking every gun owner to vote freedom first. The NRA has said it and I will too. Obama has to be defeated in order to keep the threat of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment from being abolished!

The following is a quote from NRA's Chris Cox: (Daily Caller—NRA sheet)  
"In the wake of a secret 1998 recording of then Illinois State Sen. Barack Obama pushing for, among other things, gun control, National Rifle Association chief lobbyist Chris W. Cox told The Daily Caller that President Obama opposes the Second Amendment, and will try to do whatever he can to limit firearm ownership in America."  
Sadly, this isn't surprising," Cox wrote in an email. "Barack Obama is and always has been anti-gun, anti-hunting and anti-self-defense. Anyone who has the audacity to claim that as president, Barack Obama has been pro-gun is intentionally ignoring the 800 lb. gorillas in the room – two lifetime appointments to the Supreme Court who will vote against the Second Amendment for generations, participation in the United Nations gun control treaty, and complicity in the deadly Fast and Furious scandal that will kill countless innocent Americans and Mexicans for decades. Freedom can't afford four more years of this hostile administration."  
(Daily Caller)

Obama has said he would have signed the U.N. Treaty, which would have basically abolished our 2nd Amendment. Just the fact that he 'said' he would sign it is beyond me how any American could support a man who has no respect for the Bill of rights. The U.N. has already started to draft a new treaty for fall and Canada has been the most outspoken country against it, stating ammo and civilian firearms should not be included. They didn't listen the first time & I doubt they will this time.

Senator Feinstein said she will introduce a new so called "assault weapons" ban and Obama has said he wants one too. He said weapons like the AK\_47 belong only in the hands of the military! Don't tell me there's nothing to worry about with this person in the White House!

He may very well appoint two or more justices to the Supreme court and the last two he appointed already voted against the McDonald case that established the individual right.

If that doesn't scare you, I don't know what will. Also because of no re-election for him he can stomp all over that right. That's my point on the federal level.

Now there are many others running for State and Federal Rep and Senate positions. This will take some effort on your part to check them out. The easiest way is to remember how they voted on conceal carry and other 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment legislation on the federal level.

If you are not sure check the ISRA site for ratings and the NRA political action site after Oct 5th and check people running in your district. The ratings will tell you! Also you can find your district for federal and state by going to the following address site and typing in your address:

<http://www.elections.state.il.us/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx>

<http://www.israfedpac.com/>

<http://www.nrapvf.org/>

If they have no answers for the person you are searching for, Google the candidate's name and get a headquarters phone number.

Then call and just ask what is his or her stance on conceal carry. Don't ask are they for or against it—just ask their stance on it so they don't know which side of the fence you are on. This is a very crucial and important time.

Here is where you get to do something very positive for or against a candidate. You get to vote!! Don't take that lightly. You get a chance to say yes or no to someone staying or getting in office.

All the complaining you have been doing about someone in office now turns into action! Now your say so matters a whole lot. You get to support the right person and oppose the wrong one.

You also need to inform your friends and fellow gun owners about the candidates. I have heard many gun owners in the past actually say they were voting for an anti-gunner because they were not aware of the person's stance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

Please don't throw this chance away. It only comes every couple of years.

Help yourself by voting and also help your friends get informed so they can help themselves and us!

This article is the opinion of the author and is not necessarily the official position of the ISRA.

###

## **Migration Alert: High Winds Should Push Some Waterfowl South Oct. 19 - Central Flyway**

*By David Draper, Field and Stream's Central Flyway  
Duck Reporter*

The wind is blowing a sustained 45 miles per hour outside right now, with gusts to 60. It's a day fit for neither man nor beast, but if you believe everything you read on the Internet, a mallard duck can travel 800 miles in eight hours with a 50 mph tailwind. That means I should be covered up in fresh migrators by morning. Sounds good in theory anyway.

When it comes to fact, the past two days of high winds will probably push some new birds down the Central Flyway from Montana and the Dakotas, but not as many as waterfowlers might think. Without snow or freezing temperatures, this front will most likely have most ducks hunkered down rather than winging their way south. As long as open water and abundant feed are still available and hunter pressure is low, ducks don't have a lot of motivation to migrate.

As this system moves east, winds are forecast to subside by the weekend, offering waterfowlers a respite just in time for some scheduled openers. In Nebraska, Zone 2 High and Low Plains units finally open on October 20, about two weeks later than normal. During a quick scouting mission Tuesday night, I saw only a few ducks along the North Platte River, though the majority were mallards. Other waterfowlers in the area are saying about the same. Trevor Sanders checked in and said hunting last Saturday in the Sandhills was notably slower than the previous week, with only a few hundred birds seen and just four added to the bird strap.

A bit farther south, on Colorado's Front Range, Avery Pro Staffer Vance Stolz says duck numbers there are on the rise. "[There's been a] notable increase on ducks this week," Stolz reported in an e-mail. "Mostly teal, mallards, pintails and widgeon. Increase in redheads in certain areas as well." He also noted the uptick in birds has also resulted in more success for local hunters who are lucky enough to have water to hunt.

David Williams of Choctaw, Oklahoma, say things are looking a little brighter there after rains last Friday and Saturday brought some much needed moisture to the area. The migration still hasn't made its way down there yet, but Williams did note that along with some small numbers of teal, a noticeable amount of wood ducks have made their way into the state.

###

## **PETA Urges People to Break the Law**

U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance, Posted on 10/11/ 2012

There was no denying that PETA opposes hunting. Now the animal rights group also is on record urging people to violate laws—make that hunter harassment laws.

In an October 9, 2012 blog posting, PETA urges its minions to: "Help counter the cruelty of hunting in your area: Post "No Hunting" signs on your land and that of sympathetic neighbors and friends, join or form a local anti-hunting group, protest organized hunts, and spread deer repellent or human hair (from barber shops) near hunting areas. Also, before supporting any wildlife or conservation group, make sure that it opposes hunting."

Fortunately for hunters, these tactics constitute hunter harassment, a practice that is illegal in all fifty states and also on federal land. The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA) championed the enactment of these laws during the 1980's and 1990's in response to a campaign entitled "Hints for Hunt Saboteurs" by the anti-hunting organization, Friends of Animals. The Sportsmen's Alliance also helped defend state hunter harassment laws in both Iowa and New Jersey courts when challenged by the anti-hunting lobby. The result has been protection for American sportsmen and women from the exact sort of thing being promoted by PETA.

"It may be hunter harassment in itself for PETA to be encouraging others to break the law," observed USSA president and CEO, Bud Pidgeon. "If indeed there are foolish people out there who follow the PETA directive to harass hunters, I would not be surprised to see the authors of this article charged as well as the perpetrators."

Hunters encountering protestors, deer repellent or other items placed in their hunting areas should immediately contact their local Conservation Officer (game warden) or local sheriff's department and report the violation.

### **Batchtown Boat Ramp**

Kim B Postlewait Site Superintendent III  
Mississippi River F & W Area

I got a call this morning from the engineering office, they were asking about the boat ramp for mortland hollow.

She told me the ramp had been advanced to #1 for boating projects. \$375,000+ but sounds like good news to me.

# Virus reduces deer population in northern Calhoun

Bob Crossen 10.12.12 Two Rivers Outdoors website

Hunters taking to the wooded areas in northern Calhoun County may find a smaller population of deer to hunt this season due to an outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease.

Tom Micetich, deer project manager for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, said the disease, a virus harbored in deer that generates a high fever, does not have any impact on humans, pets or livestock. The virus tends to be heavily localized, affecting pockets of the animals throughout the state.

"Sometimes in a county it only affects a farm or a single square-mile area, and the rest of the county is unaffected," Micetich said. "It's very rare for enough deer to die where we can actually see a measurable impact on the deer harvest on the county, let alone statewide."

Reports of deer affected by the virus have come from 76 counties in the state leading to 2,043 deer deaths, he added, saying that the worst cases have been seen in Michigan where more than 6,500 animals have died from epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD).

Lab results have indicated that EHD found in Cook County, which has the highest rate of deer deaths associated with the disease at 326, is the Type-6 variant, which first came to the Americas in 2006, Micetich said, adding the disease likely made its way to the continent by way of livestock transfers from Australia.

"This is the first major outbreak in America of Type-6," Micetich said. "It's been isolated throughout the entire Midwest and it's caused significant deer loss."

The disease creates in its victims a high fever, Micetich said, adding 181 reports of the disease occurred in Calhoun County. The fevers reach high enough temperatures that capillaries in the affected animal's organs begin to burst, and as a result, they are often found near water sources because they lose so much blood from the fever.

"It causes catastrophic organ failure," Micetich said, "and rather rapid death on those animals that die from it. Not all animals that get the virus will die. Some of them have a slight immunity."

Though the disease, which Micetich said shows up in Illinois annually, can cause internal damages to the deer, venison from deer that may have contracted EHD is not harmful to humans.

Micetich said livestock can occasionally contract the disease, but such animals generally have a high enough immune system to weather the fever as they take a break from feeding, adding reports in Missouri indicate animals have been contracting EHD Type-2 –the more common variant– and blue tongue in addition to the Type-6 outbreak.

Other wildlife generally are not affected by the disease, he said, adding possums will be happier due to an abundance of food as a result of the dying deer.

Hunters who happen to find sickly, dying or dead deer are encouraged to contact their local Department of Natural Resources office to report the death. Micetich said to include the number of animals found, the distance and direction of the animal to the nearest town in addition to the county and the sex of the deer, if possible.

When reporting, email is the best option, he said, adding to leave both a name and a phone number in case more information is necessary.

Data from the reports are used to inform hunters where the virus is more prevalent and the information is also used for the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife disease study, an annual study that tabulates the deaths of all wildlife in North America due to disease.

Micetich also warned hunters against taking the antlers from the dead animals because a permit is necessary to remove and keep them. If an individual is found with antlers and does not have a permit for them, they may be subject to arrest for illegal possession.

Contact Micetich at [tom.micetich@illinois.gov](mailto:tom.micetich@illinois.gov) or call (309)543-3316

# **Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. Seeks Scholarship Applicants**

*The mission of the MWHI is to encourage protection and restoration of waters, wildlife, forest and field; to work toward the elimination of pollution in all forms; to discourage unwise drainage of wetlands; to seek wise land and water use for migratory waterfowl hunting; to nurture and improve wildlife stocks; to restore and rehabilitate wildlife environment; to aid youths and adults, through conservation education, to recognize resource conservation as vital to the perpetuation of the sport of migratory waterfowl hunting.*

***Application Window: December 1, 2013 to March 1, 2013***

## **Eligibility:**

Applicants should be planning to attend college full-time at a two year/four year institution in 2013, and have interest in a Major in Biology, Science, Conservation, and/or related fields.

Applicants should complete the 'Scholarship Application' with a minimum two-page statement, regarding the topic of "Illinois' Waterfowl Hunting Heritage."

**For an application or for more information,  
please contact Rosi Franke at 618-396-2509**

## **The Pessimist and The Hunting Dog**

An avid duck hunter was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a dog that could actually walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would ever believe him.

He decided to try to break the news to a friend of his, the eternal pessimist who refused to be impressed with anything. This, surely, would impress him. He invited him to hunt with him and his new dog.

As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. They fired, and a duck fell. The dog responded and jumped into the water. The dog, however, did not sink but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird, never getting more than his paws wet. This continued all day long; each time a duck fell, the dog walked across the surface of the water to retrieve it.

The pessimist watched carefully, saw everything, but did not say a single word. On the drive home the hunter asked his friend, "Did you notice anything unusual about my new dog?"

"I sure did," responded the pessimist. "He can't swim."

## Bullet Tax Proposal Robs Chicago Sportsmen

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, October 19, 2012

Cook County, Illinois Board of Commissioners President Toni Preckwinkle is proposing a so-called "violence tax" in her budget plan for the County. The unjustified and ill-conceived attack includes a five-cent tax on every bullet and a \$25 tax on every firearm sold within the County. According to the Associated Press, the tax would be on gun dealers, rather than customers. Either way, sportsmen will pay a higher cost to hunt and shoot.

Under the proposal, some ammunition prices could see increases of more than 50 percent. A case of shotshells would cost an extra \$12.50 and a brick of .22 cartridges would go up a jaw-dropping \$25.

"The Commissioner claims to be worried about crime," said Evan Heusinkveld, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance director of state services.

"While this proposal does nothing to curb violence, it is government sanctioned robbery of law abiding sportsmen. Not to mention, it will run local gun stores out of business who won't be able to compete with prices in neighboring counties."

According to Commissioner Preckwinkle, no other county or city in the country taxes gun owners this way.

Sportsmen should contact the Cook County Board of Commissioners and ask them to protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners by voting against the bullet and firearm tax proposal.

## Illinois Department of Natural Resources Newsbits for October 2012

**Illinois Waterfowl Digest:** Review this season's Illinois waterfowl regulations with the *Illinois Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations* now available online on the IDNR website at this link: [www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/DigestWaterfowlHuntingRegulations.pdf](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/DigestWaterfowlHuntingRegulations.pdf)

**Upland Prospects:** For information on prospects for the 2012-13 pheasant, quail and rabbit seasons in Illinois, check the IDNR web site for the annual hunting prospects reports prepared by the IDNR Division of Wildlife Resources. The links to the reports are available through the IDNR web site at:

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/uplandgame/Pages/PheasantQuailAndRabbitAnnualStatusReports.aspx>

**ICF Quail Hunt:** The Illinois Conservation Foundation's annual Kim Presbrey Memorial Quail Hunt is scheduled for the Rend Lake Resort on Nov. 11-13. For more information, phone the ICF at 217-785-2003 or register online at [www.ilcf.org/events](http://www.ilcf.org/events).

### Hunters Reminded to Use Safe Practices in the Field this Fall Hunting Season

SPRINGFIELD, IL – With archery season just around the corner for fall deer and turkey hunting, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is reminding all hunters to make safety a top priority when in the field this year.

While hunting is one of the safest forms of outdoor recreation, thanks to the diligence of law abiding and safety-minded hunters, incidents do happen. Last year in Illinois, there were 26 hunting incidents, one of them fatal. There have been six hunting incidents reported in the state so far in 2012.

"Whether in a blind or a tree stand, it is crucial that hunters are acutely aware of their surroundings, including the locations of fellow hunters. Never take a shot without knowing what is beyond your target, and always be extremely careful when ascending or descending from a tree stand," said IDNR Director Marc Miller.

Of the 14 hunting-related incidents reported in 2011 that did not involve discharge of a firearm or bow, 13 of them were tree stand falls. When using a tree stand, hunters should use a full body safety harness (also known as a Fall Arrest System or FAS).

For more information on all Illinois hunting seasons, check the IDNR website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)



