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## **Annual MWHI Blind-Builder Meeting**



**Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 1:00 pm**

**MWHI Office, 2404 E. Broadway, Alton**

**All Blind Builders are Invited to Attend!**

## MWHI OFFICERS

### President

Scott Bryant  
217-983-2025 (home)  
618-535-0151 (cell)

### Vice-President

John Gineris  
Banquet Chairman  
618-786-2596

### Treasurer

Larry Franklin  
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### Membership Secretary

Mike Devening  
618-259-6181

### Correspondence Secretary

Jeremy Maggart  
618-535-4997

### Recording Secretary

Jeremy Arnold  
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## MWHI DIRECTORS

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Area Projects Chairman  
IFOR Board Representative  
618-498-4724  
618-578-9547 (cell)

Eric Rhuede  
Golf Tournament Chairman  
618-410-9853

Duane Hahnenkamp  
Wood Duck Nest Box Chairman  
Refuge Chairman  
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Dave Geisler  
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Justin Wolfe  
Carlyle Lake Area Projects Chairman  
Catfish Tournament Chairman  
618-377-0397

Josh Schnider  
618-466-8534

Matt Grassle  
618-550-3124

Nathan Wilson  
618-946-2820

Kevin Brooks  
618-535-1724

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 2, 2009

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

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

**MWHI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**Election of Officers and Board Members**  
at Alton-Wood River Sportsmen Club  
in Godfrey, IL at 7:00 pm

Monday, March 2, 2009

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

Saturday, March 14, 2009

**Blind Builder Meeting**  
at MWHI Office, 2404 E. Broadway, Alton  
at 1:00 pm

Saturday, April 4, 2008

**MWHI 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**  
**WETLAND CONSERVATION BANQUET**  
at K.C. Banquet Hall, Godfrey, IL

## **MWHI 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

### **WETLAND CONSERVATION BANQUET**

April 4, 2009

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

**If anyone is interested in being on the banquet  
committee or can has donations for the banquet, also  
contact John Gineris.**

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.

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## End of the Season – Start of the New Year!

Duane Hahnenkamp

Let me start out with the 2008 waterfowl season. As of the first day of 2009, it seemed that our areas did as well or better on ducks this season as anywhere else around. Many of our areas started killing ducks from day one and were on track for a great season when the first freeze hit just before Thanksgiving.

Up until that time, areas up the river from us were reporting a lot poorer season while we shot birds day after day. Granted, it seemed as if the ducks that were here were old and smart (almost as if the hatch was a bust), but hunting for us was decent. But when the second freeze and ice hit around Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, the hunting started to slow down and the ice kept coming.

In the southern zone, many of the ducks left before opening day, when they had 15 degrees and ice. Many hunters I talked to down south said that opening day was the worst they have ever seen. What few ducks I saw in the southern zone on opening weekend were call shy and the bulk of the ducks didn't come out of the refuge until after dark.

Over the next week, we talked to hunters from Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and farther south, and they all wanted to know where the ducks were. It was a week or two later when a blizzard hit up north that we finally saw some more ducks move in and the hunting improved. But still, duck hunting in the southern zone wasn't anything to brag about in December. The snow storms and ice started moving geese in about a week before Christmas. This at least helped the poor duck hunting down south and the goose hunting a lot better around home. For our areas to go through all the floods this summer and no feed in our local lakes, it seems that we have lucked out this duck season. For January 2009, my hope is the goose hunting just keeps getting better and we get a miracle to save the southern zone duck season.

What I last heard was that January 1<sup>st</sup> is the date that Neil Booth, Superintendent of the MRA, would retire. This leaves a big hole for someone to fill and the wrong person in that position could really hurt our areas. I know Scott Bryant and MWHI will do everything they can to work with the new person if he/she will let us.

Then there is the mess in Springfield with our Governor. Only in Illinois could politics get so stupid and out of control. Hopefully, they will get things settled early in 2009 and if Lt. Governor Quinn takes over, maybe things will get better for our part of the state. Think of all the possibilities that come with a new governor. Right off the top of my head would be the appointment of a new director of the IDNR. Wouldn't that be something if we get a director who believes in the outdoors, parks, hunting and fishing. Not someone who stands by and watch Chicago cut the IDNR budget to the bone. The last thing we need is a new director more concerned with saving the polar bears than doing what is right for the people and sportsmen in Illinois. Let's be realistic. If our director won't do what is right for the people of Illinois, do you think that any person from another state will give a damn about us? We kept hearing the word "change" in the last election campaign. Let's hope in 2009 change starts right here in Illinois.

For 2009, I hear the boys down south have had enough with the super late duck season and want a change. Petitions are starting to fly around the hunting areas in the southern zone, calling for an earlier season. The hunters are tired of fighting ice after the bulk of the ducks has already left. Even some private club owners are starting to change their minds and talk about opening two weeks earlier. A guy who hunts Carlyle Lake once told me the worst thing that happened in the 2005 season was that the ducks came back in January and saved that season. Up until that January spring migration, it had been a very bad year. Every year since then, the local hunters have been waiting for another spring flight to save their season. Possible opening day change will probably be the #1 item for discussion this summer when the state is deciding on season dates. So keep your ears open and be ready to give your opinion.

Last, in 2009 we have a new President and a new idea of change for government. What "change" means, I haven't figured out yet. But right now, our economy is as bad as I have ever seen it. We have a new President but a lot of the same old congress people in office that were here long before this whole mess started. For the good of the country, I hope they get things turned around in 2009. Just as long as they leave my guns alone put the well-being of the American people ahead of that of polar bears.

### **'I CAN HEAR JUST FINE!'**

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other, 'Windy, isn't it?' No,' the second man replied, 'it's Thursday.' And the third man chimed in, 'So am I. Let's have a beer.'

**MWHI urges Governor to appoint Neil Booth as IDNR Director 1/10/09**

Rod R. Blagojevich  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Appointment of Illinois Director of Natural Resources - Neil Booth

January 10, 2009

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. (MWHI) is the oldest and largest-non-for-profit waterfowl hunting organization in Illinois. It was founded in 1970 and during the past 38 years we have closely worked with government agencies and the private sector to actively promote wildlife and wetland conservation within the by-state area amidst the Illinois, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers as well as the entire Mississippi River Flyway.

We are very much interested in a continuing close working relationship with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. To this end, we strongly recommend and urge the appointment of recently retired MRA Superintendent Neil Booth as Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. We feel that Neil Booth's history of serving DNR and the public as an accomplished biologist, leading Illinois wildlife developer, as well as being a lifelong avid hunter and fisherman, makes him an extremely qualified person for that position.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Scott Bryant  
MWHI President

CC: Sam Flood, IDNR Acting Director, Scott Flood, IDNR Land Management, John Buhnerkempe, IDNR Wildlife Resources, Sen. Deanna Demuzio, Sen. William R. Haine, Rep. Jim Watson, Rep. Daniel V. Beiser, IDNR Advisory Board, Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus: Sen. Jones, Rep. Beaubien, Rep, Phelps, Rep. Reitz, Richard Pearson, ISRA, Bob Becker, IFOR, Mississippi Valley Hunters and Fisherman Association, Quincy, Mississippi Valley Duck Hunters of Illinois, Lenzburg

**Ex-lawmaker Named to Illinois. Natural Resources Post 1/16/09**

Submitted by Bob Becker, IFOR, Associated Press, January 16, 2009

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich has named a veteran former lawmaker to head the state's Department of Natural Resources.

Kurt Granberg, a 55-year-old Carlyle Democrat, was appointed Friday. He was named to the \$133,000-a-year post for a term ending January 2011.

Granberg has served in the House of Representatives since 1987 and was assistant majority leader under Speaker Michael Madigan. He resigned his seat before the House voted Jan. 9 to impeach Blagojevich.

With nearly 1,500 employees, the agency is charged with maintaining and protecting the state's natural areas, promoting outdoor recreation and enforcing wildlife laws.

He replaces Sam Flood, who'll return to his original post as assistant DNR director.

## Illinois Could Lose Millions in Wildlife Funds

January 07, 2009, The State Journal-Register, Submitted by Bob Becker, IFOR

BY CHRIS YOUNG

The Illinois General Assembly must act this month to restore \$9.25 million in restricted funds “swept” to pay state bills or risk losing millions in federal dollars for fish and wildlife management.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sent Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s office a letter Dec. 19 stating that any transfer of hunting and fishing license fees to pay other state expenses would violate federal law.

The Fish and Wildlife Service had warned the state against the transfers in a letter on Oct. 6.

The money is part of \$221 million swept last fall from a long list of special state funds to help close Illinois’ budget gap. Included were six funds that are repositories for hunting and fishing license, stamp and other fees.

States receive a share of excise taxes collected on the purchase of sporting goods, such as fishing rods and reels and shotgun shells, if they agree not to spend money generated by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and related fees on things other than managing wildlife and fish restoration projects.

Illinois’ estimated share of federal funds for fiscal 2009 is about \$16 million. The letter from Thomas Melius, regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based in Fort Snelling, Minn., noted that Blagojevich was advised of fund transfers were illegal, but signed the bill into law the next day.

The “swept” money is being used to keep open some state parks targeted for closure and to restore other cuts, including for substance abuse treatment centers throughout Illinois.

Blagojevich vetoed \$55 million of the \$221 million authorized by the legislation to be swept from the funds, much more than the \$9.25 million questioned by the Fish and Wildlife Service, according to a letter sent Dec. 16 by Kevin Hovis, general counsel in the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget.

Half of the \$9.25 million already has been transferred from the dedicated funds.

“None of the money transferred from the Funds in accordance with the Act has been spent by the state,” Hovis wrote. “The transferred money remains untouched in a separate and distinct State fund.”

Legislative action is needed to return DNR funds “from which they originated,” Hovis added. Aaron Kuehl, conservation director for Illinois Pheasants Forever, said he is concerned that distractions caused by the possible impeachment of Blagojevich may bring

other work to a halt at the Capitol, causing Illinois to miss the Fish and Wildlife Service’s deadline.

Feb. 2 is 45 days from the Dec. 19 date stamped on the letter.

State Rep. Dan Reitz, D-Sparta, said concerns about inaction are legitimate.

“We’re really not functioning on any level,” Reitz said. “A lot of problems and concerns are not going to be addressed until we finish the impeachment process and move on.

Still, Reitz said he remains hopeful the legislature can restore the transfers in the first week of the new session that starts Jan. 14.

While the rules have always stated a loss of federal funds was possible, Kuehl said it could be good for everyone to see that the rules have teeth.

“Long term, this could be a good thing for these funds,” he said. “Now, the (Fish and Wildlife Service) has taken it a step farther, and we have a letter saying this is wrong.

“Hopefully, we won’t be revisiting this in the future.”

**Note from Bob Becker, IFOR:**

**We will be working on getting this accomplished as soon as the Legislature reconvenes this week. Good article by Chris.**

**Bob**

###

### Illinois bowhunters shoot 64,934 deer

January 16, 2009, Prairie State Outdoors website

According to very preliminary numbers, Illinois bowhunters shot an estimated 64,934 deer during the archery season that ended Thursday.

That’s up slightly from last year, when the kill total was 63,441, but is down from 2006 (65,154) and 2005 (66,538).

Top five counties were:

Pike 3,762

Fulton 1,825

Jefferson 1,462

Adams 1,403

Peoria 1,323



## **USSA Opposes New Bill Diverting South Dakota License Fees**

*Legislation Diverts Hunting Fees to Roads,  
Could Cost Millions in Federal Dollars  
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance 1/13/09*

The USSA is asking sportsmen in South Dakota to contact their state legislators and urge them to oppose a new bill recently introduced that could gut the state's ability to manage its wildlife.

House Bill 1002, sponsored by Representative Kent Juhnke (R- Vivian), proposes that \$1 for every hunting license sold by the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks be sent to a new fund in the state treasury to be used by counties for road repair. If passed as drafted, HB 1002 could raise \$600,000 annually for roads. The wildlife department Secretary, Jeff Vonk, has indicated that his agency is not supportive of the bill.

There are several reasons for the opposition. Most importantly, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued an opinion that HB 1002 would be considered a "diversion" of license fees. That would be a violation of federal law, risking the loss of \$10 million in federal dollars that went to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks in 2008. The loss of that federal money would devastate South Dakota's ability to manage its wildlife.

Additionally, in news reports, Vonk was quoted saying that sportsmen already pay for road repairs through fuel taxes at the pump and that the bill "seems like a double hit."

"Secretary Vonk is on target when he calls this a double hit for sportsmen," said Rick Story, Executive Vice President of the USSA. Story continued, "In some ways it could be seen as a triple hit. Sportsmen pay fuel taxes like everyone else and expect their hunting fees to pay for helping wildlife. They don't expect those fees to go to asphalt while getting gypped out of millions in federal funds at the same time."

South Dakota sportsmen should contact their local legislators and tell them that the state can't afford to lose \$10 million for conservation and that it is unfair for sportsmen to take a hit for repairing roads when they already pay fuel taxes.

###

## **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

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

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

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

Illinois State Rifle Association **1-815-635-3198** [www.isra.org](http://www.isra.org)

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

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

**Sen. Deana Demuzio** – 49<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-854-4441 Fax: 217-854-5311

**Sen. Frank Watson** – 51<sup>st</sup> District  
Tel: 618-664-9108 E-mail: [frank\\_watson51@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frank_watson51@sbcglobal.net)

**Sen. John O. Jones** – 54<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-242-9511 E-mail: [jojones@mvn.net](mailto:jojones@mvn.net)

**Sen. William R. Haine** – 56<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-465-4764 E-mail: [haine@senatedem.state.il.us](mailto:haine@senatedem.state.il.us)

**Sen. James F. Clayborne** – 57<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-875-1212 E-mail: [clayborne@senatedem.il.us](mailto:clayborne@senatedem.il.us)

**Sen. David Luechtfeld** – 58<sup>th</sup> District  
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**Rep. Jim Watson** – 97<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-243-6221 E-mail: [jimwatson@localnetco.com](mailto:jimwatson@localnetco.com)

**Rep. Gary Hannig** – 98<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 217-839-2859 E-Mail: [hannig@hdsmail.state.il.us](mailto:hannig@hdsmail.state.il.us)

**Rep. Ron Stephens** – 102<sup>nd</sup> District  
Tel: 618-667-8669 E-mail: [stephens@apci.net](mailto:stephens@apci.net)

**Rep. Kurt Granberg** – 107<sup>th</sup> District  
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**Rep. Jay Hoffman** – 112 District  
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**Rep. Thomas Holbrook** – 113<sup>th</sup> District  
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**Rep. Wyvetter Younge** – 114<sup>th</sup> District  
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**Rep. Mike Bost** – 115<sup>th</sup> District  
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**Durbin** - [dick@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:dick@durbin.senate.gov)

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

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

# ***New Year's Message to the Members of the Illinois State Rifle Association***

*ISRA Executive Director, Richard Pearson 12/31/2008*

In my heart of hearts, I'd like to wish each and every one of you a happy and prosperous new year. However, my head knows that 2009 may well be a very unhappy new year for those of us who honor the traditional view of the law-abiding citizen's right to keep and bear arms.

Yes, 2008 gave us a significant victory in the form of the Heller Decision. Finally, after more than two centuries, the Supreme Court figured out that our Constitution recognizes that gun ownership is an individual right. On the other hand, the gun control movement was quick to seize upon vagueness within the Heller Decision as vindication for a renewed and intensified effort to suppress free exercise of that individual right.

Our cause wasn't helped at all by the Republican Party's failure to field a presidential candidate who could beat an, inexperienced, philosophically-flawed candidate like Barack Obama. Now we're saddled with a President who has spent most of his short political life campaigning and very little time actually legislating. So, for the next four years, the presidency will be most likely be defined by endless photo-ops with kids, tales from the links, and vapid sloganeering from behind the presidential seal. Meanwhile, the affairs of state will be the province of the Democrats' first family, Bill and Hillary.

I wish I could be optimistic about the future of gun rights in Illinois, and the nation as a whole, but I cannot. On the federal level, you can fully expect the "Clinton cabinet" to swiftly place "reasonable" administrative controls on the civilian transfer and sale of firearms. More regulations on retail gun dealers and more intrusive questions on Form 4473 are two ways to make gun ownership less attractive and more expensive. Expect pushes for additional taxes on ammunition and new calls for bans of popular sporting arms and, of course, a constant browbeating of law-abiding firearm owners from administration officials and the liberal press.

The situation in Illinois is less predictable, but equally dangerous. As I write this message, the state is in a deep, unprecedented, and embarrassing constitutional crisis. On a positive note, the legislature will be very distracted resolving the "Blagojevich problem" and, thus, may be unwilling to get involved in a gun control fight. On the other hand, incoming freshman legislators combined with a new senate leadership pose a number of unknowns. Therefore, a legislative "sneak attack" against gun owners is a distinct possibility.

Indeed, times appear bleak for gun owners, but preservation of our freedoms is not a lost cause. The most valuable asset in the long battle to protect our rights has been you, the law-abiding firearm owner. It is comforting to know that you can be counted on to come through when times get rough. You're always there to make phone calls to legislators, attend rallies, confront gun controllers, and make monetary donations in support of gun rights. As much as your support is appreciated, we all wish it wasn't necessary. But times being what they are, you may find yourself being called into action more often than in the past. Your moral support is a key buttress to our lobbying operations on the ground in Springfield. You are why we fight so hard.

The ISRA has a very aggressive campaign plan for 2009. This campaign plan includes the introduction of legislation designed to blunt any attempts to curtail your rights with so-called "reasonable" gun control. The campaign also includes new grassroots initiatives that will project your power into the politics of your local communities. This unprecedented organizing effort will have, as its centerpiece, the 2009 edition of the Illinois Gun Owners' Lobby Day (IGOLD) with follow-on local and state-wide events throughout the year. You will play an important role in this effort. Early next year, you will be receiving a campaign toolkit for launching and maintaining the renewed grassroots effort. Keep your eyes open for the toolkit and other important ISRA communications that will be coming your way in the very near future.

In the mean time, I would like you to take the opportunity this New Year's weekend to spend some time with your families and reflect upon the freedoms you've enjoyed as citizens of the United States. Please keep our valiant troops in your hearts and minds as they advance the cause of righteousness around the globe. The next three weeks may very well be the last days of America as we have known her. Freedom will only be preserved if you, as individuals, raise your voices, stick to your principles, and jealously guard the traditions that released this land from the shackles of colonialism and transformed it into the shining beacon of freedom that it is today.

Richard A. Pearson  
Executive Director, ISRA

###

## Satellite Scaup: Headed South With Burners On

Outdoors website. 11/21/2008

The last week of blustery north winds and frigid temps have sent many ducks southward from the northern US and Canada. Most of these birds are only noticed in passing or when seen sitting on your favorite duck hole. However, a small group of ducks are being tracked from outer space. Seventeen female Lesser Scaup, sometimes called Bluebills, or maybe Dos Gris if you live near the Coast, were fitted with satellite tracking devices by LSU's Dr. Alan Afton and his co-workers. These birds were caught on Pool 19 of the Mississippi River, on the Iowa/ Illinois border. Pool 19 is an important stopover point for Scaup on their spring migration northward.

The major purpose of the study, according to information on the DU website, is to document spring migration corridors and migratory flight parameters of the birds, in order to determine the time individuals of varying body masses spend on upper-Midwest and Canadian wetlands in the spring. The continental Scaup population has declined dramatically since the early 1970's and reached an all-time low in 2006. Mississippi has seen a reduction in the Scaup bag limit from 3 in recent years to 1 per day for the 2008-2009 season. Reasons for the decline in the population are thought to be due to decreased food on migration routes, contaminants, and climate and habitat changes in boreal forest breeding areas.

One thing is certain, though, and that is that Mississippi catfish ponds are very beneficial to these birds as wintering areas. Studies have shown that Scaup feeding on MS catfish ponds are very healthy. One look across a Delta fish pond this time of year and you are almost guaranteed to see dozens, if not thousands, of Scaup feeding with several other species of ducks.

Research aside, tracking these little Grey Backs (this is what "dos gris" means in French) on the web is very interesting. Take the latest Mississippi arrivals for example. Bird 80886 was located 6 miles NE of Webster, SD on November 12th. On the 17th she was sitting on a catfish pond near Drew. Since then she has moved further south. Bird 80892 was in SW Saskatchewan on the 13th, and Bird 80894 was located on Devils Lake, ND on the 13th. Both were on fish ponds near Belzoni on the 17th. 80894 has since moved north to Sunflower County.

Bird 80885 was on Devil's Lake on the 10th, and on the 20th, she was in the air over the Gulf near Pensacola, FL at 3:33 PM. At 5:13 PM, she was in the air over Apalachicola, LA, a flight of about 120 miles in less than 2 hours.

Bird 80880 left Big Mustelid Lake in SW Manitoba on November, 7th and was next located on Devil's Lake, ND, on the 11th and 14th. On the 17th, she was just north of Dauphin Island, Alabama, and is now located in Mobile Bay.

Not all of the Scaup stay in North America for the winter. Bird 80888 was near Fillmore, ND on November 4th. She was flying over eastern Nebraska on the 8th, and just south of Brownsville, TX on the 11th. She was next located near Tampico, Mexico on the 14th and has been there since.

Birds 80897 and 80891 have also left the country. 80897 left Devil's Lake on November 14th and was next located in Cuba on the 17th. According to Dr. Afton, "The straight line distance between Devil's Lake and her initial location in Cuba is 2068 miles and the time between these 2 locations was 76 hrs and 38 min = 76.63 hrs. Using these data, the minimum migration speed was 27 mph (2068/76.63), which assumes she left just after the last location in ND and arrived just before the first location in Cuba. These assumed departure and arrival times probably were not the case; thus, her real migration speed probably was much higher." 80891 was in Pierce County, ND on the 13th, and then off the north shore of Cuba on the 16th. She then moved south to the same inland lake used by 80897, near Barajagua, Cuba.

I just find it amazing that these birds leave the Boreal Forest and fly as far south as Cuba and Mexico. I guess what's even more amazing is that depending on the weather, they may move north and south, east and west, to more favorable locations from day to day. Such was the case with one marked female last winter. She was located on Lake Ponchartrain for several days, then moved north to Sharkey County, MS. She hopped around several catfish pond complexes in Humphreys and Leflore Counties, and then on ponds near Tchula. The next signal from the transmitter was in a storage shed behind a house in Alabama! She had been harvested on a hunt in Holmes County and transported to the hunter's residence. The hunter readily agreed to let researchers have the expensive tracking device back, but the leg band was his to keep.

So if you should choose to hunt Bluebills this winter, remember that the daily bag limit is 1, and try to shoot drakes if you can. When you harvest one, think about the magnificent wonder of migration, and how many thousands of miles these ducks and other birds fly each and every year between wintering and breeding grounds. It is truly an act of God.

**Anti's Use Wildlife as a Pawn in Global Warming Debate**

*U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance 1/13/09*

A leading anti-hunting organization is pushing a new grassroots effort to "Fight Global Warming and Save Wildlife. In the process, it is showcasing a new weapon in the movement's assault on sportsmen's rights: the manipulation of public concerns over global warming into a way to go after the wholly unrelated issue of hunting.

In an online solicitation, Defenders of Wildlife (DoW) is urging its supporters to, "urge President-Elect Obama and the Congress to pass legislation to address global warming and help polar bears, wolverines, bighorn sheep and other animals survive and thrive in a changing climate."

As followers of the USSA know, global warming is rapidly becoming a weapon in the anti's arsenal of attacks on hunting, fishing, and trapping. This is especially pronounced given the decision in 2008 to list polar bears as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) due to the loss of arctic sea ice.

The decision was made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) after a lawsuit was filed by a coalition of environmental groups that wanted to use the ESA as a way to force action on global warming. That decision, which was opposed by the USSA, did nothing to protect against the loss of the sea ice but has resulted in a loss of millions in conservation dollars due to the prohibition placed on hunting as a result of the designation.

Additionally, as the USSA argued at the time, the enormous costs of overhauling and fundamentally changing the FWS mission will leave little if any money for actual endangered species or other traditional fish and wildlife programs.

Given the rhetoric coming from groups like DoW, it would not be surprising to see similar tactics employed in the future. The USSA continues to remain vigilant on this issue. ###

**Unusual Supreme Court Case Could Create Problems for Anti's**

*U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance 1/13/09*

The anti-hunters may not be able to use graphic photos and video to sensationalize cases of alleged animal cruelty if a court ruling stands. The U.S. Supreme Court will decide a case that strikes down the use of graphic animal cruelty photos for commercial gain.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is leading the charge to restore a 1999 law that has since been struck down by a federal court of appeals as unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court is now hearing a further appeal.

The law criminalized the creation, sale, or possession of videos and photographs that depict animal cruelty for commercial gain. The impetus for the legislation was gruesome dog fighting and disturbing animal "crush" videos in which animals were tortured to death in a way meant to titillate certain viewers. While both actions depicted are deplorable and illegal in all fifty states, the legislation raised serious constitutional issues about how the government determines the value of what constitutes free speech.

Ironically, as the Center for Consumer Freedom makes clear, both HSUS and PETA often use videos showcasing animal cruelty as a way of shocking donors into raising more funds. Should the U.S. Supreme Court find that the law is constitutional, numerous questions regarding the anti's own propaganda videos would immediately be raised. ###

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New Member

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**APPLICATION**

1-Year Membership - \$20.00  
 2-Year Membership - \$36.00  
 3-Year Membership - \$51.00

Junior Membership (under 16) - \$2.00  
 LIFE 16-39 - \$250; 40-59 - \$225; 60+ - \$150  
 Junior LIFE (Under 16) - \$200.00

Bronze Sponsorship - \$100.00  
 Silver Sponsorship - \$300.00  
 Gold Sponsorship - \$600.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Area(s) you hunt \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

Signed up by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Applicant's Signature



**Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc.**  
 2404 East Broadway, Alton, IL 62002

## **Senator Bill Brady Scheduled to Speak at MWHI General Membership Meeting on February 18, 2009**

Senator Bill Brady has led the way in efforts to restore integrity to state government, to improve the state's job climate, and to use taxpayers' dollars for the good of all Illinois citizens.

He was a leader in the effort last year to defeat Governor Blagojevich's tax increases, the largest state tax increase ever proposed in the history of this nation.

He fought for and passed legislation to protect children from sexual predators. He is the leading voice in the Senate for efforts to create a business climate that will attract hundreds of thousands of new jobs to the state. He also is a leader in the effort to reform our grossly underfunded state pension systems while safeguarding the retirement security of state employees, university faculty and teachers.

He is a primary sponsor of legislation to end pay-to-play politics in Illinois, and he is sponsoring a Constitutional amendment that would give Illinois citizens the power to recall public officials.

A lifelong resident of Bloomington and a successful businessman in the real estate industry, Senator Brady has represented areas of seven Central Illinois counties in the Illinois Senate since 2002 and previously was elected to four terms in the House of Representatives. He is currently the ranking Republican on the Senate Insurance and Pensions committees and a member of the Revenue and Public Health committees. Senator Brady was a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor in 2006 and has continued to campaign throughout Illinois to bring common-sense leadership to the state that will once again put Illinois on the right track.

He has been honored by such organizations as the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Farm Bureau for his achievements in the General Assembly.

A graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University, Senator Brady and his wife Nancy have three children.

###

## **PETA Asks Obama Admin to Create New "Food Council"**

U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance, 12/30/08

In an effort to take advantage of a 2008 Pew Commission study critical of agricultural businesses, PETA issued a press release on December 8 calling on President-elect Obama to create a National Food Policy Council. In the release, PETA accuses the industry and states that unsafe food has led to "obese children, environmental pollution and degradation, antibiotic resistance, cruelty to animals, and more."

The proposed National Food Policy Council would focus on new regulations concerning food safety and would supposedly "reduce waste, protect human health and the environment, reduce animal suffering and global poverty, and save money," according to PETA Vice President for Policy and Government Affairs Bruce Friedrich. Of course, the council could launch attacks not only on major agri-businesses, but on hunters and others other sportsmen that consume meat taken from the field. This is especially concerning given the recent controversy in several states surrounding the use of lead ammunition to harvest venison for food shelter programs.

Currently, there is no word from the President-elect's team on how they are viewing PETA's proposal.

### **SENIOR DRIVING**

**As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, 'Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!'**

**'Heck,' said Herman, 'It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!'**

### **2009 Licenses Available Jan. 19:**

Illinois fishing, hunting and sportsmen combination licenses for 2009 will be available starting Jan. 19 from DNR Direct license and permit vendors, online through the IDNR web site here, or by calling 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648). DNR Direct makes buying licenses, habitat stamps, and waterfowl stamps convenient and easy. By going online, license buyers can use American Express, Discover, MasterCard, Visa, or E-Check and print their own license or receipt – and the system is available 24 hours a day. The 2009 licenses purchased beginning January 19 will be valid through March 31, 2010 unless otherwise noted.