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Rosi Franke, Editor

Tel: 618-396-2509

e-mail: rgfranke@frontiernet.net

Visit our website

www.mwhi.org



We would like to thank Keith Steinacher for doing a wonderful job designing our new website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, October 2, 2006

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

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

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

The *Sentry* is published monthly except for December and January by Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., P.O. Box 8009, 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.

CORRECTION to the CORRECTION

Last month's *Sentry* front page was marked correctly:

Issue 07 AUGUST 2006

The confusion came about because both the July and August issue show the same picture on the front page. This is also the reason that some of you reported receiving a second July issue. However, if you open the August issue, you see that the content is different from the July issue.

I mistakenly downloaded the July front page for the August issue and didn't realize it because they were very similar (see front page of this issue).

**I apologize and thank you for being patient.
Rosi**

LAWMAKERS: FRIEND OR FOE

Duane Hahnenkamp

Opening day of duck season is near and every hunter is focused on the hunting year to come. But one thing to remember is that within two weeks of opening day the 2006 election will be held and that this one will be a lot more important than most people realize. Sadly, most hunters and most of the citizens of this country don't call their politicians and tell them what their representatives should or should not vote for as the year goes on. The good thing is that many of you, and some election years most of you, do vote.

I am not going to tell you who you should vote for because it is your choice and your right to vote for who you want to be in office. What I would like you to do, however, is to think back to what the politicians in this state did or tried to do to you the last couple of years. Maybe, before the election, do a little homework on your politicians and see if they have been your friend or foe.

Look and see who is in favor of gun laws that are unfair and would affect you or your friends. Did you know that Illinois House Bill # 2414 would outlaw any firearm that fires a projectile that is .50 caliber or larger? Did you know that your Governor Blagojevich said that if HB # 2414 passed, he would sign that bill into law?

Now, if you are a bird hunter, the gauges might get you through a Quail season, but not the duck season. The only duck gun you could use would be the .28 gauge and I don't think they make any .28 gauge steel shot. You could buy a 28 gauge Bismuth at \$2.00 a round, but that would be up to you. This law would probably stop most hunting, which would male certain people very happy.

Let me ask you another question, how are you going to protect yourself if you can't own a shotgun? Chicago already wants to outlaw handguns in the worst way, which means you wouldn't be able to use one of those to protect yourself. And since rifle hunting for deer is not allowed in Illinois, there is a pretty good chance Chicago will tell you that you won't be needing rifles either.

Did you know that some lawmakers out there are trying to pass certain bills that if a criminal breaks into your house, steals your guns, and a crime is committed with them, you could go to jail for up to ten years? By the same token, did you know that some courts and judges have ruled that if someone breaks into your home to attack you and you shoot the attacker, the attacker's family can sue you for monetary loss – even if a good portion of this monetary gain would have been obtained by committing crimes. This is not right, and you know it.

On the local front, look and see what politicians voted for or if they allowed the state government strip funding for Southern Illinois areas. This could be anything form outdoor wildlife projects to small city projects that we have lost. Southern Illinois has taken it on the chin for the last few years in regard to state funding, and it is starting to show. Chicago politics have tried to control everything from state funding to duck hunting, and it has to be stopped. You all know how close we came to have our duck season dates taken away until MWHI and its members got involved.

Please do a little homework and find out what these people are doing to you before you vote. If some of these politicians or state government workers represent your district, why would you want to vote them back into office? And if your representative stands by and doesn't fight these bills, why would you want him or her in office? If your representative has done the right things and has stood up for your beliefs and rights, then by all means vote for him or her.

Please take some time and look closely at who you are going to vote for this November. Make sure that the candidate you vote for wants to help you and not hurt you.

Have a great duck season, and please do vote.

Late Summer Habitat Conditions in Canada

DU Report, August 21, 2006 - *Habitat conditions have remained fairly stable over the past month. Conditions in eastern Canada remain very good while conditions are more varied in western Canada where the warm, dry weather continues. With few exceptions, waterfowl production was average or better throughout the country this year.*



Legislation Update

John Popov

Excerpt from NRA-ILA Newsletter – 8/26/2006:

Please don't think for even one minute that anti-gun corps in Congress has abandoned its crusade to weaken and finally destroy your Second Amendment rights.

In fact, their full slate of harsh new gun control measures has ALREADY been introduced in the U.S. Senate and House in preparation for the day when they'll have the power to push it forward.

I'm talking about bills like s-645 – already introduced by Senators Frank Lautenberg, Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton – to reinstate and expand the failed Clinton Gun Ban of 1994. Not only would this legislation ban over 60 specific models of rifles, pistols and shotguns, it would empower any future gun-hating Attorney General with the uncontested power to outlaw ANY rifle or shotgun with the stroke of a pen, without a vote by Congress.

Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee has already introduced HR-246 – legislation that could send YOU to prison for ten years if a criminal steals your guns and uses them in a crime.

Representative Patrick Kennedy has already introduced HR-711 – a bill that would not only give the attorney General power to ban all gun sales, but all ammunitions sales as well.

Representative Mike Castle has already introduced HR-3540 – that would effectively ban gun shows from coast to coast.

Senator Frank Lautenberg has already introduced S-682 – which would not only effectively ban handgun sales, but make it illegal for you to sell or even give away the handguns you now own. You'd even be banned from leaving your handguns to family members in your will.

Representative Robert Andrews has already introduced HR-5073 – which would outlaw every firearm on the market today by mandating an unworkable registration scheme in the name of ballistics "fingerprinting." Believe it or not, Representative Andrews has also introduced HR-4363 – a bill that would treat you like a violent criminal or even terrorist by forcing you to submit to a government approved eye scan before you can buy a gun.

These are REAL bills facing REAL debate in Congress, and a handful of votes this November could turn them into REAL laws.

For the moment we have the votes in Congress to keep these outrageous bills bottled up in Committee where they can't do you no harm.

But all that could change this Election Day if we don't do everything we can to stop gun-ban extremists from regaining power in Washington, D.C. and in state and local governments across the country.

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

PLEASE VOTE

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

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sen. Deana Demuzio – 49th District
Tel: 217-854-4441 Fax: 217-854-5311

Sen. Frank Watson – 51st District
Tel: 618-664-9108 E-mail: watson@gvc.net

Sen. John O. Jones – 54th District
Tel: 618-242-9511 E-mail: jojones@mvn.net

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

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

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

Rep. Jim Watson – 97th District
Tel: 217-243-6221 E-mail: jimwatson@localnetco.com

Rep. Gary Hannig – 98th District
Tel: 217-839-2859 E-Mail: hannig@hdsmail.state.il.us

Rep. Ron Stephens – 102nd District
Tel: 618-667-8669 E-mail: stephens@apci.net

Rep. Kurt Granberg – 107th District
Tel: 618-533-2153 E-mail: kgranberg@hdsmail.state.il.us

Rep. Jay Hoffman – 112 District
Tel: 618-345-2176 E-mail: jayhoffman@charter.net

Rep. Thomas Holbrook – 113th District
Tel: 618-394-2211 tholbrook@housedems.state.il.us

Rep. Wyvetter Younge – 114th District
Tel: 618-875-1691

Rep. Mike Bost – 115th District
Tel: 618-457-5787 mikebost@midwestmail.com

Rep. Dan Reitz – 116th District
Tel: 618-443-5757 E-mail: [dreitz@egyptian.net](mailto:dreiz@egyptian.net)

Costello - jfc.il12@mail.house.gov

Durbin - dick@durbin.senate.gov

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

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

NEW HIP REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

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 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 or check.

**For you Hunters who want to get registered for HIP via this method go to:

<https://www1.wildlifelicense.com/il/license.php?action=custlkup>

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.

State Rifle Association (ISRA) Political Victory Fund (ISRA-PVF) Endorsements **September 6, 2006**

The board of directors of the ISRA-PVF is pleased to announce the naming of endorsed and preferred candidates running for office in the November general election.

Topping the list of endorsed candidates is Republican gubernatorial hopeful, Judy Baar Topinka along with Joe Birkett, candidate for Lt. Governor.

In the attorney general's race, Tazewell County State's Attorney Stewart Umholtz is endorsed over his Democratic opponent

Longtime friend of the law-abiding gun owner, Dan Rutherford is endorsed in his bid for secretary of state.

In the Illinois treasurer's race, the ISRA-PVF chose Christine Radogno for endorsement.

Carole Pankau has received the ISRA-PVF endorsement in her campaign for Illinois comptroller.

Turning to key State Senate races, the ISRA-PVF has endorsed John Millner in the 28th District; Deanna Demuzio in the 49th District; John O. Jones in the 54th District; and James Clayborne, Jr. in the 57th District.

In House races, key ISRA-PVF endorsements go to Terry Parke in the 44th District race; Careen Gordon in the 75th District; Aaron Schock in the 92nd District; and Brandon Phelps in the 118th District.

In developing its list of preferred and endorsed candidates, the board of the ISRA-PVF evaluates candidate voting records, public statements, and campaign position papers related to issues important to the state's 1.5 million law-abiding firearm owners. Candidates who hold traditional views on civilian firearm ownership receive preference over those who do not. No preference is stated in races where both candidates are equally strong, or equally weak on the issue of private firearm ownership. Candidates who possess an exceptional voting record and a strong history of standing up for the law-abiding firearm owner are eligible for ISRA-PVF endorsement.

"After much deliberation, the ISRA-PVF board has arrived upon its list of preferred and endorsed candidates," commented ISRA- PVF spokesman Richard Pearson. "On behalf of the board, I'm pleased to announce that, for the first time in quite a while, we are able to deliver a candidate endorsement in each of the constitutional officer races. Likewise, we're very gratified to have delivered approximately 70 endorsements in the General Assembly races. That's a clear indication of the breadth and depth of support that lawful gun owners enjoy in our state legislature."

"Of course, all eyes are on the governor's race," continued Pearson. "In 2006, the choice was easy. On every issue, Rod Blagojevich has proven himself to be bad for the people of Illinois. On issues facing hunters, sportsmen, and other law-abiding gun owners, Blagojevich has been a nightmare. His dismantling of the Department of Natural Resources has endangered the future of our state's outdoor traditions. Blagojevich has made no bones about his support for the Daley gun control packages. Passage of the Daley bills would peel the death knell for private gun ownership in Illinois. Since taking office, Blagojevich has shown nothing but disdain for the state's gun owners. We suspect that gun owners will return the favor on Nov. 7."

"Judy Baar Topinka represents real hope of reforming Illinois' antiquated and discriminatory gun laws," said Pearson. "Judy has been a long time supporter of hunting, the shooting sports, and the individual right of self defense. Unlike Blagojevich, Judy knows the difference between a law-abiding gun owner and a gun- toting criminal. Unlike Blagojevich, Judy values our outdoor traditions and will restore and enrich the stewardship role of the DNR. Unlike Blagojevich, Judy views lawful gun owners as partners in the war on crime and terrorism - not scapegoats for failed social justice policies. Under Judy Topinka, the State Police will return to their role as enforcers of the law rather than enforcers of the Blagojevich/Daley political agenda."

"It is with great pride and hope that the ISRA-PVF gives its endorsement to Judy Baar Topinka."

For a complete listing of ISRA-PVF endorsements and candidate preferences, please visit the ISRA-PVF Internet site at <http://www.isra-pvf.com>.

No impact for 2006-07 Waterfowl Seasons, permits required in Illinois

IDNR News Release, 8/26/2006

SPRINGFIELD, IL – A new U.S. Fish and Wildlife final rule on Canada goose management will have no impact on the upcoming 2006-07 waterfowl hunting seasons or permit procedures in Illinois while the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) reviews the new options available for dealing with issues related to Canada geese in the state.

“Some hunters and landowners in Illinois may have heard or read about the new federal rule and believed we would be immediately changing the way we manage goose populations, but the new rule doesn’t take effect in time for any practical changes this year,” said John Buhnerkempe, chief of the IDNR Division of Wildlife Resources. “We will review the new rule and decide in the coming months whether to recommend any changes in Canada goose management.”

On August 11, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a record of decision and final rule on resident Canada goose management, which will take effect on September 11. The rule is intended to give states additional options for managing human-goose conflicts. The options are divided into three main components:

- 1) A series of depredation orders which will allow airports, landowners, agricultural producers, and public health officials to take Canada geese and their eggs without a federal permit, provided reporting requirements are met;
- 2) States may choose to allow the use of expanded hunting methods for geese, including unplugged shotguns, expanded hunting hours, and the use of electronic calls during early September seasons;
- 3) The creation of a management take program which would allow the harvest of Canada geese during the month of August.

An important provision of this final rule is that state wildlife agencies like the IDNR will make final decisions on which components of the new rule to implement. States can choose to implement all, some, or none of the provisions contained the final rule. The earliest any of the Canada goose control options could be implemented is March 2007. The earliest a state could use the August management take season would be in 2008.

Any changes that might be implemented in the coming years regarding hunting season dates or methods of take in Illinois would be intended to deal with human-goose conflicts, not merely to provide more recreation opportunities. Only those areas of the state with significant problems regarding Canada geese will be considered.

“We want to emphasize that at this time, the IDNR has made no decisions on which provisions, if any, of the new rule to implement,” Buhnerkempe said. “Our staff will review the rule and consider making changes to current practices. Until another announcement is made, all current Canada goose permit procedures remain in effect and state permits are required for all lethal goose control activities, including nest and egg destruction.”

In addition, no changes in Canada goose hunting regulations for the September season will take effect until further notice. Hunters in Illinois must continue to use plugged shotguns and cannot hunt geese using electronic calls or hunt geese after sunset during the 2006 September season.

Anyone with questions regarding Canada goose management should call the IDNR Division of Wildlife Resources at 217/782-6384.

Archery Deer Hunting Changes at Rend Lake: Starting this fall, archery deer hunters hunting on Rend Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area lands and Corps of Engineers managed areas of Rend Lake must harvest an antlerless deer on site before an antlered deer can be harvested. This change is being implemented to help better manage the deer herd.

Transport Your Gun Legally! **Herman Kunz, ISRA September 2006**

Well it's getting on towards the fall and the time of the year that many of us lay down our fishing rods and pick up our shotguns and/or rifles so that we might venture out into the woods and add to our larder some meat to go along with the fish we have stored from a successful season of fishing.

Every year I hear stories from outdoor enthusiasts and the nightmares of being cited for what they called "an innocent mistake" on their part, for carrying their firearms in an illegal manner. Just what are the laws governing the transportation of firearms and how will they affect you?

First! Remember that the law is the law it is not the conservation officers job to interpret the law it is his job to enforce it. And, depending whether or not it is an officer from the IDNR or a state, city or county official that has stopped you, the difference in the interpretation of the law could be the difference between a misdemeanor offense and an actual felony. So knowing the law and following it carefully will save you a lot of grief, not to mention the possibility of a fine or even jail time.

Below I have listed the most common "mistakes" and how to avoid them.

The first and probably the most important question is "How can I transport my firearm legally?" "Three statutory codes regulate the possession, transfer, and transportation of firearms." These are; the criminal code, the wildlife code, and the Firearm Owners Identification Act. Under the Unlawful use of weapons (UW) in the criminal code, persons who have been issued a valid FOID card may transport a firearm anywhere in their vehicle or on their person as long as the firearm is unloaded and enclosed in a case, firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container. The Wildlife Code however is more restrictive. It requires that all firearms transported in or on any vehicle be unloaded and in a closed case. Because of this it would be an excellent idea in order to be in compliance with all of the various statutes that your firearm be unloaded, enclosed in a case, and that the person transporting the firearm has a valid FOID card that should cover all of the bases and keep you out of trouble.

What constitutes a "legal case"? Since we are dealing with the outdoors I will skip the criminal code definition and get right to the Wildlife Code which is much more restrictive of "what is a legal firearm carrying case"? The Wildlife Code defines a case as "A container specifically designed for the purpose of housing a gun or bow and arrow device which completely encloses such gun or bow and arrow device by being zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened with no portion of the device exposed so that it would be immediately accessible.

If I fail to zip up my gun case entirely, will I be guilty of a felony? No, as long as the firearm is unloaded and none of the aggravating factors of the Unlawful Use of Weapons Law are present, but again the wildlife code is more restrictive. The way to avoid any problems is to make sure that your firearm be unloaded and enclosed in a proper case. If you have a gun case with a broken zipper and it does not close properly you will probably be in violation and could or will be cited, spend the money and buy a new case."

What is immediately accessible? The test is that; "if a reasonable person would conclude that the firearm is located within relatively quick reach". That of course would be left to the interpretation of the individual officer. If you would have an uncased loaded firearm in your vehicle immediately accessible you would be flirting with a Class 4 Felony... and possible jail time. Does a firearm have to be broken down to be legal? No. But it must be unloaded and encased and the person transporting the firearm must have a valid FOID card. Is it illegal to have ammunition in the case with the firearm? "No, not if the firearm is properly enclosed in a case and the individual possessing the firearm and ammunition is in possession of a valid FOID card."

There you have it, the basics of transporting a firearm legally in the State of Illinois. If you have any other questions regarding the transportation or carrying of firearms in Illinois or questions about non-resident requirements or even the transportation within the State of Illinois in communities with restrictive gun control laws you can contact; The Illinois State Police at; 1 (217) 524-2525, the FOID office at; 1 (217) 782-7980, www.isp.state.il.us or the Department of Natural Resources at; 1 (217) 782-6431, dnr.state.il.us .They will have all the other pertinent information on the transportation of firearms that I might have missed.

CARE Applauds Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus **New Caucus Critical to Halting Refuge System Funding Crisis**

Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, August 2006

Washington – The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), a diverse coalition of national conservation and recreation organizations, today applauded formation of a Congressional Caucus dedicated to advancing the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and addressing the funding crisis facing the 100-million-acre land system. Led by Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI), Jim Saxton (RNJ), Michael Castle (R-DE) and Mike Thompson (D-CA), the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus now includes a bi-partisan group of nearly 100 members of the House of Representatives.

The formation of the Caucus comes at a critical time for our nation's National Wildlife Refuge System, haven to countless species of wildlife, as well as unparalleled recreational opportunities for nearly 40 million Americans. With chronic under-funding and a crippling \$3.1 billion budget backlog, the Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is unable to adequately manage and restore wildlife habitat, safely maintain facilities and provide quality education and outdoor recreation programs for millions of visitors each year.

“The Refuge System faces a funding crisis of unprecedented proportions and the formation of a Congressional Caucus couldn't come at a better time,” said Evan Hirsche, Chair of CARE and President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. “We applaud Representatives Kind, Saxton, Castle, Thompson and the other members of the Caucus for stepping up to take on the daunting challenges currently faced by the Refuge System.”

Budget shortfalls have already resulted in minimal or nonexistent staff at many refuges, harmful impacts to wildlife populations due to the lack of invasive species control, and a reduction in public recreation programs including hunting, fishing and wildlife observation.

The Caucus will work to raise awareness of our Refuge System, support adequate Refuge System budgets, and ensure the sustained growth of the Refuge System for future generations.

CARE, founded in 1995, is a broad coalition of 21 diverse wildlife, sporting, conservation, and scientific organizations that represent a national constituency numbering more than 5 million. Recognizing the value of a healthy Refuge System to both the wildlife and habitats refuges were established to protect, CARE, highlights the needs of national wildlife refuges and works to secure strong investments in these remarkable lands and waters.

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Apprentice Hunter License Now Available: The new Illinois Apprentice Hunter License is now available from DNR Direct license and permit vendors, through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources web site (<http://dnr.state.il.us>), and through the DNR Direct toll-free license and permit line (1-888-6PERMIT).

The new program allows youngsters ages 10 to 17 to buy an apprentice license and go hunting with a parent, grandparent or guardian who has a valid Illinois resident hunting license. Those 18 and older can buy an apprentice license and go hunting with any family member or friend who is a validly licensed Illinois resident hunter. The Apprentice Hunter License is a one-time, non-renewable license available only to residents of Illinois.

The cost is \$7.50 (plus convenience fee for web or phone orders) and the license will be valid from the date issued to the following March 31. Apprentice Hunter License holders intending to hunt must also buy any additional required permits or stamps, such as a deer hunting permit or habitat stamp. Illinois law requires that anyone born on or after January 1, 1980 must successfully complete a free hunter safety course before a regular Illinois hunting license is issued. The free courses are offered throughout the state. For more information on IDNR safety education programs, check the IDNR web site at <http://dnr.state.il.us/safety>.

IDNR Expands Conservation and Recreational Opportunities in Southwestern Illinois

Acquisition key piece to Choteau Island Master Management Plan which will include bike trails, camping, hunting and fishing opportunities

IDNR, August 18, 2006

SPRINGFIELD, IL - The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) today announced the acquisition of an 89-acre parcel of land in Southwestern Illinois that will expand recreational opportunities and conservation efforts in the region.

IDNR joined with Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development in the acquisition. The 89-acre parcel, located in Madison County, was acquired from the Trust for Public Land with financial support from the State of Illinois and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and will be managed and maintained by the IDNR.

“This acquisition is another great example of the value of partnerships among landowners, dedicated conservation organizations like the Trust for Public Land, Southwestern Illinois RC&D and state agencies like IDNR,” said IDNR Acting Director Sam Flood.

The Master Plan for the Chouteau Island includes a network of multi-use and bike/hike trails that connects the Confluence Bikeway in Illinois and the Riverfront Trail in Missouri, and is at the crossroads of The Great River Birding Trail, The American Discovery Trail, The Mississippi River Trail, The Mississippi River Flyway and Historic Route 66. Other activities in the Master Plan include primitive and tent camping, hunting, fishing, a boat ramp, dock landings for visitor excursion boats, canoeing, picnicking, birding and a host of other outdoor educational and recreational activities.

The plan also includes an extensive ecosystem restoration that will include the development of native grasslands, woodlands and restored wetlands. These restoration projects will provide enhanced habitat, additional natural water purification, soil stabilization, increased recreation opportunities, increased interpretive learning, enhanced biodiversity and improved views and vistas.

Chouteau Island is located in the center of the Confluence Greenway – a public/private partnership of non-profit organizations, local, state and federal agencies, civic organizations, educational and cultural institutions, business groups and local citizens-which all work to reconnect people to the great rivers in the bi-state St. Louis metropolitan area through a system of conservation areas, heritage sites and recreational opportunities.

“This acquisition is an important piece of the Master Plan in that it allows the IDNR to begin habitat development at the north end of the island and opens this land for public use. The IDNR staff is now developing a restoration plan for the currently owned land to best determine the appropriate types of restoration and activities that can be supported,” Connie Waggoner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources manager, division of realty and planning.

Total cost for the acquisition was \$307,000, with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources contributing \$207,000 along with a \$100,000 contribution from Southwestern Illinois RC&D. ###

E-Mail note from MWHI member about permit allocation between residents and non-residents.

For the past several years - I have applied (and usually received) - permits to waterfowl hunt in one of the Missouri waterfowl areas. This will no longer be available to me due to the following:

Waterfowl Hunting Changes:

Beginning in 2006, reservations for waterfowl hunting at managed waterfowl hunting areas will be for Missouri residents only. Nonresident reservation applications will not be accepted because waterfowl hunting opportunities are limited and the number of nonresident applicants has increased dramatically in recent years.

While I realize that IL institutes a preference system for permits and I really don't have a problem with Missouri making these changes to protect the interests of their residents, maybe it's time we institute a similar (harsher) approach to our resources. The state managed duck blind allocations are always very popular. Why not shut it out to non-residents as Missouri has done? Don't we have enough in-state applicants at the yearly draws?

Judge OKs Sportsmen's Involvement in Lawsuit to Defend Hunting- **U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance (09/08/06)**

A federal court judge will allow the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation to represent hunters' interests in a lawsuit brought by anti's to make black bears in Florida off-limits to sportsmen. The suit also creates legal precedent that threatens hunting from coast to coast.

Judge Henry Kennedy, Jr. granted the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation (USSAF) and its Sportsmen's Legal Defense Fund (SLDF) permission to join the suit, which was brought by the Humane Society of the United States, Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club and other anti-hunting groups. They are suing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), contending that the black bear in Florida is a separate sub-species of the North American black bear. The groups argue that the distinction entitles Florida bears to protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

A dangerous precedent will be set if the black bears in Florida are classified as a sub-species and categorized as endangered. It will allow anti-hunters to bring similar lawsuits to challenge the classification of deer, quail and other game animals that have numerous sub-species throughout the country.

Anti's have tried for years to list Florida's bears under the ESA, but extensive research by the USFWS has determined that the listing is not warranted. Studies show that healthy bear populations occur in secure habitats in several areas.

The USSAF will join with Safari Club International, Central Florida Bear Hunters Association, and Mark Roden of St. Augustine to intervene in the case.

The SLDF is the nation's only litigation force that exclusively represents sportsmen's interests in the courts. It defends wildlife management and sportsmen's rights in local, state and federal courts, representing the interests of sportsmen. It also assists government lawyers who have little or no background in wildlife law. For more information, e-mail info@ussportsmen.org.

CCRKBA SAYS ACCUSED SEATTLE GUN RUNNER 'NOT A SECOND AMENDMENT GUY' September 12, 2006

BELLEVUE, WA – Reacting to an assertion by his defense attorney that accused gun runner and former neo-Nazi Keith Gilbert – on trial in Seattle for illegal gun trafficking – is “a Second Amendment guy,” the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms this morning called that claim “hogwash.”

“For Gilbert to claim some kind of martyr status in this case is simply ludicrous,” said CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. “His argument that he somehow engineered his arrest so that he could use his criminal trial as a forum to challenge gun control laws is not going to gain any traction at all with genuine firearms rights activists.”

Gilbert's attorney, Walter Palmer, was quoted by a Seattle newspaper Tuesday morning, insisting that his client is no longer a white supremacist, but “a Second Amendment guy.”

“That kind of remark is an insult to every genuine, law-abiding gun rights activist and gun owner in the Pacific Northwest, if not the country,” Waldron stated. “Gilbert is a convicted felon, who once admitted to a plot to murder Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with stolen dynamite. For him to now contend he got himself arrested so his grandchildren will remember him as some sort of gun rights crusader is outrageous beyond words.”

Gilbert's history includes an allegiance to the Aryan Nations in northern Idaho before he founded his own neo-Nazi organization. He also spent time in an Idaho prison for intimidating black children and for welfare fraud prior to living in Seattle, where he was something of a landlord before his arrest in February of last year on the gun trafficking charges.

“This is just the kind of stereotyping that the gun control crowd loves to engage in,” Waldron observed. “Keith Gilbert no more represents the gun rights community than Enron represented corporate responsibility. Why his attorney suggested this is simply astonishing.

“As it stands, Mr. Gilbert has been tried for involvement in a criminal enterprise,” Waldron said, “and his case is in the hands of a jury. Law-abiding gun rights activists, and average gun owners, do not engage in illegal gun trafficking, nor are they white supremacists or would-be assassins. People may say a lot of things about Mr. Gilbert, but calling him a ‘Second Amendment guy’ doesn't pass the smell test.”

[Editor's Note: The following is a reprint of an article that Gary Liley wrote 10 years ago. Many of you knew Glenn, who died suddenly right before the 1996 season. In memory of Glen, we reprint it again, 10 years later because the message is still as relevant today as it was then.)

Keep It In Perspective

Gary A. Liley

Well, last season was terrible, I agree. But, it was even more so for me. You see, I lost my number one blind building partner and hunting buddy of the last several years. Glenn A. Beatty died at work of a massive heart attack on October 21, 1996, just 6 days short of opening day. He was only 44 years young. He was finishing up a midnight shift and by the time they got him to the hospital, there was nothing they could do. Even more tragically, he left a beautiful wife, Maria, and 4 great kids, Jeff, Mark, Renee, and Brian.

Glenn was what a person wants in a blind partner and hunting buddy. He was always ready to do more than his share. He was dependable. He wasn't selfish. He was punctual. When something needed to be done, he was ready to do it. He was short on excuses and long on actions. He was trustworthy. He was tough. If both of you doubled on a bird he would more times than not say, "You probably killed it!" Unless, of course, it was banded. Then you had to flip for it! Ha! Just this last year he spent more time than anyone else helping me build and brush the blind I was in, and he wasn't even on the blind as a builder.

We took extra special care to build a good dog box and sturdy ramp. Maria had gotten Glenn a retriever pup, Duchess, for Christmas in 1995. He had trained her all summer and fall and he was really anxious to see her work. I figured I'd get my boat christened again by a new pup and expected all the things that just seem to happen with a new dog in the blind. You know what I mean. It never happened. There is one bright spot though. Glenn did take Duchess hunting during the September Teal season. Hunting was slow but he and John did knock down a few teal. Duchess retrieved her first duck so at least he got to see that. Maria told me that when he got home and told her how Duchess was slow at first, but by the time she retrieved her 3rd teal, she was going strong, he almost had tears in his eyes. If you're a duck hunter and dog lover, you know what I mean.

Many times when we were goose hunting Glenn would just grab the bigger and heavier sack of decoys and take off with it despite any objections on my part. When we were out arranging decoys and I was freezing my butt off and headed for the blind to warm up, Glenn would always stay a little longer and move a few more before he came in. No, he wasn't perfect. Glenn had faults same as you and me. But, I can tell you this. The good far out weighed the bad. At his funeral, many of his fellow workers shared similar stories with me concerning his character. No matter where you were, Glenn was just Glenn.

Glenn also loved to crappie fish. He was one of the best I've seen at finding them when the fishing was tough. Many times we came in with a nice mess in the live well while other anglers were complaining how tough the fishing was. He always saved back a few bags of fillets as he would say, "for huntin season." I'd fry them up in the blind with potatoes and hush puppies and we'd all eat till we were ready to bust! There would usually be a couple of pieces left and everyone would say, "Oh, I can't eat another bite!" Then I would say, "If nobody wants these I'm pichin em out." And Glenn would always say, "Man, don't throw those out. Give em to me. I'll eat em."

All of us that hunt together, in our regular group, still hunted, but the season was lacking in more than ducks. Many comments were made about Glenn and the things he said and used to do. Fond memories. That's all that's left now. I'm glad I take lots of pictures. I find myself looking at them more intently than I have before. If there is anything I hope to gain from this story, other than a final tribute to Glenn, it's that all of you who read this will take a moment to ponder the things that are important in this life. Like me, *try* to learn to cherish the moment, and the "little things" that so often we miss.

Glenn was a member of Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., The National Rifle Association, Ducks Unlimited, and other organizations that he believed in. He still wore the old tattered MWH camouflage hat that I gave him several years ago, when he first joined Migratory. He was buried at Jefferson Barracks Cemetery, in St. Louis. The long rows of white tombstones, all lined for seemingly miles in every direction, seemed fitting for Glenn. He didn't stand out in a crowd or draw attention to himself. Yet he belonged.

One more thing about Glenn... he knew Jesus Christ as his personal savior. I expect to see him again.