

2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL 62002

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*State Senator Deanna Demuzio Receives
'MWHI Conservationist of the Year Award'*



Senator Deanna Demuzio received this award for her continuous and steadfast support of MWHI.
She is the Illinois State Senator for the 49th Legislative District.

MWHI OFFICERS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, May 7, 2007

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

Saturday, June 2, 2007

MWHI Sponsored Catfish Tournament -
3rd of 5th Qualifying Tournament

at Alton Marina Parking Lot, Alton
from 3pm to 12 am
for information contact Justin Wolfe 618-377-0397

Monday, June 4, 2007

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

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

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

Monday, July 9, 2007

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

NEEDED:

**Folding chairs and file cabinets for the MWHI office.
If you can donate any of these items, please contact
Scott Bryant at 618-535-0151**

The *Sentry* is published monthly except for December and January by Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., 2404 E. Broadway, Alton, IL, 62002. The *Sentry* deadline is always the second Monday of each month.

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

Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club instrumental in Building Viewing Blind

Duane Hahnenkamp

Last summer MWHI, through the partnership program *Friends of the Refuge*, helped built a wildlife viewing stand at the Two Rivers Refuge in Brussels, Illinois.

Because of federal regulations regarding handicap use, the project turned out to be more than we could handle alone. We put the word out that we needed help at our June General Membership meeting held at the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club in Godfrey, and our request was answered by the Sportsmen's Club itself.

I would like to officially recognize and thank Bob Snyder and the boys from the Sportsmen's Club for a job well done. The work they did to build the wildlife viewing stand last July and August at the Two Rivers Refuge (Swan Lake) was outstanding. They spent a half a dozen evenings or more, working till dark, and this was after putting in 8 hours at their regular day jobs.

Glen McNelly from Grafton volunteered to draw up the plans and then ordering the material needed for the 16 x 16 ft. blind. He and his son then spent a day and a half putting in the 8 x 8 posts and building the main floor frame. Bob and the boys put the flooring on, put up the walls, plus building a 20 some foot long walkway. Then they built safety rails for the back of the blind and the walkway.

The flooring on the deck was built out of the new plastic decking material, which will last for a long time. This new material also takes about three times as long to put down, so it took a lot of time and effort.

They also used their own tools for this project and spent a lot of their own money on high price gasoline just to get to the Refuge.

Most of these guys work as construction workers and house builders, so their work was excellent. I would highly recommend these guys if you need some work done on your house or a new deck.

So, again I would like to thank Bob Snyder and the guy's from the Sportsmen's Club for their time and hard work. It is greatly appreciated by all of us.

March 21, 2007 - Springfield Report - ISRA

Today three very bad bills came out of the House Executive Committee. They are: HB758 (background checks on private transfers), HB873 (so called "assault weapons" and .50 caliber ban) and HB1078 (one gun a month). All votes were 8 to 5. The votes were all along party lines, with the Democrats voting for the bill. All of these bills are going to the floor of the House of Representatives.

Today beside Todd Vandermyde testifying, we also had Ronnie Barrett (of Barrett rifles) Mark Westrom (of Armalite) Joel Brunsvold (National Shooting Sports Foundation) and Mac MacWilliams. All were brilliant. The problem is none of it mattered, this is Springfield. Now, we the lobbyists, have to meet with each legislator. We need you to call your legislators and tell them you oppose these bills as well as SB16, which is in the Senate.

If you get this alert and are not an ISRA member, please join. You can also make a legislative donation on our website: www.isra.org. We could really use your donation right now.

This is going to be a long and tough battle-hang in there.

Thank you for your support.

Richard A. Pearson



Dear Illinois Gun Owners,

As you know, when the General Assembly adjourned for the holiday break on March 30 many anti-gun owner bills in the Senate were scheduled for a third reading deadline and a vote. Senate President Emil Jones saw fit to extend the deadline on these bills until May 31st and the House deadline for third reading and a vote is April 27th. This means when the General Assembly returns from their holiday break on April 18th the battle for Illinois gun owners' rights will pick right up where it left off . .

Here's the part about round II: Now let IGOLD stand for Illinois Gun Owner LETTER Day!!! Nearly 1,500 Illinois gun owners attended IGOLD

- Illinois Gun Owner Lobby Day - at the state capitol back in March, but many, due to work and family obligations, could not attend. This is an IGOLD event that every gun owner in Illinois can take part in!! So you couldn't go to Springfield on March 14? Then grab a pen and some stamps!

The goal: For the legislators to find thousands of postcards and letters from Illinois gun owners waiting for them when they return to Springfield on the 18th. There are over a million FOID card holders in the state, with over 250,000 in Cook Co. alone. Can you imagine all those folks sending several thousand pieces of mail to be hauled into these legislators' offices?

The letters and postcards do not have to be eloquent essays on the finer points of the Second Amendment. These cards can simply state:

Please oppose any further restrictions on law-abiding gun owners.

Please support our right to carry for personal and family protection, please support preemption to protect us from a patchwork of conflicting local ordinances. Vote no on banning guns - vote yes on preemption & right to carry.

So fill in some stationary or postcards, send your Senator and Representative a message, time your mailing to arrive at the capitol on April 18th!! Please forward this to all the gun owners you know! Let's make this a another day these legislators will remember - a day they heard from Illinois gun owners! REMEMBER: Be polite, be direct, be brief. Let's leave a positive impression of Illinois gun owners.

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**

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Costello - jfc.il12@mail.house.gov

Durbin - dick@durbin.senate.gov

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

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

PROPOSED GUN LAW COULD AFFECT LOCAL HUNTERS

Submitted by George Hamilton

The March 23rd edition of the Illinois newspaper, *The Pike Country Press*, reports on the **severe implications of proposed Illinois gun-control legislation.**

The most foreboding of Illinois' pending gun-control measures are "assault weapons" bans -- introduced into the Illinois legislature as part of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's gun control agenda -- currently being debated in both the Illinois House and Senate. **These bills broadly define what constitutes an "assault weapon" and would likely affect sporting semiautomatic rifles and shotguns used for hunting, similar to the ban recently extended in Cook County, Illinois.**

Pike County Press March 23, 2007

Proposed gun legislation that would ban any type of gun considered semi-automatic could be devastating to the local sportsmen and the economy.

"Anything considered semi-automatic would be banned under the law," Ernest Winchell, a Pleasant Hill gun dealer, said. "That would include most of your hunting guns - the model 12 Winchester, 10-22 Ruger, the Remington 1100. The guns used to hunt duck, goose, rabbit, deer would all be banned."

Winchell said the new legislation stems from the Chicago area and is an ill-advised law. The difference between semi and fully automatic lies in the trigger mechanism. "If you can just hold the trigger down and fire off rounds, it's fully automatic," Winchell said. "If you have to pull the trigger each time to get a shot, then it's semi-automatic."

Single-shot guns or those with pump action would not be affected under the new law.

Winchell says this is the legislature's latest attempt to drive the small gun dealers out of business.

"They raised the license fee," he said. "When I applied for my license last year, it said \$1,000 but that was crossed out and \$90 was written in. You know it's just a matter of time until they do charge \$1,000. They want all of us little country dealers out of business so they can let the Wal-Marts and big business have the market."

Richard Pearson, executive director of the Illinois State Rifle Association, agrees.

"And they know Wal-Mart and other big stores will cave into them and their demands," Pearson said.

"They banned guns in Chicago and Washington, D.C. and those two cities have the highest murder rates in the nation."

Pearson says if the gun ban passes, those owning guns will be allowed to keep them as collector's items but will have to register them with the Illinois State Police.

"And it won't be long until they will be knocking on your door, saying they've changed their minds and you have to surrender them," he said. "We have a governor and a bunch of legislators who all live in Chicago and don't care about the people in downstate. They don't care what happens to the rest of us."

Pearson cited an example of a man in Chicago, a known felon, who police knew had illegally acquired two guns that were classified as automatic, already banned in Illinois, within six months of committing a double murder.

"And as soon as he did it, they all started screaming 'Ban guns, ban guns'," Pearson said. "But the police knew he had those guns, illegally, six months, prior to that. Why didn't they do something then?"

Scott Andress, owner of the Archery Shop in Pittsfield, has recently added guns to his inventory. He is selling Benelli's, all semi-automatic. Andress added the gun line when the local Wal-Mart stopped selling guns. "I'd hate to see them add new laws," he said. "I'd like to see them get rid of a few. The law they're talking about would just ruin the gun industry and the hunting industry in Illinois."

Rick Wombles, a long-time pro-gun advocate and local outfitter, said laws like this are constantly being debated. "They try this every year," he said. "They say hunting guns will be exempt, then they turn around and say they are going to ban semi-automatics."

Wombles pointed to a decision last week in which a federal appeals court overturned a ban on weapons in Washington, D.C.

"That sets the gun control movement back," Wombles said. "That's huge."

Pearson said the .22 semi-automatic rifle is one of the guns targeted from the ban. "That's the gun most kids learn to hunt with. It's made for kids." he said. "And statistically, it's been proven that kids who hunt and are educated with guns, are far less likely to get into trouble with guns. I once asked a police officer how many legal owners of registered guns he had ever arrested on a gun charge and he told me in 25 years, he thought maybe one."

DUCK STAMP

Michael S. Smith Submitted by John Mabery 1/20/2007

My first duck stamp arrived in the mail today, a present for my 58th birthday.

That is a bit late in life to start duck hunting, but who said I was planning to hunt? I've used a firearm exactly once – in 1976, as a Naval officer on liberty in Subic Bay. The Marine combat cargo officer on board insisted I do some skeet shooting in addition attending the World War II tutorials he gave me. Sadly for him, but happily for the animal kingdom, I was better at learning history than I was at using a rifle.

I have been a vegetarian for sixteen years and have no desire to hunt. But, I am also buying my first hunting license. So what's going on? I think I need to put my money where my mouth is. And it isn't a lot of money, compared to my perhaps rather large mouth. True, over the years, I've been contributed to the Nature Conservancy and am a Sierra Club life member. In 1992, I spent six months as a volunteer wilderness ranger for the Forest Service in Minnesota's Boundary Waters, so I've got some blood in the game. But it wouldn't hurt to get further involved, because while what I'm doing here is very small, many small things done by many people add up. Hunters and non-hunter outdoorsmen share a love for wild country and the necessity of preserving it for not only ourselves but for those whose lives have not yet begun.

These days, I'm a pure traveler by pack or paddle, no longer fishing. But having read Sig Olson, who probably did more than any other single person to preserve the main character of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, I can understand why people hunt. His 1930 essay, "Why Wilderness," is one of the best articles ever written about camping. A second, "Mallards are Special," describing Basswood Lake's Back Bay on a frosty autumn morning, hunters waiting for the season to open, made me realize that had I been raised a little differently in a place with wetlands, this might be my fortieth duck stamp instead of my first.

Preserving wildlands requires money, and more of it comes from hunters than backpackers, unless the latter hunt and fish. Since I use these places a great deal, I ought to pay something. You duck hunters know that 98% of the monies in the Federal Duck Stamp program are used to purchase or lease wetland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuges. The duck stamp also serves

as an entrance pass to these areas. I like that idea, for I am an active birder and an urban trip leader for the Tucson Audubon Society.

Until recently, I didn't know about the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, which "provide(s) funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat." Amended 33 years later, it included funding for hunter training programs and ...public target ranges." I am in favor of hunting safety programs and public target ranges. That's common sense. The funding, as you hunters know all too well, comes from an 11% excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition and archery equipment. Remarkably, sportsmen insisted on keeping the tax in place despite a repeal bill's having once been drawn up. Hunters saw the results, one of which was increasing whitetail populations.

Each state gets money dependent upon the total area and number of licensed hunters. The state pays the full amount of an approved project then applies for Federal reimbursement up to 75% of project expenses. So, while I'm not going to contribute by buying a weapon, one more hunting licensee in Arizona doesn't hurt, either.

Some of my environmentalist friends tell me that we shouldn't teach kids to hunt. I disagree. Getting them outside, away from electronic gadgets, is an important way to ensure the preservation of wilderness. Teaching them to take only what is necessary and to respect the life and spirit of an animal is a good thing, for one of our major problems is losing connection as a species to the land and its animals. What better advocates are there for woodlands and waterways than those who have hiked, camped and yes – hunted in them? If non-hunters think that we alone should advocate for wilderness, we are being both arrogant and shortsighted. We need to work with hunters, not against them.

Global climate change and overpopulation threaten wilderness as nothing has before. I'll be glad to have my duck stamp and hunting license. I better get a combo hunting-fishing one, however, since I still have a bag of Dardevels, jitterbugs and leaders in the garage that I can't bear to throw away. I fondly remember the summer day fifty-two years ago when I caught my first bass. ##

MWHI Donates 18 Wood Duck Nest Boxes to IDNR – Horseshoe Lake, Granite City



MWHI President Scott Bryant and John Gineris deliver the boxes to IDNR staff

MWHI Puts Up New Wood Duck Nest Boxes on MRA

Recently, Bart Magruder, Ron Ragus and Bo Adock put up 5 new wood duck nest boxes in the Mississippi River Areas. The boxes were donated by MWHI and were put up in the following areas:

- **One, which was blown down in recent storms**
- **Four in the Glades area**
- **Two on 12-Mile Island**

We would like to thank Bart, Ron and Bo for their hard work and time.

Conservation Police Seek Information in Two Bald Eagle Shootings

News Release, March 29, 2007

\$1,000 reward to anyone with information resulting in prosecution

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Illinois Conservation Police and agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are seeking information about the shooting of two bald eagles in Fulton County. The first eagle was recovered alive after a citizen reported it in the Banner, Illinois area on January 6, 2007. The mature bald eagle was taken to a licensed rehabilitator and treated by a veterinarian. Despite this care, the eagle died of what is believed to be a gunshot wound on January 9th.

The second eagle, an immature bald eagle, was recovered in the Smithfield, Illinois area on February 11th. A citizen reported this eagle to Illinois Conservation Police, and it has been turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine the cause of death. However, evidence at the scene indicates it was possibly a gunshot.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering a reward of at least \$1,000 to anyone with information leading to the prosecution of the responsible person(s) in these cases. Federal laws, such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Eagle Protection Act, as well as the Illinois Wildlife Code protect bald eagles. Penalties for shooting a bald eagle may include fines, restitution, and jail time. Confidential information may be given by calling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office in Springfield at (217) 793-9554, or by calling the Target Illinois Poachers Hotline at 1-877-2DNRLAW (1-877-236-7529).

IDNR announces 2007 Firearm Deer Season Permit Online Applications Available Today; Online application will expedite permit process

IDNR News Release 4/4/07

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) today announced that the online application system for 2007 Resident Firearm and Muzzleloader-only Deer Season Permits is now available. The online system expedites the application process, allowing resident hunters to more efficiently apply for their firearm deer hunting permit.

“Applying online is the easy and convenient way to go for resident Illinois hunters interested in getting into the first lottery drawing for this fall’s firearm and muzzleloader permits,” said IDNR Acting Director Sam Flood. “Use of the online system helped speed up processing time for deer permit applications last year and I expect the same this season.”

To apply online, **resident** hunters should go to <https://www1.wildlifelicense.com/il/start.php#>. Online applications are available using a credit card (American Express, Discover, Mastercard or Visa) or E-Check.

The application deadline for the Illinois Firearm and Muzzleloader-only Deer Season first lottery drawing is April 30. Hunters can also use the online system to buy hunting, fishing and sportsman’s combination licenses, habitat stamps and other licenses and permits.

The 2007 Illinois Firearm Deer Season is Nov. 16-18 and Nov. 29-Dec. 2. The 2007 Muzzleloader-only Deer Season is Dec. 7-9.

6th ANNUAL MWHI WATERFOWL CONSERVATION BANQUET

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Acropolis Computers
Amy Smouse
Bank of Edwardsville
Baretta Arms
Bass Pro
Benelli Arms
Brad's Birds
Burns Wild Game
Callison
Carrollton Bank
Cherished Memories
Cornerstone Bank
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Denny Ward
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Dixon Distributor
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Flooded Fields
Fritz Distributor
Gay Garner
Greg Hudson, State Farm
Hilltop Auction
Hollywood Tans
IRB Ducks & Bucks Hunt Club
Jay McCurly
Jocker's Sporting Clay
Johnson's Corner
LaCrosse Boots
Mossy Oak
Paul Smouse
Pepsi
Quackassassin Calls
Remington
Rueger Arms
Spencer Smith
Steve Kitchen
Stutz Service
Tim Hill (puppy)
Town Club
Treece Acres
Vesci Distributor
Walmart
Winchester Arms
Walmart
Sinclair Foods

For Pictures from the 2007
MWHI Banquet
Please see the Photo Album
on MWHI website

New MWHI Life Members

Joe Webster
Stephen C. Roth

Thank you for your support!