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**Have a Great Season**



**and Happy Holidays**

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

Monday, January 8, 2007

### **MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 p.m

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

### **MWHI GENERAL MEETING**

at the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen Club  
in Godfrey, IL at 7:00 p.m

## **PLEASE VOTE**

**- the outcome of this election  
couldn't be more important to  
the future of your freedom to  
own a gun.**

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## **2006 – A Season to Remember** **Duane Hahnenkamp**

By the time you read this article, our duck season will be just starting and everyone will have fresh hopes of a great year with ducks just falling into their decoys.

It seems like every duck season is totally different than the year before when you look back at it at the end of each season. If it was mostly warm, the next one will be mostly cold. One year our areas have the duck feed available, and the next year there is none.

In 1999, the predictions were for a record mallard year and our high hopes were met with a warm year that gave us a poor season. The ducks that did come down came the last day of the season and the rest of the ducks stayed up in the Dakotas and Wisconsin for the winter. The next season saw the migration hit around the second week of November, and we froze up right after Thanksgiving. The hunting was great while it lasted, but after 3 weeks we were froze in.

This year the duck flight prediction is high and the refuges are in great shape. Just one look at Crull Impoundment and you know Stump Lake should hold some ducks.

John Mabery took Greg Franke and I on a tour of Swan Lake Refuge back in the middle of September. John and his people have done a great job this year even with the pump problems they had. The crop fields are all in good shape and Lower Swan has natural feed on over 50% of the lake.

There were thousands of teal and other ducks already using Lower Swan during the second week of teal season. Now it is the first week of October and since the last few weeks have been cool, the cold fronts have brought in a lot of the early ducks.

So far, things look too good to be true. Maybe this will be one of those years to remember, and I hope it will be that way for everyone.

By the time you read this, I hope your hunting is good and the ducks have not left. But, if you get a slow time out there, take a minute to think about what it all takes to have a good year – a good duck hatch and the right weather are the two main reasons. But there are other things that help bring it together, like a good refuge nearby that will hold ducks so that they don't migrate on through, and a well managed hunting area that has feed and plenty of water to draw the ducks to your blind. Finally, it helps to have a club like MWHI that will work with the people at the refuges and hunting areas.

The last couple of years have been tough in the wildlife business with budget cuts and layoffs in our state. While you are out there hunting, I hope you appreciate the fact that it takes more than a good hatch and good weather to make your season a good one.

To all of the duck hunters, MWHI members and all wildlife agencies involved, I hope it'll be a season to remember.

Good hunting.

### **Minnesota Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Report – 16 October 2006**

Most reports across the state indicated that duck hunting has remained fair to good in most regions of the state. As expected, hunting pressure also decreased in many areas last weekend as many hunters shifted their focus to pheasant hunting.

Many waterfowl surveys were cancelled this week due to inclement weather. In general, ring-necked duck abundance likely is at or near peak this week across the state. Some ring-necked ducks redistributed themselves on north central Minnesota lakes last weekend when many small and/or shallow lakes froze. Both scaup and mallard numbers have increased since last week. Many reports indicated that a diversity of different species were beginning to show up in hunters' bags over the weekend, indicating a fairly significant migration event triggered by last week's cold front.

## *Annual Refuge Tour of Two Rivers NWR – 2006*

Greg Franke

On September 18, 2006 Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Manager John Mabery and Staff Biologist Ken Dalrymple hosted MWHI Refuge Committeeman Duane Hahnenkamp and myself for the annual Swan Lake Refuge tour.

Our organization has long considered Swan Lake the centerpiece of the region in our quest to provide habitat for migrating ducks and geese at the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Swan Lake is key to success for waterfowl hunters utilizing the surrounding hunting areas. Therefore, it should come to no great surprise the interest MWHI has taken throughout the years toward the improvement of Swan Lake.

We began our tour just below the sand ridge adjacent to the visitors' center. Here I got my first glimpse of the new wildlife viewing blind, which was planned and constructed by the Refuge volunteer group 'Friends with Two Rivers Refuge' and to which MWHI is a participating partner.

I am happy to say, that along with the other partners, MWHI members devoted many hours and much sweat equity to this project. What started out as a plan to build a rustic little hide in the brush of a tree line resulted in a huge platform with ample room for an 8-10 individual viewers. The platform is complete with park bench and wheelchair ramp, all constructed of composite material sure to last a long time. Refuge staff is slated to remove some trees by the lake to improve the view shed.

Next we drove along the Calhoun side of the lake to check out the moist soil units (MSU). In all, Two Rivers Swan Lake division manages 600+ acres of MSU's. In the past, these MSU's depended on Lower Swan Lake for water.

The question asked by yours truly during the planning stages of Swan Lake Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project (HREP) was, 'how will Swan Lake MSU's get their charge of water during a Lower Swan Lake draw down?' At the time there was a lot of stammering and head scratching, but few answers to my query. In 2003, Ken Dalrymple came to work at Two Rivers and suggested some wells be installed to fix this problem.

Now, Swan Lake has three new wells, complete with pumps and power units that each provide up to 2,500gpm of water.

Well #1 supplies water to the Office MSU, the Duck Club MSU and Lower Calhoun MSU. By the way, Lower Calhoun MSU is part of a national shorebird study taking place in 2005 and 2006.

Well #2 feeds Upper Calhoun MSU, School House MSU and the Pecan Tree Unit (for the lack of a better name).

Well #3 supplies water to County Road MSU and Little Swan MSU. Some thought has gone into whether #3 might be utilized to flood Yorkie Nut MSU and portions of the field along the Ferry Road extending down to the wedge peninsula.

Duane and I both thought the MSU's looked great and in good order. It was clear that with the new wells comes the need for improved infrastructure to better accommodate existing MSU's and to provide levees, water control structures, ditching, piping and valves for expanding moist soil areas.

When asked about future plans for Swan Lake MSU's, John and Ken said that there were no future plans at this time and they were presently utilizing an adaptive management scheme to deal with the new MSU equipment.

Since I am a 'plan' guy, I am somewhat uneasy with a total adaptive management regime, although I agree adaptation is important to a large degree. Bottom line – Swan Lake MSU's were the bright spot of the tour.

John and Ken made it a point to stop in several locations along the south west side of the lake so Duane and I could get a bird's eye view of the vegetation growing along the drier edges of Lower Swan. In response to the semi-draw down of Lower Swan Lake, Ken estimated 500-800 acres of nut sedge, millet and arrowhead has been created, but John and Ken both admitted that the 2002 draw down saw a better vegetative response. I am yet to be convinced that the partial draw down has created 500 or more acres of good waterfowl food.

The water control structure at the mouth of Swan Lake has been widened to accommodate larger equipment. New stop logs and an improved handrail have also been added.

After passing over the structure and onto the spillway, we noted dead and dying Willow, Silver Maple and Cottonwood trees, some as tall as 12' along the entire length. John explained that the woody growth emerging through the rip rap over topping structure had been sprayed for control measures. We thought the trees had gotten somewhat out of hand and wondered what kind of problem this much obstruction might cause during a flood event. John wasn't sure if it was cause for concern.

The partial draw down of Lower Swan Lake had exposed enough mud to attract plenty of teal, pintails and Canada geese. We drove the entire length of the river levee past Lower Swan and Middle Swan to the dividing levee between Fuller Lake and the Refuge. Duane will attest to the fact that there was no lack of turkeys or deer along this stretch.

We made a U-turn at Fuller Lake and stopped back at the Middle Swan water control structure and pump site. This structure was also in an overhaul mode similar to the Lower Swan Lake unit. The stop logs were out allowing Middle Swan to equalize with the Illinois River. Middle Swan Lake was not drawn down this year in order to control Willow and Cottonwood encroachment and to provide fish habitat.

The pump on Middle Swan Lake has not been without problems. After two overhauls in as many years to correct a nagging oil use Caterpillar power unit has and was replaced with a new U.S. Fish and Wildlife

John pointed out four across Middle Swan Lake. water high in the lake, the Survey is attempting to of aquatic plants in the lake serve to protect the young kinds of carp that root through our back water areas, and nemesis to aquatic plants, the you big head carp fanatics, an over population of turtles culprit behind the failed Swan Lake.

The jury is still out on History Survey study work. attempted the same thing on unfortunately, all the plants

Traveling south, we Lower Swan pump site. You pump originally deleted from Knowing there was little to no without this piece of mounted a no holds barred retrofitted into the project. It

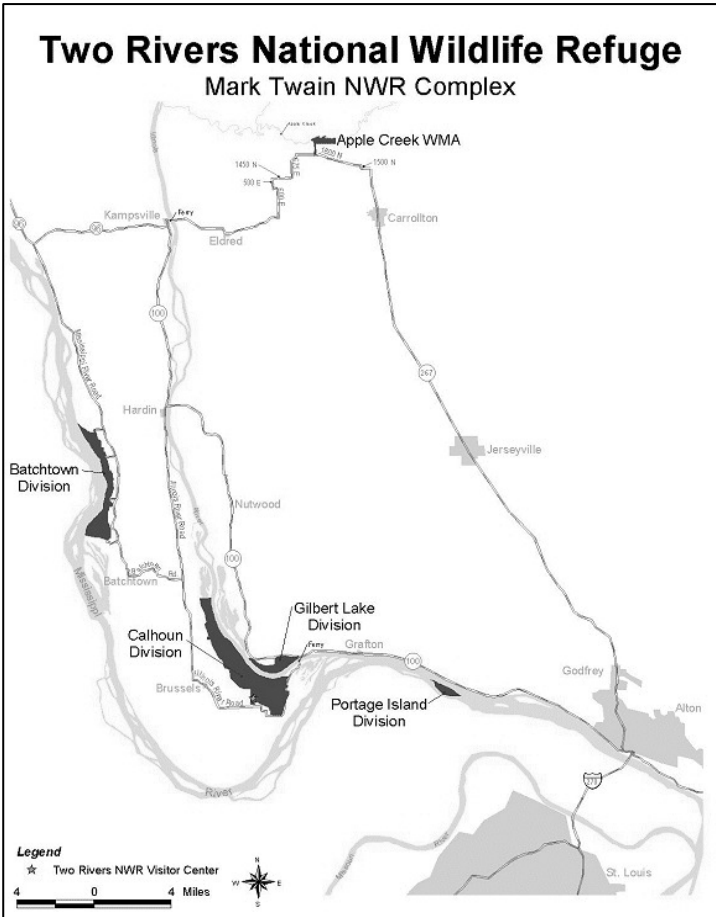
But this silver lining is not without some clouds. The Lower Swan Lake pump hasn't worked correctly from day one, and day one was four years ago. Now, four years later, the Lower Swan Lake pump was dusted off, started up, and guess what? It still doesn't work.

I spoke with St. Louis District Corps of Engineers EMP coordinator Mike Thompson about the problem after our tour. Mike was aware of the questionable history of the pump dating back four years to when the start button was first pressed. Both, Mike and John Mabery were around in 2002, and the history of the unit is documented. What troubles me is that four years and a botched draw down later, Lower Swan is still suffering a broken down pump. To date, a contract has been let to pull the unit. The COE seems to think that the pump may be okay. The general consensus of the handful of people I have spoken with and who have attempted to diagnose and remedy the problem, disagree.

So, to wrap things up for our Fall Swan Lake tour I will begin by repeating that I believe the MSU's were definitely the bright spot at Swan. With some planning and infrastructure improvements, they will get brighter yet. When the ducks are around, especially in the spring, they will be worthwhile to see.

The new wildlife viewing platform is all but complete and stands as a fine symbol of volunteerism. When given a chance to brain storm and cut through a little red tape, the public can get surprising results.

I wish I could say things are all nice and rosy and that Swan Lake has become the waterfowl horn of plenty the Miles Brueckner's, John Popov's and Greg Franke's have long envisioned, but, unfortunately, that is not the case.



problem, the been deemed a lemon John Deere engine. The Service paid the tab. wire mesh enclosures This year, with the Illinois Natural History establish several types bed. The enclosures plants from 14 different the shallows in all of another little known turtle. That's right, all some biologists believe may be the leading return of aquatics on

this year's Natural Last year they Lower Swan Lake and, died.

stopped back at the may recall, this was the the Swan Lake HREP. chance for success equipment, MWHI effort to have it was, and we were right.

Upland silt deposition is recognized as the #1 habitat killer at Swan, and as we all know silt is the death knell for all lakes and backwaters. The exterior levee at Swan Lake is curtailing the lion's share of silt entering the lake from the Illinois River. The problem is that 70% of Swan Lake silt is estimated to come from the hills. \$1 million was slated to cost share with private land owners within Swan Lake's watershed to stop silt from entering the lake. The silt is still coming and there is no plan to stop it.

Lower Swan Lake saw a fraction of a draw down in 2006 that created some moist soil plant habitat. Unfortunately, a main goal for Lower Swan and parts of Middle Swan as well, is propagation of aquatic plants, such as coon tail, sago pond weed, eelgrass and so on. To get aquatic plant response, a draw down adequate to firm up the silt substrata is required. We are nowhere close to achieving this at Lower Swan.

The pump hasn't worked since day one. Even

if it did, the silt load is such that a channel to move the most important final few inches of water from a very flat lake to the pump is non-existent.

Presently, there is no plan, nor money source, to remedy this management catch 22. So, for a while and more than likely a long while, Lower Swan Lake is doomed to half-measure management, similar to what was accomplished this year.

Finally, I spent a weekend in Minnesota this winter at a 'Friends of the Refuge' conference. I expected to see and hear about great things various volunteer groups were accomplishing toward upgrading habitat on our Nation's Refuges. Instead, I found how important kiosks and refuge book stores are to the USFWS. In other words, people management and eco-tourism has taken center stage. I can only hope we get our refuge habitat in place before we begin breaking ground for a book store.

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### **Wildlife Viewing Blind**

The wildlife viewing post at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge is nearly completed. The blind is 16 by 12 feet, includes windows at several different heights to allow visitors to look out at wildlife in all directions, and is handicapped accessible. The blind is located near the Refuge headquarters.



## **GUN LAWS COULD NOT PREVENT SCHOOL SHOOTING**

CCRKBA, October 3, 2006

In a remarkable moment of candor, Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell today acknowledged what the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has been saying for years: Stronger gun laws could not have prevented the horrible shooting yesterday at the Amish school in Lancaster County.

Rendell, a staunch gun control advocate, admitted, "I believe with all my heart that we need more gun control" during a live press conference. But he also acknowledged that tougher gun laws would not have prevented gunman Charles Carl Roberts IV from carrying out his deadly attack, noting, "You can make all the changes you want, but you can never stop a random act of violence by someone intent on taking his own life."

"Welcome to the party, Gov. Rendell," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "While the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence has been wringing its hands and declaring that 'somebody has got to do something,' we have consistently maintained that such crimes are impossible to predict, and equally impossible to prevent with passage of yet another gun law. And finally, Gov. Rendell agrees with us.

"The gunman had no criminal or mental health background," Gottlieb said, "so he would pass any criminal background check. His family and friends described him as a loving family man. Nobody saw this coming.

"This shooting, and the ones last week in Colorado and Wisconsin, and every school shooting in the past ten years all had one thing in common," he observed. "They all happened in so-called 'gun-free school zones,' where students and adult staff are essentially helpless.

"Gun control extremism has disarmed the wrong people and created risk-free environments for those who would commit murder and mayhem," Gottlieb said. "It is time to re-consider gun-free school zone laws and the zero-tolerance mentality such laws foster. We can no longer afford the empty-headed Utopian illusion that gun control and gun-free zones will keep children safe. Like all other gun control laws, this one has been a monumental failure, and it is literally killing our children. "If it saves the life of just one child," Gottlieb concluded, "abolishing such laws will be worth the effort."

## **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**

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**Barack Obama** – <http://obama.senate.gov>

**Shimkus** - <http://www.house.gov/shimkus>

# **2006 MWHI CATFISH TOURNAMENT TRAIL SUMMARY**

By: Justin Wolfe



First off, I just want to thank anyone and everyone who helped run these tournaments this year. I would also like to thank Bluff City Tackle, Cassens Bait Shop, & Clark Boat & Motor for their support. With that being said, I really owe everything to the cat fishing teams that showed up to the tournaments. Without these fishermen, there would have not been a MWHI tournament trail. If duck hunters could get along with each other as well as cat fishermen do, I think a lot of problems in the world of waterfowl could be solved.

A little info about the tournament before I go any further; all of the tournaments had a 5 fish limit, except the Classic it was a 2 fish limit. The daytime tournaments ran from 6am to 3pm and the night tournaments from 6pm to 6am. The top 2 teams from each tournament would be qualified to fish the Cabela's King Kat Classic on Pickwick & Wilson lakes in Sheffield, Alabama October, 13&14. The top 10 teams from each tournament would qualify to fish the MWHI Classic on September 23 in Alton, IL.

The first tournament was held on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Alton. With this tournament occurring about two weeks after the Bass Pro Shops catfish trail had made a stop in Alton, I was hoping that the hype would carry over to our tournament. It did locally and we had nice turn out of about 20 boats. The bite was still on, but the elements above the waterline were not as friendly with 15-20mph north winds and temps around the 40's. Here are the results: 1<sup>st</sup> Bill Parfitt & John Rath 109.4lbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Ingersoll & Ron Mohan 69.2lbs, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Phillips & Collin Overmeyer.

The second tournament was held on April 29<sup>th</sup> in Alton. This tournament's weather conditions were just about the same with the addition of spotty rain showers. This tournament was our second lowest turn out with only ten boats. A bright spot about this tournament was us local cat fishermen were about to be introduced to a one man cat fishing machine named Danny Salfen from Foristelle Mo. This one man team was about to go on a three month cat fishing tournament run of a lifetime! Here are the results from that tournament: 1<sup>st</sup> Danny Salfen 115.7lbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Parks & Steve Mead & Jacob Parks (under 16) 73.1lbs, 3<sup>rd</sup> Collin Overmeyer & Jeff Niehous 68.0lbs.

In the third tournament, which was also held at Alton, fishing conditions could have not been better as water temperature, river current, & weather were all perfect for cat fishing. This tournament produced some the biggest fish of the tournament trail: 40s, 50s, & 60s, were common on this day of fishing. Remember the name Danny Salfen; I know the team of Robert Phillips & Collin Overmeyer will never forget it. This team had their five fish limit early with one fish over 50lbs. They came to the weigh-in line early thinking they had it in the bag, after they weighed their fish they had a total weight of 163.6lbs. On any other day that's a 1<sup>st</sup> place weigh-in, but not this day. One team still had not weighed in. As time ticked away, Collin & Robert still held the 1<sup>st</sup> place position. Danny Salfen was one of the last to weigh in and did he ever. I can still remember what Robert said when Danny pulled his first two fish from his live well, "looks like we're taking home 2<sup>nd</sup> place today". Danny's fish were so big, it took two tubs to weigh them. His first two fish weighed 120 plus lbs and he still had three more fish to weigh. After everything was said & done, Danny Salfen had a total of 234.0lbs for 1<sup>st</sup>, Collin Overmeyer & Robert Phillips had 163.6lbs for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the team of Norman Campbell & Danny Flournoy had 69.4lbs well enough for 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The fourth tournament of the year was the first night tournament held at Alton from 6pm to 6am. Let's think about this for a minute, a twelve hour fishing tournament is the iron man of fishing tournaments. You been up all day getting your honey dues done, making last minute equipment checks, & going over your team's game plan a hundred times in your head. Now lets go fishing for twelve hours on the river! I think cat fisherman rank up there with duck hunters. About the tournament, conditions on the river that night were not as favorable to the teams as the May tournament was. The water level dropped, current was slow, but the weather was nice. There were twenty teams signed up for the event and Danny Salfen was one of the twenty. Danny ended up taking 1<sup>st</sup> with 103.4lbs, Norman Campbell & Danny Flourney took home 2<sup>nd</sup> with 62.2lbs, and Tyrone Buckner & Don Riley finish 3<sup>rd</sup> with 56.3lbs.

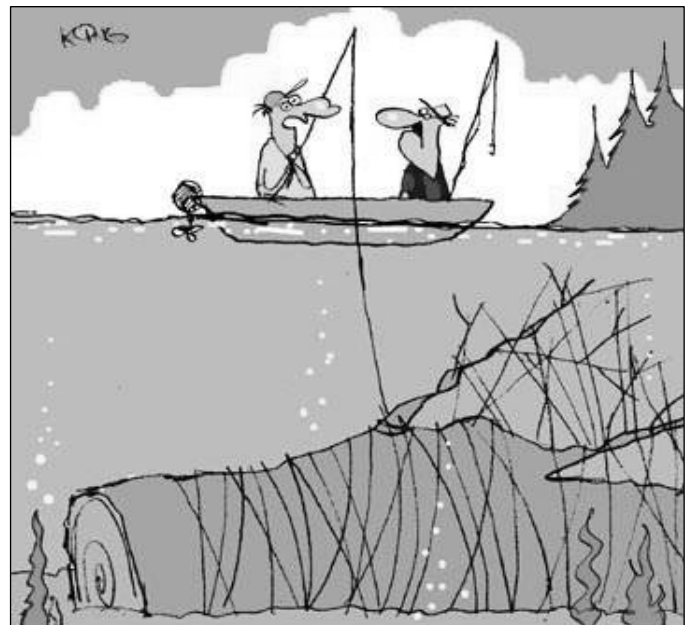


Carlyle Lake was the site for the 5<sup>th</sup> tournament on the schedule and the second night event. This tournament was the low point of the year there only 6 teams signed up and the conditions could have not been any worse. The bite was almost none existence and bad thunder storms were rolling through the south. Both of these factors, I think, had something to do with the turn out. The results were 1<sup>st</sup> Rick Smith & Ja Schulte 13.3lbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mat Wolfe & Collin Overmeyer 4.0lbs, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bubba Barnhart & Glenn Cole with 2.2lbs. Next year there will be changes to the Carlyle event so I hope we can improve on the turn out.

Number 6 and the final tournament before the Classic was held at the historic river town of Grafton. This was the last chance to qualify for the Cabela's King Kat Classic & MWHI Classic. We were hoping for a large turn out and we did with the largest field of the year of 23 boats. After talking with a lot of competitors about where they planned on fishing, most of them said they were driving back down to Alton or St. Louis to fish. I kind of figured that's what most were going to do. The river conditions seemed to be stable for this night event and the word was "the bite is good" from one team I talked to. The weather was a concern for ones who don't like being wet. The rain did stay away for the most part, except during the weigh in. It rained for about 20 minutes, other than that this tournament was a success. The results were Mike Weathers & Craig Baalman coming in 1<sup>st</sup> with 141.1lbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Tyrone Buckner & John Riley with 86.8lbs, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Robert Phillips & Norman Campbell with 70.2lbs and 4<sup>th</sup> place Allen Aligholi & Chris Spay with 66.6lbs.

The MWHI Classic was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> in Alton. Over 70 anglers were qualified to fish the event and we ended up having 17 teams show up, which was half of the qualified field. Up for grabs was over \$500 in prizes, which came from the 10% taken from entry fees at the qualifying tournaments and over \$1000 in prize money from entrees that day. Some of the top prizes were: a 3 bank on board charger donated by Clark Boat & Motor, fishing line, circle hooks, & lead weights were donated by Bluff City Tackle, and Cassens Bait shop donated a large landing net. As a large crowd gathered, boats began to line up to weigh in. That morning, it was agreed by the anglers that the Classic would be a 2 fish limit. This is so they wouldn't have to worry about baby sitting their fish all day and could focus on fishing. Again, the weather was going to play a big part in game planning for this tournament as bad storms were rolling through the area the night before and there was 50% chance of thunder storms that day. Most of this weather stayed to the south of St. Louis, which kept most anglers dry and safe. The results were going to be interesting with a two fish limit. This gives anyone a chance to take home the crown with just one big fish. Anyone pre-fishing, catching 10&20 pounders would have to hope that no one would hook into that 50 or 60 pound fish. Its kind of funny, I say that because Jason Hall & John Behitler did just that by catching a 55.6lb Blue to go along with their smaller 14.0 lb blue cat. This made them the winners of the first ever MWHI Classic Catfish tournament with a total weight of 69.6 lbs. Their 55.6 lb also held on for big fish of the tournament giving them over \$800 in prize money for the day. Coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place was the team of Tyrone Buckner & Kevin Cadwallader with 46.7 lbs, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Mat Wolfe and me, Justin Wolfe with 41.9 lbs.

I just want to thank anyone and everyone again for all the help at the weigh-ins. If anyone would be interested in helping out next year please contact me @ (618)377-0397 or if you have any ideas on how to improve this tournament trail. I am also looking for sponsors for next year's trail so if you are or you know someone that is, please contact me. Just remember, "Let'em work" and have a safe duck season. Oh yeah one more thing, don't forget to check out migratory waterfowl hunters new web site @ mwhi.org.



***"I can't cut this line, it's too expensive. Besides, my experience as a top-notch fisherman tells me it's only a small snag."***

## Letters to the Editor

e-mail from Mike Wittich 10/6/2006

I would like to comment on the E mail in the last SENTRY from a fellow MWHI member about Missouri denying duck hunting permits at Missouri state managed duck hunting areas to non-residents. While the change is opposed by a lot of Missouri residents it has not shut out non-residents from drawing for a blind at these areas but it has stopped issuing permits. Being a non-resident I know how it feels to be a second hand citizen paying top prices .I am very much opposed to this change and have expressed my opinion to Mr. Bill Heatherly (waterfowl management) in Jefferson City 573 522-4115,ext 3262.I hope everyone calls him and lets him know how they feel.

If Ill. wants to retaliate then it plays into the hands of the people that want to divide us.

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e-mail from Mike Wittich to Ken Drenon MO Department of Conservation

I am a resident of Missouri but I do not agree with the change in the permit system that prevents non-residents from getting permits to hunt waterfowl in Mo. state managed areas. I hunt in IL. and Mo. For waterfowl and believe that we should let non-residents have this privilege also so long as there is room for all of us .If we stop issuing them permits and IL. wont issue permits to us then what changes when I am forced to hunt Mo. waterfowl and IL. is forced to hunt only in IL. Aren't the numbers going to be the same when that 20% of IL. residents stay in IL. and 20% of us that hunt IL. are forced to only hunt in Mo?

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e-mail from Ken Drenon Mo Department of Conservation to Mike Wittich

Thanks for taking the time to express your views on this matter. Can't say that MDC will be able to do as you suggest but will share your message with the appropriate staff and I know your concerns will get careful consideration.

If everyone, on both sides of the state line, felt as you do we probably wouldn't have a problem.

We appreciate your interest in conservation.

Ken Drenon

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## HIP INFORMATION:

"All licensed hunters must answer the HIP survey questions (National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program) if they intend to hunt migratory birds (doves, ducks, geese, snipe, woodcock, coots or rails).

**There is a new way to obtain a HIP certification this year.** Ask for the HIP Certification when purchasing your hunting or sportsman's license. If your hunting license prints out with the 901 HIP Survey or 901 HIP Certification, you are registered with HIP and do not need to phone in or do anything else. **If, and only if you buy your hunting license and do not get a 901 code on your license and decide later to hunt migratory game birds listed above you can get HIP certified via one of 3 methods listed below:**

1. Preferred method, free of charge is to return to any license vendor and give them your IDNR customer number and ask for the 901 HIP Certification privilege.
2. Go online to the [DNR Direct website](#) listed and register for HIP. You will then need to print out the privilege which should have your name and address and 901 HIP Certified listed on the document. There is a \$1.03 convenience fee for online registration payable by credit card. \*\*For Hunters who want to get registered for HIP via this method click this [online site](#).
3. Call 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648) and ask for the 901 HIP Certification. You will have to pay a \$3.08 convenience fee via credit card or check over the phone. Since you will not get any paper copy of this transaction over the phone, you need to write down your transaction number and keep it with you while hunting migratory game birds to show a Conservation Police Officer evidence that you are registered with the HIP program.

Lifetime license holders are exempt from registering with HIP and do not need any documents other than the lifetime license.

**DO NOT CALL THE OLD 1-800-WETLAND NUMBER SINCE ILLINOIS NO LONGER USES THIS NUMBER.**

If you have questions please call IDNR Licensing at 1-217-782-2965.

### IDNR News Bits 10/18

**Late-Winter Deer Season:** Permit applications are now available for the Illinois Late-Winter Antlerless-Only Firearm Deer Season scheduled for Jan. 12-14, 2007. Permit applications for the Late-Winter season must be submitted no later than Nov. 14. Counties that will be open for the Late-Winter season are: Adams, Bond, Brown, Bureau, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Crawford, Cumberland, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jersey, Jo Daviess, Johnson, Knox, LaSalle, Lawrence, Lee, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Massac, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Peoria, Perry, Pike, Randolph, Richland, Rock Island, Saline, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, St. Clair, Stephenson, Tazewell, Union, Vermilion, Wabash, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Whiteside, and Williamson. For a copy of the permit application, go to the IDNR web site at <http://dnr.state.il.us>.