



---

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2009

Rosi Franke, Editor

Tel: 618-396-2509

e-mail: rgfranke@frontiernet.net

## ***URGENT ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION ALERT –***

### ***IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED***

### ***ANTI GUN BILLS ON THE MOVE – YOU MUST ACT NOW***

**HB 48**, a bill banning private firearm sales will come up for a vote in the Illinois House this week. This bill is a direct attack on your 2nd Amendment rights!

#### **HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO:**

- 1. Contact the Sponsor of HB 48, Rep. Harry Osterman, (217) 782-8088, and politely tell the person on the phone that you are a law-abiding gun owner and that you resent being targeted by Rep. Osterman and his gun control bills. Please make calls to Osterman's office on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.**
- 2. Contact your state representative and politely advise him or her that you are a law-abiding firearm owner and that you oppose HB 48 and that you would like them to vote against HB 48 when it comes up for a vote. Contact your representative only once. If you do not know who your state representative is, then go to the Illinois State Board of Elections' District/Official Search Tool and follow the directions for identifying your representative.**
- 3. Send copies of this alert to all your gun owning friends and ask them to call as well.**
- 4. Post this alert to any and all internet bulletin boards and blogs to which you belong.**

**A copy of this alert is posted on the ISRA website.**

**Remember, only you can save your gun rights!**

## 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  
618-465-5686

### Membership Secretary

Mike Devening  
618-259-6181

### Correspondence Secretary

Jeremy Maggart  
618-535-4997

### Recording Secretary

Jeremy Arnold  
618-779-8313

## MWHI DIRECTORS

Bob Jones  
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  
618-786-2053

Greg Franke  
COE Chairman  
618-396-2509

Dave Geisler  
618-576-9845

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

Josh Schnider  
618-466-8534

Craig Sondker

John Popov  
Legislation Chairman  
618-344-8636

Kevin Brooks  
618-535-1724

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 4, 2008

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

**WETLAND CONSERVATION BANQUET**

at K.C. Banquet Hall, Godfrey, IL

Monday, April 6, 2009

**MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 pm

Monday, May 4, 2009

**MWHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

at 2404 E. Broadway, Alton at 6:15 pm

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

**MWHI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

at Alton-Wood River Sportsmen Club  
in Godfrey, IL at 7:00 pm

## American Recovery and Reinvestment

March 11, 2009 - The IDNR is developing plans to implement elements of the federal stimulus package with construction ready infrastructure projects.

These projects include: flood control and waterway improvements, public health and safety infrastructure repairs at state parks, aquatic, wildlife and forest habitat enhancements that provide long-term environmental protection, recreation, and economic development benefits; fish and wildlife enhancements through federal aid program funding; law enforcement and related public safety initiatives.

Projects in cooperation with CDB and IDOT will enhance state park facilities and make roadway improvements and trail projects with job-creating benefits.

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.

# **The New Duck Hunter**

**Duane Hahnenkamp 3/09**

With spring finally getting here, turkey and mushroom seasons are about to start for a lot of us duck hunters. Then there is also the crappie season, and the next thing you know it will be duck blind time again. Throw in a couple river floods and you get a sense of the lifestyle of a hardcore duck hunter.

Good as it sound to most guys I know, most wives or girlfriends rather wish their men had a different hobby. As you know, the life of a duck hunter can be a busy one and a lot of duck hunters live it year round.

Since 1993, we have seen a lot of good duck seasons and a lot of young hunters have grown up during these good times. It's easy to keep people happy when times are good. But how long will these new hunters hang on if the duck numbers go down like they did in the 1980s?

I remember empty skies and many slow hunting days back then. It's tough to enjoy the season when there are only 3 or 4 good days during the entire duck season and a blind that had killed out had a 12 ducks total. I remember in 1990 when twenty-some blinds in the Glades, in 30 days, killed only 1,100 ducks that year. Do the math and you will realize that most 'blinds' were averaging only 1 or 2 ducks per day.

I know it was real hard to go duck hunting on my day off when the action was this slow. After growing up with all the instant fun of computer games and the online computer activities, will all of these new generation duck hunters stay around and wait for the potholes to come back again or will they look for some other hobby to pass their time?

I have also noticed that a lot of new hunters will buy the latest calls and gear these days, and then they expect to kill out. If they don't, it wasn't a good hunt. I've heard the younger hunters talk about watching the latest duck hunting video by some champion caller. They live to experience the big kills just as shown on these videos. If killing big numbers every day is the only thing that matters to these guys, then we may be in big trouble in the near future. If we go back to a 30-day season and a 2 or 3 duck limit, will these young hunters still appreciate the sport of duck hunting?

Another thing I have noticed about these new young hunters is that they don't seem to understand or care how much time and money it takes to keep the hunting areas going. They expect there to be a 60-day season every year, plus feed and water in all the hunting areas. They are the 'me' generation of duck hunters who have been spoiled by the good times. I'm not just talking about kids in high-school. I mean young adults in their 20s and 30s, too. They are not interested in volunteering to help any organizations unless you throw in their membership along with their dinner tickets. They may be the future, but if they don't show more willingness to participate or give a damn about organizations that keep duck hunting going, then you have probably seen the best of duck hunting in your lifetime and before long will witness the end of it.

There are too many organizations out there that want to stop hunting or take away our guns for these young people to stand by and wait for a free ride.

So, I'll ask you, do we keep starting more of these young hunters and hope that some day they will get involved or is it time to tell all of them to get off their butts and help. Whatever age group you are, think about what you want your duck hunting to be in the future and act accordingly.

## **Ducks Unlimited Donating Wetlands to IDNR**

Ducks Unlimited was to donate 370 wetland acres Saturday to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). IDNR Director Marc Miller was to receive the donation on his agency's behalf during the group's state convention in East Peoria.

In 2004, Ducks Unlimited bought the 370 acres on Wightman Lake in Marshall County, using a \$350,000 matching grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. In the interim, Ducks Unlimited has spent more than \$400,000 to restore wetland and bottomland hardwood habitat.

The Wightman Lake property will be open to the public and serve as a designated waypoint on the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway.

This is the first cooperative conservation arrangement between Ducks Unlimited and IDNR to be accomplished under the Illinois State Wildlife Action Plan.

**TO IFOR AFFILIATION MEMBERS:**

Two weeks ago today I (IFOR) was invited along with several other Conservation Leaders to a luncheon meeting in Springfield by Representative Jim Watson for the purpose of developing a strategy or plan to help restore our IDNR and to get it back on track after being decimated the past six years by our impeached Governor and his Political ran IDNR department. I think all of you will agree that it was time to try and put an end to a very serious situation.

The 35 or so of us who attended developed the attached Conservation White Paper which is self explanatory. Each of us was requested to distribute the document to our members so you would know what we were doing and to request your support for this action. I committed to keeping our members informed.

As stakeholders in Illinois Natural Resources should any of you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about this effort please let me know. Will keep all of you informed as to our progress.

I am sure all of you know by now that Governor Quinn appointed Marc Miller as our new Director for the IDNR yesterday. Marc is a true professional with a Masters degree in Environmental Administration and Resource Management. I have known Mark for some time and he not only is a hunter, fisherman and Outdoorsmen he has assured me he will have an open door policy for us constituents, which is something we have not had the past six years.

With his appointment, a new Governor, and this Conservation Task Force working with our Legislators, the Sportsmen's Caucus, and the Conservation community we have a great opportunity to start rebuilding our IDNR. IFOR will be actively involved in this process.

Bob Becker, IFOR President



***OPERATION DNR: AN ACTION PLAN FOR SAVING THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES***

There is no question that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has suffered under the Blagojevich administration. During the last 7 years, general revenue appropriations have been reduced by over \$80 million, dedicated funds have been raided and the Department's head count has been reduced resulting in a significant loss of experience and expertise.

As a result our state parks and open lands have been ignored or closed, opportunities for sportsmen and businesses have been reduced, threatened and endangered species have been ignored and matching federal funds have been jeopardized. A Department which once stood as a national model has been reduced to the laughing stock of the country.

Despite these reductions, Illinois outdoor enthusiasts have been asked to pay more for significantly reduced services. As a result many of you have communicated with the IDNR only to receive no response or "a closed door" to your concerns. As a legislator and a sportsman I realize it is time to bring interested conservation groups together to work and lobby with a united voice and a comprehensive plan of action.

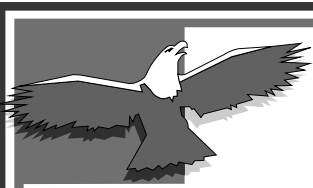
On January 23, I convened a meeting of representatives from more than 40 conservation and sportsmen's groups with the goal of formulating a coherent and realistic plan to rebuild the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. While the various attending groups have different interests and different objectives, it was agreed that we need to unite at this crucial time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 217-243-6221.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Watson".

Jim Watson  
Illinois State Representative  
97<sup>th</sup> District



## Contact Your Federal Legislators to Stop Ban on Lead in National Parks

Sportsmen nationwide must immediately contact their U.S. representatives and senators.

Ask your congressman and two U.S. senators to urge the Obama Administration to stop the National Park Service from its plan to stop the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on its lands.

The park service, which administers many lands that permit hunting and fishing, including National Preserves, National Recreation Areas and National Rivers, announced March 10 that it would ban lead ammunition and sinkers from its lands.

Acting NPS Director Dan Wenk stated that the NPS goal is to eliminate all lead in ammunition and tackle by the end of 2010.

Over 20 million acres of NPS land is open to hunting and would be adversely impacted by this decision.

This decision is seen as a blatant anti-hunting move. It is clearly designed to limit hunting by imposing high priced alternative products like tungsten, copper, and steel.

It will reduce available conservation dollars as sportsmen reduce purchases of hunting and angling gear.

**Take Action!** Sportsmen are urged to contact their congressperson and their senators and tell them to ask the Obama Administration to oppose this measure. Tell them banning lead will destroy both part of America's heritage and reduce conservation dollars.

For more information regarding the U.S. Sportsmen's Alert Network, call 614-888-4868, or email Greg R. Lawson, director of communications at [glawson@ussportsmen.org](mailto:glawson@ussportsmen.org) or Sharon Hayden, assistant director of communications data at [shayden@ussportsmen.org](mailto:shayden@ussportsmen.org).

## 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  
Tel: 618-243-9014 E-mail: [sendavel@midwest.com](mailto:sendavel@midwest.com)

**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@hdsml.state.il.us](mailto:hannig@hdsml.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  
Tel: 618-533-2153 E-mail: [kgranberg@hdsml.state.il.us](mailto:kgranberg@hdsml.state.il.us)

**Rep. Jay Hoffman** – 112 District  
Tel: 618-345-2176 E-mail: [jayhoffman@charter.net](mailto:jayhoffman@charter.net)

**Rep. Thomas Holbrook** – 113<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-394-2211 [tholbrook@housedems.state.il.us](mailto:tholbrook@housedems.state.il.us)

**Rep. Wyvetter Younge** – 114<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-875-1691

**Rep. Mike Bost** – 115<sup>th</sup> District  
Tel: 618-457-5787 [mikebost@midwestmail.com](mailto:mikebost@midwestmail.com)

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

**Costello** - [jfc.il12@mail.house.gov](mailto:jfc.il12@mail.house.gov)

**Durbin** - [dick@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:dick@durbin.senate.gov)

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

# LEGISLATION UPDATE

John Popov

## Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2009 (Introduced in House)

On February 18, at our MWHI Board meeting, I spoke about HR45. This bill was sponsored by Bob Rush in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 6, 2009.

Mr. Rush is from Illinois, and this bill is to “provide for the implementation of a system of licensing for purchasers of certain firearms and for a record of sale system for those firearms, and for other purposes.”

In essence, this is a Federal handgun license for all U. S. handgun owners, including any semi-automatic firearm that can accept any detachable ammunition feeding device but does not include any antiques.

Section 101 Licensing Requirement: requires a passport-size photograph; address and birth date; any surname; clear thumbprint; keep firearms stored and out of possession of anyone under 18 years of age; must meet legal responsibility of Federal, State and local laws for the possession and storage of firearms; release information to the Attorney General or authorized representative of the Attorney General.

Section 102 goes on and on setting fees, etc.

Section 103 sets terms of a license.

Section 104 sets terms for renewal of a license.

Section 105 sets terms for revocation of a license.

Title II Section 201 Sale or Transfer Requirements:

1. the transferee presents to a licensed dealer a valid firearm license issued to transferee.
2. licensed firearms dealer contacts Attorney General.
3. the licensed dealer records a document under the terms of this bill with the Attorney General’s office.

Section 202 Firearm Records. Sale or transfer report not later than 14 days after transfer date of qualifying firearm is processed by a licensed dealer. Required is: the manufacturer of the firearm; the date received; the number of a valid license; name and address.

Section 301 – universal background check.

Section 302 – Failure to maintain or permit inspection of records.

Section 303 – Failure to report loss or theft of a firearm – you have got 72 hours.

Section 304 – Failure to provide change of

address.

Section 305 – Child access prevention.

Title IV Enforcement:

Section 401 – criminal penalties, 2 years, 5 years or 10 years, depending on which section is violated.

Section 402 – Regulations. The Attorney General shall issue regulations governing the licensing of possessors or qualifying firearms and the recorded sale of qualifying firearms consistent with this Act. and amendments by this Act, etc.

Section 403 – Inspections. Attorney General may during business hours enter any place in which firearms or firearms products are manufactured, stored, or held for distribution in commerce and inspect those areas where the products or so manufactured are stored or held.

Section 501 – Duties of the Attorney General.

Section 601 – Effect on state law. In general, this Title VI Act may not be construed to preempt any provision of the law of any state or political subdivision of that state (unless it is inconsistent with any provision of this Act or an amendment made by this Act).

Section 602 – certification of State Firearm Licensing Systems and State Firearm Record of Sale System. Upon a written request by the chief executive officer of a state, the Attorney General may certify # 1 or 2 of this part.

I gave you a short synopsis of this bill so that you can see some of the complicated details of HB45. (This is not the word by word content of this bill.)

This bill may not go anywhere, but they are testing the waters, so-to-speak: 2 steps forward and 1 step back.

With the amount of anti-gun people in Congress, we now need to support our pro-gun members of Congress more than ever before.

Check this bill out at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>

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

**Support Your Club!**

**Sign up a member today!**

# Capitol Commentary

by Todd Vandermyde

ISRA, March 8, 2009

Well, what a difference a Supreme Court decision makes. It appears that the moves by anti-gunners are being driven by what they think they can tinker with. HB-48, ban on private transfers of handguns, and HB-845 lost or stolen are at the top of the wish list for anti-gunners this year.

Seems they can't find the votes to ban guns, and that people around the capitol are taking the Heller decision seriously. Rather than run headlong into a full debate about what Heller means, it seems they are going for a moral boast, try to squeak out a win and thump their chest. From intel gathered around the capitol their lack of being able to pass anything in this state is starting to wear on them. Instead of a scatter shot approach, they are trying to focus on just a couple of bills to then tick off one item after another off their wish list. Then it's on to the next.

Our job, should you accept it, is to stop them in their tracks. But they are getting more and more sophisticated in their approach, arguments and tactics. And we must adapt. Recently they released another round of polling, targeting the two bills, HB-48 & HB-845. We know that they are targeting women and seniors with their new data as a way of trying to sway voters and apply pressure to legislators. Interesting in the poll numbers is that 74-76% know nothing of the Heller decision.

So on appearances, we are dealing with a largely uniformed and easily persuaded electorate if terms are couched in misleading soundbites. We know that they will work to sway and target women and seniors. Nice of them to lay out the ground rules and battlefields for us.

But the battle at hand will be for control of the house floor on HB-48 and HB-845 for starters. If the gun haters fail to muster the votes for those, then they likely cannot muster the votes on their other bills.

On the other hand, if we can stop those bills and pass any of our measures, then once again the gun haters are dealt a blow. That in their star state in the Midwest, they have again been repelled.

We have received late word that there are a host of anti-gun bills scheduled for Committee on Wednesday morning, from semi-auto bans to one gun per month to mandatory registration of your firearms. Most of the committees will take place in the morning, before the start of IGOLD. Some of them are assigned to committees designed to ensure their passage to the floor. Others may not be so friendly.

Either way IGOLD becomes even more important and timely. If any of these bills do pass out of committee, then your presence at the capitol will be even more important as a way of rapidly telling your state representatives and senators that our rights are not for sale or subjected to the whims of gun hating Chicago elitists who think you and your family should be subjected to the wishes of crack addicts and bureaucrats.

We'll have more as events unfold. But be sure of this – the fight is far from over. Our job over the next weeks is to remind those elected officials that Supreme Court decisions are not advisory in nature. And if they think we are persistent and unrelenting now, wait till we have two under our belt. ###

## Lead Hunting Ammunition Topic of CNN Article

Submitted by George Hamilton

The mainstream media attention on lead hunting ammunition in the national press continues, with a report entitled, “Should Hunters Switch to ‘Green’ Bullets” published in the “Technology” section of CNN.com.

- The article quotes an environmental health professor who opines that hunters should switch from lead bullets -- even if the research is still developing, stating: “It's hard to imagine that you could make a bullet out of something more toxic than lead.”
- Such mainstream attention in the national press continues to perpetuate many of the unfounded concerns surrounding lead hunting bullets.
- It isn't until near the end of the article that it is mentioned – via a quote from a spokesman from the National Shooting Sports Foundation -- that the CDC has found no evidence that consuming game hunted with lead ammunition causes any health concerns. The article additionally relates the industry's position that efforts to ban lead hunting ammunition are actually veiled attempts to advance a political anti-hunting agenda and that “lead's main alternative, copper, is more expensive and isn't available in all calibers.

# ILLINOIS' WATERFOWL, HABITAT AND HUNTING SEASON REPORT

2008-09

Prepared by Ray Marshalla, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources

February 17, 2009

## Season Dates and Regulations

**CANADA GEESE** – Sept. 1-Sept. 15 (statewide, daily bag was 5 except 2 in South Zone)

**TEAL** - Sept. 6 - Sept. 21 (statewide)

<u>ZONE</u>	<u>DUCKS</u>	<u>CANADA GEESE**</u>	<u>WF GEESE**</u>	<u>SNOW GEESE</u>
North*	Oct. 18 - Dec. 16	Oct.18 - Jan. 10	Oct. 31 - Jan. 10	Oct. 18-Jan. 10
Central* & Nov. 24 - Jan. 31	Oct. 25 - Dec. 23	Oct. 25 - Nov. 9	Nov. 21- Jan. 31	Oct. 25 - Jan. 31
South*	Nov. 27 - Jan. 25	Nov. 27 - Jan. 31	Nov. 27 - Jan. 31	Nov. 27 - Jan. 31

\*Youth Waterfowl Hunt Dates: North - Oct. 11-12, Central - Oct. 18-19, South - Nov.15-16

\*\* Daily bag limits were 2 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese statewide during regular season

## Harvest

Preliminary estimates of duck hunter activity on 26 public hunting areas that typically account for about 80% of hunter use days on monitored public areas in the state indicated that 51,166 hunter days accounted for a harvest of 50,692 ducks (24% lower than the 5-year average; 22% lower than 2007). The daily success rate of .99 ducks per hunter was 7% lower than the 5-year average and 6% lower than in 2007. Anecdotal information from Canada goose hunters suggests that the north and central zones had average hunting and the former southern quota zone was better than the most recent 5-year average. Numbers of Canada geese in the central zone were mostly below normal. Between late December through the end of January heavy snowfall and very cold weather in Chicago combined with well above average snowfall in Wisconsin and northern Illinois in January resulted in more migrational activity than normal. There were reportedly good numbers of Canada geese in the north zone throughout the season and migrations to the central zone and then to the south zone occurred on several occasions potentially increasing geese' vulnerability to hunting. However, many hunters reported difficulty in harvesting geese likely due to the higher than normal percentage of adults in the MVP of Canada geese.

**Disease Events** - No significant disease events were reported during the 2008-09 season although there was a small cholera outbreak at Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge involving 32 lesser snow geese and 2 Ross' geese mortalities.

IDNR staff took 473 samples for avian influenza testing from 14 species of hunter-harvested waterfowl during the 2008-09 hunting season. The sample collection effort was conducted under a cooperative agreement with USDA-Wildlife Services. Samples were taken from 17 geographically-distributed locations throughout the state on 7 days from October through December. Environmental samples and additional samples from hunter-harvested waterfowl were taken by USDA-Wildlife Services in Illinois. No samples have tested positive for highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza.

**Hunting Season Overview** – Duck harvest was below average on many public sites (-24% compared to 5-year average) due to poor habitat conditions caused by the September flooding and early freeze up occurring in some areas a month or more before the season ended. Canada goose hunting appeared to be about average statewide and above average in the South zone.

###

# Illinois Sheriffs' Association

PRESS RELEASE, February 5, 2009

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association at their Winter Training Conference passed a resolution in support of concealed carry in Illinois with specific limitations. After much discussion and concerns about the final language of the legislation the sheriffs, present and voting, unanimously approved the resolution. There were sixty of the one hundred and two sheriffs registered for the training conference.

"There are still individual sheriffs who have reservations and concerns about concealed carry in Illinois and do not support the legislation," according to Greg Sullivan, Executive Director.

Sheriff Gib Cady, 2009 President, stated, "We are constitutional officers who take an oath to uphold the constitution and we have decided to take a leadership role on this issue. This is the number one issue that our constituents talk to us about."

There are two states, Illinois and Wisconsin, which do not allow some sort of concealed or open carry. "The ISA has been neutral on this issue for years but the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision and the feedback and the experience from the other states has turned that tide. Out of 79 sheriffs responding to our survey, 90% of those sheriffs support concealed carry with the right type of restrictions, training and scrutiny. They also believe that local law enforcement should have the right to object to a permit application with justifiable cause," said Sullivan.

The resolution is as follows:

- Whereas, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association is a statewide organization representing the one hundred and two Sheriffs of Illinois who are constitutional officers who have sworn to uphold the constitution of the United States and the State of Illinois; and,
- Whereas, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association conducted a survey of Sheriffs across Illinois; and,
- Whereas, ninety percent (90%) of those responding support concealed carry in Illinois if adequate training and safeguards are included; and,
- Whereas, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association Legislative Committee met on November 19, 2008, and appointed a special committee consisting of Sheriffs from all geographic areas of the state and that committee has met and discussed the specific recommendations for the procedures in obtaining a concealed carry permit; and,
- Whereas, the committee has formulated their recommendations to the Executive Board of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association and the Executive Board has recommended that this resolution be presented to the full body at our General Session on

Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at the Winter Training Conference in Moline, Illinois; and,

- Whereas, the general provisions of a conceal carry act in Illinois should include the following:
  1. Permits should be issued by a state agency to insure consistency in evaluation and screening.
  2. Individuals who receive a concealed carry permit should receive adequate training including basic knowledge of firearms, the proper handling of a firearm, live fire exercises for range qualification, instruction and testing on use of force as a citizen including the liability of that use.
  3. Applications should be processed by the Sheriff's office including the ability of the Sheriff to articulate specific reasons why the permit should be denied and those objections should be considered by the state before issuing a permit.
  4. For the purpose of officer safety, a concealed carry permit should be an identifiable code, background or other means to show that an individual has been issued a permit to carry a concealed firearm on the person's driver's license, FOID card and state identification.

Therefore, be it resolved, this 3rd day of February, 2009, that the Illinois Sheriffs' Association, by a majority of those voting, support the right of law abiding citizens to possess and carry a concealed firearm for the purpose of protecting their life and families; and be it further resolve that a suitable copy of this resolution be delivered to the General Assembly of the State of Illinois.

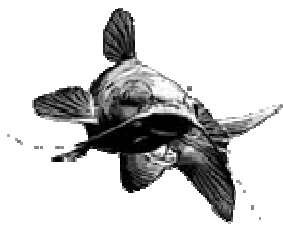
For Further Information Contact:

Greg Sullivan  
Executive Director  
217-753-2372

## **HB 687**

### **ILL. BILL REQUIRES GUN OWNERS TO HAVE \$1M LIABILITY**

**COVERAGE . . .** The Gun Rights Examiner states that "The Chi-Town Political Machine is flexing its gun-hating muscles once more," a lead to a report on Illinois House Bill 687, which would require all firearms owners to obtain a \$1 million liability insurance policy covering any damages that take place from the use of a firearm owned by the individual. The bill also authorizes the Department of the State Police to revoke and seize the identification card from any firearm owner that does not supply proof of the liability coverage. "This is terrible legislation," commented Rick Story, senior vice president of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance. "Not only will the bill make it cost prohibitive for many to own firearms, [but] it also runs the risk of criminalizing innocent owners."



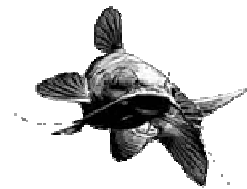
## 2009 Riverbend Catfish Tournament Trail

### Sponsored by MWHI

Location:	Date:	Time:	Boundaries:
1. Alton, IL @ Alton Marina	April 18	6am - 3pm	(Open)
2. Alton, IL @ Alton Marina	May 9	6am - 3pm	(Open)
3. Alton, IL @ Alton Marina	June 20	6am - 3pm	(Open)
4. Alton, IL @ Alton Marina	July 11	3pm - 12am	(Open)
5. Alton, IL @ Alton Marina	Aug. 8	3pm - 12am	(Open)
6. Alton, IL @ Alton Marina	Sept, 12	6am - 3pm	(Open)
(CLASSIC)	Sept. 13	6am - 1pm	(Open)

**Riverbend Catfish Tournament Trail (CLASSIC) Information:**

- \* *The top 15 teams qualify for the Riverbend Classic Catfish Tournament from each tournament prior of the classic.*
- \* *A Sea Ark Boat and Haul Rite Trailer will be given away at the classic. (for more info call 618-520-7309 or visit [www.mwhi.org](http://www.mwhi.org))*
- \* *A points division will determine the winner of this years classic boat.*
- \* *Guaranteed CASH & PRIZES!!!*
- \* *Food & drinks after weigh-in.*



*Register for the tournament online at [www.catfish1.com](http://www.catfish1.com) or [www.mwhi.org](http://www.mwhi.org).*

*For additional tournament information, call Justin Wolfe at (618) 377-0397 or (618) 520-7309 or email [eflow@charter.net](mailto:eflow@charter.net).*

### **IDNR News Bits 3/5/09:**

**2009 License Required Starting April 1:** The new license year for Illinois fishing, hunting, and sportsmen combination licenses begins April 1. Those licenses are available from DNR Direct license and permit vendors, online through the IDNR web site ([www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us)), 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 annual licenses are valid through Mar. 31, 2010 unless otherwise noted.

**Free Fishing Days:** Illinois Free Fishing Days are scheduled for June 5-8. Free Fishing Days allows anyone to fish without the need for a fishing license, inland trout stamp, or salmon stamp during the four-day event each June. Groups planning Free Fishing Days events can contact Terry Beard at 217/785-5822 or e-mail [terry.beard2@Illinois.gov](mailto:terry.beard2@Illinois.gov).

**Illinois Poisonous Plants Posters:** The IDNR Division of Education announces the latest additions to the Illinois Flora, Fauna and Culture series of posters: Illinois Poisonous Plants and Illinois Plantas Venenosus. Developed in cooperation with the Illinois Poison Center, these 24" x 36" posters depict the 16 plants in our state that are most often involved in poisoning incidents. The back of each poster provides more information about these species and other related topics. The posters will be of special interest to teachers, day-care providers, health-care professionals, and everyone who works with young children. Posters will be available beginning in mid- to late March and must be ordered through the publications order form at <http://dnr.state.il.us/teachkids>.

