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Rosi Franke, Editor

Tel: 618-396-2509

e-mail: rgfranke@frontiernet.net

REMEMBER!
MWHI 8th ANNUAL
WETLAND CONSERVATION BANQUET

April 5, 2008

K.C. Banquet Hall, Godfrey, IL



For more information and reservations contact John Gineris at (618) 786-2596

If anybody is interested in participating in the banquet committee or who can give/find donations for the banquet, also contact John Gineris.

MWHI OFFICERS

President

Scott Bryant
618-466-1836 (home)
618-535-0151 (cell)

Vice-President

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

Treasurer

Larry Franklin
618-465-5686

Membership Secretary

Mike Devening
618-791-1692

Correspondence Secretary

Jeremy Maggart
618-535-4997

Recording Secretary

Jeremy Arnold
618-779-8313

MWHI DIRECTORS

John Gineris
Banquet Chairman
618-786-2596

Eric Rhuede
Golf Tournament Chairman
618-410-9853

Dewayne Hahnenkamp
Wood Duck Nest Box Chairman
Refuge Chairman
618-786-2053

Greg Franke
COE Chairman
618-396-2509

Chance Funk
618-917-4137

Dave Geisler
618-576-9845

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

Josh Schneider
618-466-8534

Matt Grassle
618-550-1734

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 4, 2008

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

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

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

Monday, March 3, 2008

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

Saturday, April 5, 2008

MWHI 8th ANNUAL
WETLAND CONSERVATION BANQUET
at K.C. Banquet Hall, Godfrey, IL

MWHI 2008

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE RAFFLE
Craig Sondker, Membership Drive Chairman

Prizes will include:

Duck/Goose Hunting Trips
Catfishing Trip
Benelli Nova

Raffle starts October 2007 - ends October 2008
See upcoming Sentry for more details.

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Illinois Governor Signs Bill to Put Deer
Herd Under Local Control

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

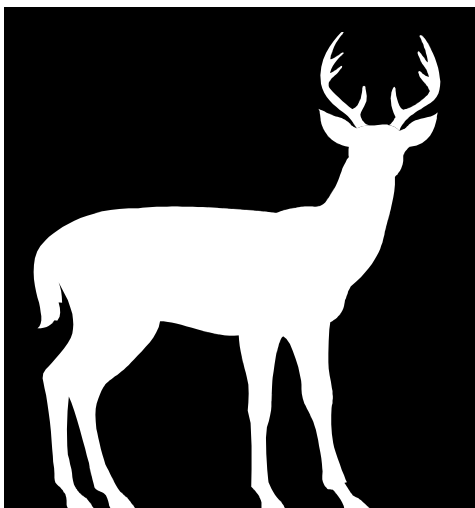
A new Illinois law will endanger hunting by stripping the Department of Natural Resources of its authority to regulate deer populations.

On Aug 28, Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed HB 3425. The provision will allow local governments to manage deer herds using methods other than hunting. A local government that conducts a DNR-approved study of alternative deer population controls in addition to hunting may now unilaterally implement the alternative methods deemed useful.

“There is great danger in a law that diverts wildlife management decision-making away from state, which has the resources and expertise to make such decisions,” said U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance President Bud Pidgeon. “Putting wildlife in the hands of local governments makes it easier for anti-hunters to strike against hunting, not to mention the fact that it creates a patchwork approach that will cripple successful wildlife management.”

House Bill 3425 creates a slippery slope. Today, the call is for local control of deer herds, but anti-hunters will run with the concept and advocate local management of all hunting and trapping.

House Bill 3425 passed the House of Representatives on April 17, by a vote of 70 to 40. It passed the Senate on May 31, by a vote of 33 to 23.



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: frank_watson51@sbcglobal.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: dreizt@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>

2008-Boom or Gloom
Dewayne Hahnenkamp

It's the New Year and except for snow and some Canada goose hunting, the 2007-08 waterfowl season is probably over. Except for maybe Carlyle lake hunters, most hunters I talked to thought the season was a let down. But with duck and goose hunting still fresh on everyone's mind, some are already thinking about next year's season. You factor in the big 3-year blind drawing at the MRA areas this summer and it's a lot easier to dream about next season. Everyone hopes that some day, the gods will smile upon them and then they too will have a hot blind for a few years. Even though I personally have never had my name pulled for a blind, I have been fortunate enough to be put on several good blinds the last few years. Believe me in saying that owning a hot blind, as a duck hunter, is something that you will never forget. So to all the MRA hunters who will go to the drawing this summer, let me be the first to wish you good luck at the draw.

Now down to the business part of this article. Let me assure you that this drawing is a high priority for MWH board members and they will be spending a lot of time getting ready in the months to come. MWH will hold area committee meetings in February and March to help improve or to make changes in these hunting areas. MWH will then meet with the state to discuss and possible changes on these areas. The only problem right now is that the state is under a heavy budget crunch so big ideals that would take some money to make happen may be a long shot this year. To be truthful, I have heard rumors that the IDNR is so strapped for funds that they don't know where they will get the extra funds to even have a blind drawing for the MRA areas. If things are that bad now, will they have the money to even manage our areas this year? Seeding, spraying weeds, fuel, water pumping, and normal repairs could be affected in our areas, especially if our funds keep going to pay for new pet programs in the Chicago area. Most of Illinois has seen cuts in IDNR funding but the southern two-thirds of the state has and have been cut the most. These and more problems will have to be addressed this year by this club. Then pile on the fact that we are going to lose our two top people at the MRA office this summer and then you know we are in for a rough year ahead.

So go ahead and dream and little about the upcoming drawing and duck season. You might even pray a little to improve your luck. But while you are doing that, you might want to pray that we even have a drawing this summer or that you have an area to hunt on next fall.

An Assault on Gun Rights in Cook County, Illinois!

NRA, 12/28/07

Cook County is currently considering two anti-gun proposals that must be defeated!

The first, which is called the "Safe Streets/Weapons Registration Ordinance", claims to simply require the registration of all firearms and firearm owners in Cook County. As written, however, it is an outright ban of all firearms and ammunition. Even if you do not live in Cook County, this proposal will have a dramatic impact on you due to new restrictions on transporting firearms!

The second proposed ordinance would amend the county's "Deadly Weapon Dealers Ordinance." It seeks to completely ban all gun shows within the county, and prohibits federally licensed dealers from operating within 10 miles of another federally licensed dealer. This will not only prohibit new gun stores, but could wipe out most existing ones.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

ISRA, Don Bekeleski, 12/31/2007

I guess some people still do make resolutions, but many never keep them so they just don't make them anymore.

I would like each of us reading this to make a few and keep them also.

1. If I don't belong to the Illinois State Rifle Association this is the year I will join. It's time to group together with the "band of brothers" fighting for our rights here in Illinois. Most of all, to sign up for the email alerts and be informed and act on them. It's time to get that warm feeling of belonging, instead of wondering what the group is doing for me now.

2. Get more vocal in defending your 2nd Amendment right. If conversations at work or play start up about restricting gun ownership, jump right in. You are on the right side, you have all the common sense on your side, plus you have all the quotes from the Founding Fathers to use. Quit letting the other side beat you up!

If they don't want to own a gun that's their choice. But you have a choice also and they must respect that the same way you respect theirs.

3. Take someone shooting that has never been. Introduce them to the fun. Better yet if you can make it a group effort (wives, children etc.) Tell them if they don't like it, that's ok too, but they

can't make a choice without experiencing it. Supply the guns, the ammo and even a picnic lunch to really make it a fun outing!

4. Defend the sport of hunting even if you don't hunt. Explain how it has been a very good tool in keeping a healthy population of animals. After all, if we were hurting the deer population how do we consistently kill 200,000 deer (all combined) every year in this state? It should be getting less and less harvest numbers, not more and more like is happening.

5. Lastly plan to attend the IGOLD day March 11th in Springfield to show your support against anti-gun legislation. Be part of the force to help it grow so big the news stations have to cover the event. Go and actually talk to your Representatives in the state legislature and personally tell them how you feel in a gentle but vigorous way.

These are not hard resolutions to keep. You will actually enjoy doing all of them, so jump right in. Think of the number of people we will influence if all of us do this. I am sure you will be pleased with yourself very much for the accomplishment.

From me to you, may you have a great and healthy New Year!

Creating Hunting Opportunities for Newcomers

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Situation Room, 1/3/08

In 2007, the USSA, National Shooting Sports Foundation, and National Wild Turkey Federation launched several Families Afield campaigns, established to urge states to eliminate unnecessary hunting age restrictions and ease hunter education mandates. In 2006, the partnership scored victories as twelve states approved Families Afield bills and regulations. Available data from states that have implemented Families Afield initiatives reveals that apprentice hunting license programs brought nearly 34,000 new hunters, both children and adults, to the field in 2006 without a single hunting-related shooting incident.

Court Deems Sportsmen's Input Vital to Grizzly Delisting Lawsuit

Sportsmen gain a foothold in anti-hunting litigation

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance 11/2/07 (National)

A federal judge will allow the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation to defend sportsmen's interests in a lawsuit brought by anti's seeking to prevent the removal of recovered wildlife populations from the federal endangered list.

On Oct. 31, Judge Edward Lodge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho granted a U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation (USSAF) motion to file a brief with the Court addressing the substantive legal issues in the case from the sportsmen's perspective. Anti-hunters sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in June, claiming it violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when it removed from the federal endangered list the distinct populations of abundant grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. Sportsmen support the delisting and are concerned that efforts to obstruct it will prevent states from resuming rightful control of healthy wildlife populations.

Anti-hunters filed suit to exploit imprecise language that exists in the Endangered Species Act and use the law as a tool to eliminate hunting. They seem to ignore the fact that the ESA has allowed once-troubled grizzly populations to recover; they strictly want to use the ESA to ban hunting.

The FWS removed Yellowstone grizzly bears from the endangered list on April 30 after determining that federal recovery efforts have been successful and the animals are no longer threatened.

Judge Lodge also granted motions by the Wyoming and Idaho wildlife agencies to join the case as defendants. He agreed that the states have sufficient stake in the litigation. At the same time, he denied motions to intervene by Safari Club International, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Montana Wildlife Federation and Wyoming Wildlife Federation, determining their interests would be adequately represented by the state and federal agencies.

Plaintiffs in the case against the FWS include the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council and Center for Biological Diversity.

This is the latest lawsuit brought by the anti's to manipulate the ESA to eliminate hunting. The USSAF is

representing sportsmen's interests in a similar case to allow states to resume management control of abundant gray wolf populations in the upper Midwest that were once endangered. It is also involved in a potentially precedent-setting lawsuit in Minnesota that would ban trapping to prevent incidental catch of lynx. A suit brought in Florida would make black bears in the state off-limits to sportsmen by classifying them as a sub-species and listing them as endangered.



California Bans Lead Ammunition **U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance**

California has enacted a lead ammunition ban that will drive hunters out of the field and prove a detriment to the wildlife it was supposed to help.

On Oct. 13, over sportsmen's objections, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 821 to prohibit lead ammunition in the California condor's range. Biologists contend the ingestion of lead from carcasses shot during hunting season is a threat to the endangered bird; however, outlawing the ammunition was a drastic and unnecessary step.

"The lead ban ignores sportsmen's century-long track record as stewards of wildlife and denies them the chance to make a difference," said Rob Sexton, USSA vice president for government affairs. "It was a meat cleaver approach to a problem that could have been resolved by a regulation mandating that sportsmen dispose of animal carcasses after a hunt. Couple that requirement with an education campaign aimed at hunters and the state would not have put a quarter of its conservation funding at risk."

Sportsmen pay the lions share for all conservation, including endangered species programs, through license fees and tax dollars. That is \$93 million in California. The high cost and limited availability of alternative ammunition will deter sportsmen from participating in the sport. If hunter numbers decline, so will the funding source for wildlife programs, including condor recovery.

Windmills Bring a Lot of Hot Air

Pennsylvania Woods & Waters

By Jim Slinsky

Where have the environmentalists gone? Son-of-a-gun, just when you need them, they go silent. How can drilling in ANWR be so offensive to so many, but constructing thousands of windmills on our mountain tops within our daily eyesight be so acceptable? I just don't get it.

Lisa Linowes from WindAction.org was my radio show guest just a few weeks ago and her words were quite profound. An objective analysis of windmills as even a partial solution to our energy needs just isn't cutting it. The numbers just don't add up. It may be time to use the old adage, "Liars can figure, but figures don't lie." Obviously, the American Wind Energy Association is a powerful lobby taking us in a direction that will only result in that warm and fuzzy feeling – but our lights might not come on. From the Rocky Mountains to Texas to Maine, people are finally beginning to question the logic and effectiveness of wind energy.

Let's talk numbers. A windmill is capable of generating 1 to 1.5 megawatts of electricity when the wind is rippin'. Without wind, you get nothing. Compare that to a 1,300 megawatt nuclear power plant, and you need over a thousand windmills to compete, that's with gale force winds. Currently, wind energy provides less than 1/2% of our nation's energy needs. If we installed windmills from sea to shining sea, we might provide 5% of our nation's energy requirements. The math doesn't add up. Neither does the trade-off.

Now let's talk negatives. Roads must be built up and down our mountains to construct and maintain these contraptions. Habitat fragmentation is enormous. Migratory birds get clobbered. Our view-sheds turn real ugly. The noise level will give some a migraine headache. Let's not forget ice will form on these blades in the winter, and blades do break. Our mountain tops will be off limits to hunting and hiking in short order. Imagine from New York to West Virginia the entire Appalachian Mountains laced with windmills. Surrounding property values will take a hit. New transmission lines will need to be built across private property. Eminent domain will be applied to those in the way. Unfortunately, some windmills will probably receive a few bullet holes. I am not condoning this behavior, but people express their anger in different ways. The Appalachian Trail will never be the same, if it remains open.

Now some of you are saying that the construction of these "wind farms" will create substantial economic benefits. Not really. Once construction is completed, one employee per 25 windmills is all that is needed to monitor generation. That employee might be located hundreds of miles away at a control panel. In Pa. and a few other states, windmills are exempt from state taxes. Getting the picture? This is more about feeling good than actually solving our energy needs. Interestingly, the Sierra Club, champions of the wilderness debate, is a supporter of windmills. I just don't get it.

Let us not forget the battle cry to build windmills was born from the fear of earth's demise due to global warming. If you are watching this debate closely, the global warming argument is collapsing faster than a migratory bird hit by a windmill blade. The computer models are being challenged, the predicted temperature profiles are going down, the predicted sea level rises are causing laughter and the true scientific community is going in the other direction. A normal cyclical warming trend, maybe, but catastrophic global demise is not happening.

Back in ANWR, there is enough oil to fill the pipeline and possibly supply 30-40% of our nation's oil needs for the next 30 years. This would certainly buy us the time to intelligently and comprehensively debate how we are going to address our dependency on foreign oil and domestic coal.

Once again, the hypocrisy within this debate is mind-boggling. The environmentalists will sue to stop timbering, sue to protect roadless areas, sue to protect endangered species and sue to protect our drinking water. Government will support their efforts. However, when it comes to the wholesale industrialization of rural America, government is our front and the environmental community is dead silent.

I just don't get it.

D.C. Gun Ban Headed to the Supreme Court

NRA's American Hunter

On November 20, the Supreme Court announced that it will review *District of Columbia v Heller* (formerly *Parker v District of Columbia*), to answer the question in the court's words, of "Whether the following provisions-D.C. Code secs. 7-2509.02(a)(4), 22-4504(a), and 7-2507.02-violate the Second Amendment rights of individuals who are not affiliated with any state-regulated militia, but who wish to keep handguns and other firearms for private use in their homes."

Those three provisions of the D.C. Code ban the possession of handguns not registered in the city prior to September 24, 1976, ban having any assembled firearm within one's home, and ban carrying a firearm in one's home without a permit. D.C. law makes no exception for self-defense.

The District, claiming that its gun bans are within its police powers, appealed to the Supreme Court after losing before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The D.C. Circuit ruled that the Second Amendment "protects the ownership and use of weaponry beyond that needed to preserve the state militias," rejecting the District's claim that individuals have a right to arms only when serving in a militia.

Days before the Supreme Court's announcement, the Brady Campaign wrapped up a series of anti-*Parker* essays, which boiled down to two claims

that have already been rejected by the Supreme Court.

First, Brady contended that "to keep and bear arms" means only to bear arms (in a militia), not to keep arms. In *United States v Miller* (1939), of course, the Supreme Court described militia members as individuals "bearing arms supplies by themselves," and federal and state militia laws in our nation's early days required individuals to acquire and keep privately-owned firearms and ammunition.

Second, Brady contended that the Second Amendment grants militia rights out of thin air-so, what government grants, D.C.'s government can take away. But in *United States v Cruikshank*(1876), the court noted that the right to arms existed before the Constitution was written-which leaves a major flaw in Brady's argument.

As this article goes to press, the Supreme Court has not yet scheduled oral arguments, and actually deciding the case will likely take months longer. NRA will participate by filing a "friend of the court" brief, and of course will report more extensively on the case in future issues.

Defending the Homeland

FWS loosens regs on resident Canada geese

Tim Wacker, *Outdoor Life*

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service wants hunters to help control the renegade goose populations that have infiltrated so many communities. If all goes to according to plan, resident Canada geese populations will decrease by as much as 80 percent in some states.

Responding to a chorus of complaints, the service decided it was time to give states more leeway in setting hunting seasons, according to wildlife biologist, Ron Kokel. Many of those regulations have gone into effect this fall, with increased bag limits, longer seasons and longer days aimed at reducing the resident goose population from 3.2 million to about 1.7 million.

2007 ILLINOIS FIREARM DEER SEASON HARVEST TOTALS 116,708

More than 31,000 deer taken during second firearm deer season

SPRINGFIELD , IL – Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 116,708 deer during the seven-day firearm deer hunting season Nov. 16-18 and Nov. 29-Dec. 2, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Acting Director Sam Flood announced today.

The preliminary second-season (Nov. 29-Dec. 2) harvest total was 31,218, compared with the 29,117 deer taken by hunters during the second season last year. This year's preliminary first-season (Nov. 16-18) deer harvest was 85,490, compared with a first-season harvest of 86,075 in 2006. The preliminary harvest total includes deer taken in all 98 counties in which firearm deer hunting is permitted, as well as Chain O'Lakes State Park in Lake County . "Congratulations to all of the hunters who were successful in taking a deer this season," Flood said.

"The totals show that Illinois continues to provide some of the best deer hunting opportunity in the country."

Preliminary reports show that Pike County was tops among county deer harvest totals for the firearm season as hunters there took 3,732 deer. Other top county harvest totals were Jefferson (2,805), Adams (2,791), Fulton (2,671), and JoDaviess (2,662).

"The deer harvest during the first three days of the season last month was comparable to last year, and hunters followed up with an increased harvest total during the final four days of the season last weekend," said IDNR Forest Wildlife Program manager Paul Shelton. "While the weather was wet and wintry the last two days of the season, many hunters stayed in the field and found deer."

Turkey Season

IDNR Newsbits, December 2007

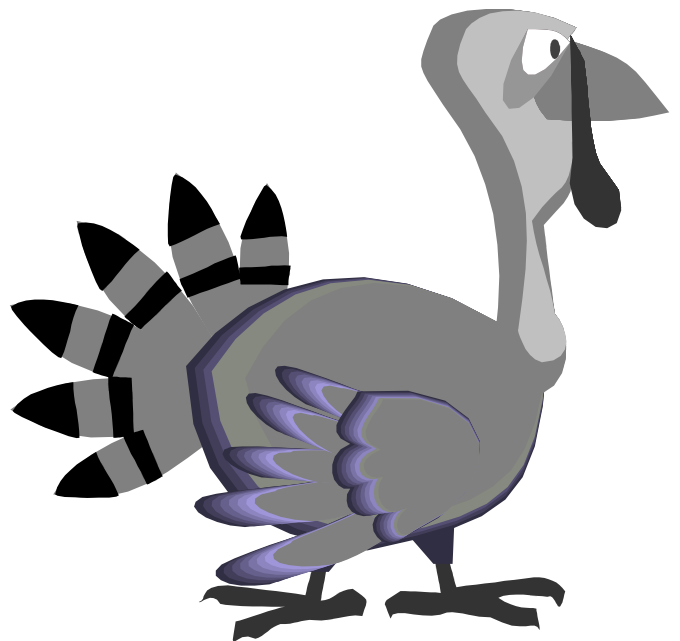
Spring Turkey: Applications are being accepted for the second lottery for 2008 Illinois spring turkey hunting permits. The deadline to apply for the second lottery is Jan. 11. For more information, go to the Hunting link on the IDNR web site home page. The 2008 Illinois Spring Turkey Season dates are outlined below:

2008 Northern Zone Spring Turkey Season Dates

1st Season Monday, April 14 - Friday, April 18
2nd Season Saturday, April 19 - Thursday, April 24
3rd Season Friday, April 25 - Wednesday, April 30
4th Season Thursday, May 1 - Wednesday, May 7
5th Season Thursday, May 8 - Thursday, May 15

2008 Southern Zone Season Dates

1st Season Monday, April 7 - Friday, April 11
2nd Season Saturday, April 12 - Thursday, April 17
3rd Season Friday, April 18 - Wednesday, April 23
4th Season Thursday, April 24 - Wednesday, April 30
5th Season Thursday, May 1 - Thursday, May 8



Consolidated Animal Rights Movement is Sportsmen's Nightmare

HSUS growth is threat to sportsmen

11/28/07 (National)

In a precisely-calculated effort, the Humane Society of the United States is assuming control of the animal rights movement's political agenda. In doing so, it becomes an even greater threat to conservation and hunters' rights.

Wayne Pacelle, the mastermind behind HSUS, recently told the Chronicle of Philanthropy that his organization may soon merge with at least three unnamed animal rights organizations. The HSUS calls itself a mainstream animal charity, but the growing organization has already joined forces with groups that push a none-too-conventional anti-hunting, anti-trapping agenda.

"The HSUS is playing up a mainstream reputation in hopes of becoming the primary mouthpiece for the animal rights movement," said USSA President Bud Pidgeon. "It is not difficult to convince a smaller group to unite with a multi-million dollar organization that will push its political agenda - be it to end hunting or eliminate animal research. Sportsmen will no-doubt see HSUS continue to grow in this way."

Power in Numbers

By absorbing the other groups, HSUS adds to its membership and bank accounts, which gives it even more political muscle. The group now has 10.5 million members or supporters, up from 7.4 million five years ago.

When Pacelle took control of HSUS in 2004, he realized the way to advance his political agenda was to develop an even larger following of animal activists. It was not by chance that HSUS assumed control of the Fund for Animals in 2005 and the Doris Day Animal League in 2006. It was all part of a plan to make HSUS the powerful and efficient mouthpiece for the animal rights movement.

Bank On It

With a staggering \$112-million budget, a new legislative arm and a political action committee to

boot, HSUS definitely has lawmakers' attention. The group spent \$2.5 million this year to push state and federal animal rights legislation. Last year, for the first time, it got directly involved in candidate elections and spent \$600,000 to back or oppose nominees based on their animal-related voting history.

To remain in control of the animal rights movement, HSUS plans to continue its financial development. In fact, it will soon begin a five year, \$100-million fund-raising effort that will put its budget well over \$200 million!

Looks Can Be Deceiving

Sportsmen know the HSUS is a political machine that campaigns to ban hunting.

The HSUS tries to sell itself as a group with mainstream goals, but if that were truly the case, would it merge with animal rights organizations that stigmatize and try to prohibit hunting and trapping?

For example, it led the effort to bulldoze dove hunting via the ballot box in Michigan, and it championed a recent bear hunting ban in New Jersey.

Those and dozens of other overt attacks on hunting are not the only threats HSUS poses to sportsmen. It has also plotted no-holds-barred campaigns that will have subtle, yet equally devastating, impacts on outdoor sports.

Sportsmen who breed and raise hunting dogs are being caught up in proposals that HSUS advocates as efforts to wipe out large-scale, abusive dog breeders. At the same time, the anti's are fanning a public frenzy against animal fighting and lobbying for legislation that could make sportsmen who hunt with dogs vulnerable to animal cruelty charges. For instance, if a dog breaks point and grabs a pheasant the hunter could be charged with an act of animal cruelty. The USSA Sporting Dog Defense Coalition is on call to make sure hunters' rights are protected.

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Contact Greg Franke at: 618-396-2509 (Home)

618-530-8458 (Cell)