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**Coming Soon ....**



***MWHI's very own website...***

*Watch upcoming Sentry issues for more information*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, July 10, 2006

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

Saturday, August 5, 2006

**MWHI 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**  
at Wolves Crossing, Jerseyville, IL  
For more information, call Eric Rhuede at 618-410-9853  
Also see page 18

Monday, August 7, 2006

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

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

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

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Statements and opinions expressed in the *Sentry* are those of the individual and do not necessarily represent the views of Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. Officers, Directors, Advisors, Members or the Editor. The appearance of an ad in this newsletter does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of a product or service. We encourage our members to take note of those businesses advertising in our newsletter and shop with them when they are in the market for their product or services.

**Frogs: A reminder that the Illinois bullfrog season is June 15-Aug. 31. A sport fishing license is required to take bullfrogs. The daily limit is eight frogs with a possession limit of 16.**



## **POLITICAL DUCK HUNTING**

**Duane Hahnenkamp**

Political duck hunting is a phrase I heard the other day while talking to some other duck hunters. I believe the hunter was trying to say something about being politically correct when duck hunting, which is how I took it. However, the phrase 'political duck hunting' sounds like something that a person would do in the game of politics.

Later I got to thinking again about this phrase the duck hunter used. The more I thought about it, the more sense it made when talking about the duck hunting seasons in the State of Illinois.

It seems biology has taken a back seat when hunting seasons and other wildlife programs are being decided. I know politics are everywhere, but now it seems playing the political game is the only way to get anything done. No one seems to want to listen to the recommendations of wildlife biologists or any other longtime and experienced person from the IDNR anymore.

To set the duck season dates, let's just call our state senators and tell them what we would like. To set the bag limits, let's just call your state congressmen. This

way, we could save all kinds of money by cutting out the middleman.

Do I sound that far off the wall or is it really that bad out there? We elected these people to pass laws to protect us and our rights. But, instead, now they got their noses in everything else, including our duck seasons.

Just think, we could do away with the IDNR, Agriculture Department, Labor Department, the Education Department and all kinds of state agencies because we don't need them anymore. We have our politicians and they have a better way to get things done. Yes, sir, just call your senator or representative and tell them what you would like to see done in Illinois. Really, how does that sound to you?

Do we want someone who went to college, had training and experience to make decisions regarding our seasons, or do we want to turn it over to the person who won the election because he could outtalk the loser?



### **MWHI Life Member**

***Leto Metz***

**passed away at the age of 74 on Sunday, June 4, 2006 at his residence in South Roxana.**

**He was the son of Leto L. and Kate (Schmidt) Metz and was born March 12, 1932, in Edwardsville.**

**The owner of Wood River Landscaping for 42 years, Leto retired in 1997. He was a MWHI life member and advertised in our newsletter since it was first published, 36 years ago.**

**Our thoughts and prayers are his wife Jeanne and his family.**

## **US Fish and Wildlife Service** **Waterfowl Conditions 2006: "Average Duck Year" Expected**

Although duck population estimate statistics won't be available until early July, U.S. Fish & Wildlife officials are saying that preliminary results from an aerial survey of waterfowl and wetland habitats suggest an "average year" for waterfowl production conditions, which will "not be a whole lot different than last year."

More detailed information on the outlook for the 2006-2007 waterfowl season will be forthcoming over the next 30-60 days as waterfowl biologists analyze population data, which will ultimately be used by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in partnership with state representatives from the four flyways to establish regulatory frameworks on waterfowl hunting season lengths, dates and bag limits.

### **Current Habitat Condition Status**

- **North Dakota:** Conditions in North Dakota are slightly better than last year; wetland conditions in southeastern North Dakota were good to excellent, as was water abundance in northern North Dakota from the Turtle Mountains east to Minnesota. Conditions generally were fair to good across the eastern fifth of North Dakota; conditions in central North Dakota are fair to poor.
- **South Dakota:** Wetlands between U.S. Highway 281 and the Missouri River are in fair to poor condition. The best wetland habitat is in the far northeast, adjacent to the favorable conditions in southeastern North Dakota.
- **Minnesota:** Duck numbers are expected to down from last year, although wetland conditions are said to be variable. Parts of southern Minnesota had good rainfall in April, which contributed to more temporary wetlands, but the number of seasonal to semi-permanent wetlands will be down from last year.
- **Canada:** Wetland conditions in Saskatchewan, Alberta and parts of Manitoba are improved from last year. That should bode well for ducks in those key waterfowl-producing provinces.

### **Canada Geese: Breeding Ground Report** **Submitted by George Hamilton 6/16/2006**

Good news for the Mississippi Flyway Canada goose hunters. This year's survey of the Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) of Canada geese shows a dramatic rise. In fact, the survey shows breeding populations at their highest levels since 1999. This year's breeding population count stands at 384,353 as compared to 344,907 for 2005.

News from the waterfowl breeding grounds is mixed, but overall appears positive. Wetland conditions in some key portions of the Dakotas have suffered from an extended dry spell, but many portions of the 'Canadian Duck Factory' are reporting good to excellent habitat conditions.

In other portions of the US, habitat conditions have been good to very good throughout much of the Great Lakes region and portions of the Upper Mississippi River Valley.

By the forth of July holiday the first surveys should become available, providing a more detailed look at habitat conditions and breeding bird counts in various states and provinces. Until then, keep your fingers crossed, but so far it's looking good for the 2006-2007 season.

## U.N. INSULT TO CONSTITUTION

### A GOOD REASON TO HALT U.S. FUNDING, SAYS SAF

SAF News Release 6/19/2006

BELLEVUE, WA – In what can only be a carefully-timed, deliberate insult to the United States and its Constitution, the United Nations is hosting a conference on global gun control aimed directly at our Second Amendment, on dates that include our national holiday, July 4.

The U.N. Conference on Global Gun Control, scheduled June 24-July 7, poses a direct threat to our constitutionally-protected individual right to keep and bear arms, said Alan Gottlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF). Gottlieb will attend the conference, but he suggests that this may be an opportune time for Congress and the White House to reconsider this nation's level of financial support for an international organization that now wants to write a treaty that specifically attacks a cornerstone of our federal constitution, and the lynchpin to our liberty.

“Had it not been for our tradition of private firearms ownership,” Gottlieb stated, “our citizens might still be subjects of the queen. Had it not been for America, all of Europe might be speaking German. Were America not the ‘great arsenal of democracy’ that President Franklin D. Roosevelt described in 1940, the world would be a far different place, and the sanctimonious bureaucrats at the U.N. might instead be working in labor camps.

“Not once, but twice in the past century, American citizens have risen to the challenge and quite literally saved the world,” Gottlieb recalled. “From our heartland have come heroes like Alvin York, Audie Murphy, Joe Foss and others who grew up in a land of freedom and knew what it took to defend that birthright.

“Yet, as we celebrate our 230th anniversary, global anti-gunners, under the guise of reviewing a U.N. program of action on small arms and light weapons, want to create a binding international agreement that could supersede our laws and constitution,” Gottlieb said. “We have done much for the U.N. and in return, the organization has hosted despots, tyrants and dictators whose record of human rights abuses, aggression and genocide speaks for itself. And now comes an attack on our constitution, on our national holiday.

“America has always answered the call to help our international friends and neighbors,” Gottlieb observed, “but when our very way of life is attacked, maybe it is time to find more worthy endeavors for our material and financial support.”

###

## **NRA Warns Of U.N Gun Control**

**NRA News Release 6/16/2006**

An American delegation will participate in a controversial United Nations conference later this month, which is being criticized by Second Amendment advocates as a threat to U.S. gun ownership. As reported yesterday, the *U.N. Review Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Their Ammunition* will be held in New York City June 26th to July 7th to "discuss illegal trafficking in arms, ineffective national controls and related issues."

The NRA is expressing the following concerns related to this conference:

- Although central to the U.N.'s disarmament effort is a program to buy back weapons in nations torn by civil strife, NRA Vice President Wayne LaPierre contends that the U.N. is concerned about more than illicit arms in African hot spots and that "the global body wants the firearms of American citizens"
- According to LaPierre, the U.N. plans can find their way into America in one of several ways. A treaty would require approval by two thirds of the Senate. An international agreement, however, is a lower hurdle, requiring only a simple majority. But, if neither of those succeeds, much of the U.N. plan can be implemented through executive agreement—the President putting policy to work through his agency heads.
- The NRA's message remains that gun owners should stay vigilant about the U.N. The NRA is urging its members to contact Congress, the administration, and the State Department before and during the U.N.'s conference.

Following is a link to the official U.N. conference web-site: <http://www.un.org/events/smallarms2006/index.html>

##

## ***Things That Bug Me***

**by Don Bekeleski, ISRA, 5/1/2006**

I wanted to write an article about some things that really bother me and may disturb you too. So excuse me if I vent.

### **1. CPOs**

I have a person I know that attends our Friends of NRA Dinner every year. He is a real likeable guy and friendly. He was hunting this past winter and was approached by a Conservation Police Officer (CPO). The officer asked him for his written permission slip. This man did not have a written permission slip, but did have permission to hunt the property. As a result, the CPO wrote him a ticket. He was caught again by the same officer a week later and received another ticket for the same offense. He brought an affidavit to his court date (notarized) from the owner that he had permission. The judge said he would have to bring the owner to court!

On his second appearance he did bring the owner to court. The owner testified that the man had permission to hunt his land. The judge said that that was probably true, but he should have had the slip to begin with and fined him \$135.00 for each ticket. He fined his son who was hunting with him \$125.00 and put his son on a one year probation. Two weeks later he received a letter from the DNR telling him they were suspending his hunting privileges for 18 months because of the points from his two violations. What's wrong with this picture?

Here's what's wrong: Now the real kicker is in the book Conservation Law which most of you do not see, unless you purchase it and update it every year with the changes. It is the book the CPOs go by. It states right there in black and white that this violation can be negated by the owner (which it was). It also says the officer cannot enforce this written permission violation unless the tenant or landowner has filed a complaint (which he didn't)! I wish we could regard these CPOs as helpful and fair officers of the law, instead of someone who is jumping at the chance to write you a ticket because your hat is on crooked! This only causes the good hunter to lose respect for and wonder if these people are really on our side.

### **2. Chicago Gun Registration**

Some of you may not know the horror gun owners in the city have to put up with. Not all the gun owners in Chicago vote for Daley. Those that do vote for him deserve this hassle. Those who vote against him, but have to live there for many varied reasons, are the people we should all feel sorry for.

Each year (yes once a year) they have to register all their guns to be legal in the city. Contrary to what you have heard, they may own a handgun if it was grandfathered in before the change [i.e. before 1982] and it was registered every year since. They won't however register any new handguns, so thereby it makes these illegal to have in the city. First of all they have to pay a fee to register. \$20.00 for one gun. \$25.00 for 2-10 guns and \$35.00 for more than 10 firearms. A separate application is needed for each firearm. Each application has to be notarized (this also adds a cost).

Two passport photos have to be submitted for each firearm (8 guns = 16 photos). Three of these photos cost about \$10.00 at Wal-Mart, they are not cheap! If you do not have a driver's license, proof of adequate vision 20/40 with a certificate from your ophthalmologist is needed. (Wonder what that costs?) Next the date the gun was acquired and whom was it acquired from.

Then there are the questions about the firearm:

Rifles-----type of action? Does it have a telescoping folding stock? Does it have a pistol grip that protrudes? Does it have a bayonet mount? Does it have a flash suppressor or barrel w/ a threaded muzzle? Is your rifle a grenade launcher?

Handguns---Does it have an ammunition magazine that attaches to the outside of the grip? Does it have a threaded muzzle? Does it have a manufactured weight of 50 oz. or more when unloaded? Does it have a shroud that allows the shooter to hold the firearm with the non-trigger hand without being burned? Is it a semi-automatic version of an automatic firearm?

Shotgun---Type? Does it have a folding or telescopic stock? Does it have a pistol grip that protrudes? Does it have a fixed magazine capacity in excess of 5 rounds? Does it have the ability to accept a detachable magazine?

Total tally for 8 guns equals about \$63.00 –not counting doctor’s note. I wonder how Thomas Jefferson would react to Daley telling him that he is charging people money to keep a firearm in their home?

So when Daley talks about gun registration for the state of Illinois you now have an idea of what he wants from you! Like I said there are a lot of gun owners in the city who would never vote for him and they do need help through legislation.

### **3. Orange Hat Law**

Now I agree that wearing an orange hat while upland game hunting is a good thing and a good safety factor. I have one problem with it, which I believe needs to be corrected! Waterfowl hunters hunting in fields have a right to take a pheasant in season (as long as they have a habitat stamp). Say a duck hunter goes to fix a decoy and a pheasant pops up. If he shoots that bird without an orange hat or cannot show an orange hat in his possession when he comes out of the field guess what? It’s time for our good old CPOs to make some more money on a technicality! There needs to be an exception in the law for waterfowl hunters hunting in fields that are not actually walking fields for upland game. This is one complaint I hear all the time from guys I know that hunt waterfowl this way. If a person rolls a strike hurray for him, but don’t penalize him because he didn’t have a bowling shirt on at the time!

The goose season was another hassle I was going to write about with its –punch a card before you pick up the bird—call it in--- are you in a quota zone? You know what? It’s too easy to get fined on a technicality while goose hunting, so a lot of people I know just quit hunting them. I understand that this will change for the upcoming season—thank God. Maybe now we can enjoy goose hunting again without the entire hassle.

I hope you didn’t mind the long article. I usually try to keep them short and to the point, but I wanted you to know some truths that maybe you were not aware of. I hope I’ve raised some thoughts for you to ponder.

###

**Dear Fellow Gun Rights Activist,**

**I would like to personally invite you to our 21st annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC), which will be taking place September 22, 23 and 24, 2006 at the Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina.**

**With the new battles over individual rights in the age of terrorism, attacks on our gun rights from the UN as well as a number of Second Amendment cases in the courts, the theme of Victory in Sight is most important as we set the pro-gun rights agenda for the year to come.**

**This year GRPC will be action-packed. With over 50 speakers hand-picked from the leadership of the Gun Rights Movement, the topics to be presented promise to have an impact that will help direct the path of our cause for years to come. Scheduled speakers this year include: myself, Joe Tartaro, Wayne LaPierre, Sandy Froman, John Lott, Massad Ayoob, David Kopel, John Snyder, Joe Waldron, as well as staff from the Second Amendment Foundation, Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, KeepAndBearArms.com, and Gun Owners of America. A number of elected political leaders have been invited as well.**

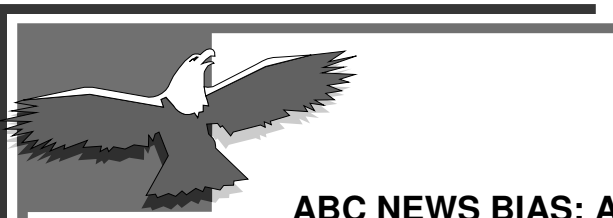
**As in the past, the Second Amendment Foundation will not only pick up the tab for lunch and snacks, but will also provide more than \$125 worth of vital pro-gun rights materials to each attendee.**

**In addition to the luncheon and free materials, you will have the opportunity to chat with the speakers at the two evening NSSF and NRA planned receptions.**

**This event is so important to our cause, that the SAF Board of Trustees has elected to help underwrite the entire cost of the event. Your cost to attend this event is absolutely free!**

**Because of the number of people who travel every year to attend this event, I have negotiated a special discount room rate for GRPC attendees. Reservations for the special discounted room (suite) rate of \$99 per night can be made by calling 1-800-HOTELS-1 (1-800-468-3571), and telling them you are planning on attending the Gun Rights Policy Conference.**

**If you have any questions, please call the SAF office at (425) 454-7012 to register. You can also register online at our [GRPC Registration & Information Page](#), or send an e-mail to [grpc2006@saf.org](mailto:grpc2006@saf.org), or fax us at 425-451-3959.**



## **ABC NEWS BIAS: ASSIGNS ANTI-GUNNER ON STAFF TO COVER GUN ISSUES**

SAF News Release 5/25/2006

BELLEVUE, WA – It looks like ABC News has no problem at all with the appearance of bias, now that they've assigned a reporter who used to work for Handgun Control, Inc. to cover firearms-related stories, the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) said today.

Washington correspondent Jake Tapper once worked for Handgun Control, according to a piece he wrote when he worked for Salon News. His obvious bias greatly alarms SAF founder Alan M. Gottlieb.

"This is the same ABC News that rushed to the air this week to report that Republican House Speaker Denny Hastert is under investigation by the Justice Department, when the Justice Department said he wasn't," Gottlieb noted. "This is the same news network that added George Stephanopoulos, a former top to anti-gun President Bill Clinton. Now they've got a former staffer for an extremist gun control group reporting on firearms issues.

"It is no wonder why so many American citizens believe there is an institutional bias in the national press," Gottlieb continued. "MSNBC's Chris Matthews once worked for anti-gun Congressman Tip O'Neill and wrote speeches for Jimmy Carter. NBC's Tim Russert was chief of staff for anti-gun Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and was a counselor for Mario Cuomo, an avowed gun prohibitionist. Does anyone see a pattern here?"

SAF urges gun owners to express their disappointment to ABC News by e-mail at: [support@abcnews.go.com](mailto:support@abcnews.go.com), or via mail to ABC News, 7 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023.

"Tapper has an established anti-gun bias, and for a network that claims objectivity, having him report on gun-related stories is insulting," Gottlieb said. "What if he is assigned to cover this summer's conference on global gun control being held at the United Nations? I'm going to be there. Can I expect him to approach this subject with an open mind? His history with Handgun Control, and his writings in Salon tell me his mind is made up.

"Why is it that ABC does not include Tapper's affiliation with a gun control organization in his biographical information," Gottlieb wondered. "Is this to shield the network's bias against guns?"

"The American public wants news, not advocacy," Gottlieb concluded. "We expect factual and fair reporting, not subtle spin or propaganda."

###

## **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>

# H5N1 Avian Influenza in Migratory Birds

## USDA, DOI and HHS Spotlight Interagency Readiness Plans

USGS, National Wildlife Center [Excerpts]

WASHINGTON, March 20, 2006 - Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton and Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt today moved to further ensure the protection of people, domestic poultry and wild birds by unveiling an enhanced national framework for early detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild migratory birds in the United States. This readiness plan and system builds on, significantly expands and unifies ongoing efforts among federal, state, regional and local wildlife agencies. Those agencies have been monitoring and testing for the presence of the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus in migratory birds for several years. The increased efforts come as the spring migration of migratory birds is underway and the spread of avian influenza continues across continents.

Wildlife experts and public health officials have been monitoring the spread of the highly pathogenic H5N1 since it first appeared in Hong Kong in 1997. Since 1998, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) has tested over 12,000 migratory birds in the Alaska flyway and since 2000, USDA has tested almost 4,000 migratory birds in the Atlantic flyway. All birds in these flyways have tested negative for the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus of concern. Since the summer of 2005, the Department of Interior (DOI) has been working with the State of Alaska to strategically sample migratory birds in the Pacific flyway. DOI has already carried out more than 1,700 tests on samples from more than 1,100 migratory birds. There have been 22 avian influenza isolates identified, but none have been highly pathogenic.

Wildlife biologists, migratory bird specialists, veterinarians and epidemiologists from the USDADOI and Health and Human Services (HHS), along with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Association of Public Health Veterinarians and the State of Alaska have developed "An Early Detection System for Asian H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wild Migratory Birds -- U.S. Interagency Strategic Plan".

"We do not know for sure what role wild migratory birds play in the movement of this virus, but the potential exists for them to carry this virus to North America, and we have a responsibility to prepare for that possibility," said Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton. "Working closely with our state, local and federal partners, we can detect and respond to disease events involving wild birds and screen birds for highly pathogenic H5N1 virus. These actions will help us provide an early warning to the agriculture, public health and wildlife communities if the virus is detected in migratory birds."

The ability to effectively prevent the spread of highly pathogenic H5N1 into domestic poultry operations is greatly enhanced by being able to rapidly detect the pathogen if it is introduced into wild migratory birds in the United States. The interagency plan outlines five specific strategies for early detection of the virus in wild migratory birds, including:

- Investigation of disease-outbreak events in wild birds
- Expanded monitoring of live wild birds
- Monitoring of hunter-killed birds
- Use of sentinel animals, such as backyard poultry flocks
- Environmental sampling of water and bird feces

Because Alaska is at the crossroads of bird migration flyways, scientists believe the strain of highly pathogenic H5N1 currently affecting Southeast Asia would most likely arrive there if it spread to North America via migratory birds. Thus, the plan recommends a prioritized sampling system with emphasis in Alaska, elsewhere in the Pacific Flyway and the Pacific islands, followed by the Central, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways. In 2006, USDA and its cooperators plan to collect between 75,000 to 100,000 samples from live and dead wild birds. They also plan to collect 50,000 samples of water or feces from high-risk waterfowl habitats across the United States.

The wild bird monitoring plan is part of the President's National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness. President Bush allocated \$29 million in his avian influenza supplemental funding package for implementation of the wild bird monitoring plan.

Historically, wild birds have been natural reservoirs for low pathogenic avian influenza viruses and often show little or no signs of disease. Various forms of low pathogenicity avian influenza have existed in the United States since the early 1900's. They can cause varying degrees of illness in birds and have not posed a public health threat. If a virus mutates or mixes with another avian influenza virus it can become highly pathogenic, causing higher fatality rates in birds. The HPAI strain of H5N1 currently affecting countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and other geographic areas is highly infectious between birds, but has never been found in the United States. Other forms of HPAI have been detected in domestic poultry three times in this country: in 1924, 1983 and 2004. The 2004 outbreak was confined to one flock and eradicated. There were no human illnesses reported in connection with these outbreaks, however the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus has caused human illness and death in other countries where people have handled or been in close contact with infected birds.

## **Hunter Recruitment Bill On the Move in Michigan**

**U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance, 6/15/2006**

(Lansing) – Legislation designed to promote hunter recruitment in Michigan is on the move in the legislature.

Today, the House Conservation, Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Committee unanimously passed SB 1105, sponsored by Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Leelanau, and co-chair of the Michigan State Sportsmen's Caucus. The bill creates an apprentice hunting license which allows people to hunt under direct supervision of a licensed adult hunter before completing hunter education training. To become fully licensed and hunt alone, the new hunter must complete a hunter education course. Senate Bill 1105 now goes to the House for a floor vote, after which it will return to the Senate for agreement on changes made in the House.

The bill is part of Families Afield, a program designed by the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA), National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) to recruit young hunters into the sport by lowering or eliminating unnecessary age restrictions.

The Youth Hunting Report, a study commissioned by the USSA, NSSF and NWTF, found that states which permit parents to decide when their children begin to hunt, and states which allow potential hunters to try hunting under the watchful eye of a mentor before completing a hunter education course, experience better recruitment and retention of new hunters. More importantly, these states produce safety statistics that are better than states with high restrictions.

Michigan is second only to New York as the most restrictive state in the country.

Another Families Afield Bill, HB 5192, sponsored by Rep. Scott Hummel, R-DeWitt, is currently awaiting agreement in the Michigan House of Representatives to changes made by the Senate. The bill lowers the big game hunting minimum age from 14 to 12 and the small game hunting minimum age from 12 to 10. Agreement is expected soon, after which the bill will go to Gov. Jennifer Granholm for her signature.

Families Afield legislation has been adopted in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota, Illinois, Utah and Mississippi. Like these states, Michigan has a rich hunting heritage, yet hunter recruitment is waning due to restrictive regulations placed on the ages at which a person can begin to hunt. Families Afield gives parents the opportunity to decide when their child is ready to hunt, rather than have the government set an arbitrary age minimum.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance protects the rights of hunters, anglers and trappers in the courts, legislatures, at the ballot, in Congress and through public education programs. For more information about the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and its work, call (614) 888-4868 or visit its website, [www.ussportsmen.org](http://www.ussportsmen.org).

### **Join Us For The**

## ***MWHI 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament***

**Saturday, August 5, 2006**

**Start: 9:00 a.m. Sign Up: 8:00 am to 8:45 a.m.**

**Wolves Crossing, Jerseyville, Illinois**

***Free***

**Hamburgers, Brats, Hot Dogs, Soda & Beer**

***Door Prizes***

**\$70 per Person**

**Limit 20 Teams – 1<sup>st</sup> Come Basis**

**For Reservations Contact:**

**Eric Rhuede, MWHI Golf Tournament Chairman at 618-410-9853**

**Dear MWHI,**

**The Carrollton Youth Trap Team would like to thank Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. for sponsoring our team at \$250.00.**

**Thank you,**

**Beth Sethaler (coach)**

**Mary C. Sethaler**

**Kim Postlewait**