

March 6-7 Gun Show 717-697-2470
Farmers Market 312 German's Church
Rd Leesport PA

March 13-14 Gun Show 540-552-9458
Farm Show Complex 2300 N. Cam-
eron Street Harrisburg PA

March 21 Delaware County Kennel
Club Inc. Show York Interstate Fair-
grounds Rt 74 Carlisle Ave. York PA
www.delcokennelclub.com

April 10-11 Schuylkill Valley GSP
Club Hunt Test Freeland Kennel
Club Weatherly PA Deborah Wenger
dbwengrich@gmail.com 484-354-5577
www.svgspc.com

April 14-18 Harrisburg Kennel Club
Inc. Show Valley Expo Lebanon PA
www.hkc.org

April 15-16 Lebanon County Kennel
Club Show Valley Expo Lebanon PA
www.lebanoncountyc.com

April 18 Mason and Dixon Kennel
Club Show Lebanon Valley Expo
Lebanon PA www.masondixonken-
nelclub.com

April 24-25 Greater Delaware Val-
ley Pointer Club Hunt Test Clover
Hollow Hunting Preserve 6951 Lime
Kiln Road Slatington PA Peter Benson
yvette.thomas@pmca.com 610-739-
3309 www.dcweimclub.org

SOUTH DAKOTA

Feb 6-7 Gun Show Gun Show Dakota
Event Center 720 Lamont St S Aber-
deen SD

Feb 13-14 Gun Show Gun Show Con-
vention Center 1201 Northwest Ave
Sioux Falls SD

Feb 20-21 Gun Show Gun Show
Ramkota River Centre 920 W Sioux
Ave Pierre SD

March 13-14 Gun Show Gun Show
Fairgrounds 3200 W Havens Ave
Mitchell SD

March 20-21 Gun Show Gun Show
Codington Cty Ag Bldg 1910 W Kemp
Ave Watertown SD

WISCONSIN

Feb 5-7 Gun Show Gun Show Fair-
grounds 503 North Jackson Ave Jef-
ferson WI

Feb 12-14 Gun Show Gun Show
Fountain Hall 805 Durand Ave Stur-
devant WI

April 1-2 Manitowoc County Kennel
Club Inc. Show Expo Grounds 4921
Expo Drive Manitowoc WI www.
mc-kc.com

March 13 Gun Show Gun Show Town
Hall 3360 Cty Rd K Hartford WI

March 27 Southern Wisconsin Sport-
ing Spaniel Club Trial Schuett Farm
W 289 S6460 Holiday Road Wauke-
sha WI Linda Budde lbudde@sisa.
com 262-246-3711 classic.akc.org/
club_search/index_master.cfm?club_
id=4420

April 3-4 Packerland Kennel Club Inc.
Show Expo Grounds 4921 Expo Dr
Manitowoc WI www.packerlandken-
nelclub.com

April 9-11 Gun Show Gun Show
Fairgrounds 1625 Butts Avenue
Tomah WI

April 10-11 GSP Club Of WI Hunt
Test Ottawa Field Trial Grounds Hwy
67 and 106 Eagle WI Karen Combs
thtptgsp@yahoo.com 920-303-0240
gspcw.com

April 10-11 Gun Show Gun Show
Expo Ctr Fairgrounds 495 Martin Ave
Fond Du Lac WI

April 20-21 West Allis Training Ken-
nel Club Retriever Trial West Allis
Training Kennel Club Hwy Es S73
W24150 National Ave Big Bend WI
Ann Klobucnik baklobucnik@wi.rr.
com 414-573-4627 www.watkc.org

April 23-25 Gun Show Gun Show
Fairgrounds 700 Washington Ave
Baraboo WI

**A more complete calendar
at www.Bdarn.com**

Michigan Woodcock Migration

By Joe Smolka

Northern Michigan (the North-
ern portion of the Lower Penin-
sula and the Upper Penin-
sula) are storied grouse and woodcock
hunting grounds. However, the South-
ern half of the lower Peninsula also holds
a significant number of woodcock. Both
local, and later in the season, migrating
birds, can be found in abundance. Just
like with woodcock hunting "up North,"
the key to success is finding the right
habitat.

Young aspen clearcuts are the best
known cover type in Northern Michi-
gan for both grouse and woodcock.
Southern Michigan public lands don't
contain as many aspen stands. Howev-
er, woodcock still find suitable habitat
in other cover types. I have found good
numbers of woodcock on Southern
Michigan public lands in these types
of habitat: Red Osier Dogwood stands,
young willow thickets, autumn olive
groves, stands of sumac, alder and all
sorts of "thorny" shrub cover. Young
stands of hardwood, like maple and
beech, also hold birds. When looking
for young hardwood stands and wil-
low thickets, along with the proper soil
type, look for stands that have a similar
stem density to young aspen stands. The
willow thickets and young hardwood
stands that produce for me, usually have
trees about the size of my thumb to the
size of my wrist in diameter. The height,
diameter and stem density of these wil-
low and hardwood stands is identical to
that of a 3-15 year old aspen stand.

Many parcels of state land in Southern
Michigan were at one time private farm-
lands bought by the state 25 or more
years ago. Many of these fields are now
in the early phase of forest succession and
hold good numbers of birds. Some even
have small, young aspen stands (called
popple by locals). These popple stands
are usually from 1-5 acres in size. They
aren't extensive enough and they are
too isolated from other potential grouse
cover, too hold any grouse. Woodcock
use them extensively, however. Some of
these former fields also contain small,
mature stands of Aspen-Birch with an
understory of dogwood, autumn olive or
other shrubs that hold woodcock. These
small woodlots usually are on very low
ground and probably weren't farmed for
years before the property was sold to the
State. These spots were too low to ever
farm productively. Of course, woodcock
love the moist, worm rich soil in these
woodlots. Many of my best coverts are
the cover types listed above with a river,
creek or drainage ditch flowing through
or adjacent to the cover.

When flight birds are coming through
I have often found flights of woodcock in
cover that is higher and drier than what
most hunters would normally associate
with woodcock. One parcel of state land
I hunt has a young hardwood stand adja-
cent to a creek. There is also a small stand
of autumn olive and some dogwood that
borders the young hardwood. This spot
usually holds local birds. When flight
birds come through, usually around late
October, I have flushed 12 or more birds
in a rolling field of orchard grass, gold-
enrod, canary grass and small groves of
autumn olive, Southeast of the young
hardwood stand and autumn olive that

holds the local birds. The flight wood-
cock concentrate in the autumn olive
groves in this rolling field. These groves
are on high, dry ground. The flight birds
find these autumn olive stands to their
liking, however. I have never moved
birds from these particular autumn ol-
ive groves before late October. Occa-
sionally my vizsla, Gypsy, has found
a pheasant or two in the canary grass,
orchard grass or goldenrod near the au-
tumn olive. Grouse and woodcock are
often found together in Northern Michi-
gan. In Southern Michigan, sometimes
woodcock and pheasants are found side
by side.

I have found a few fairly extensive
aspen stands in Southern Michigan that
also hold grouse (if you are curious as
to where I hunt in Southern Michigan,
it is in an area North of Lansing, South
of Mount Pleasant and East of Grand



Rapids). These spots are popular with
other bird hunters, deer hunters and
rabbit hunters, however. It is best to con-
sider grouse a bonus bird when pursu-
ing woodcock in Southern Michigan. A
pheasant/woodcock combo hunt is a re-
alistic possibility in Southern Michigan,
if you find the right habitat. Pheasants
are coming back in Southern Michi-
gan. However, as with grouse, public
lands that hold pheasants generally get
pounded hard. Once again, it is best to
think of pheasants as bonus birds, unless
you have access to good private land
that holds pheasants.

We all know weather affects when
woodcock migrate. Cold weather deter-
mines when the birds move South. That
said, usually late October is when we
get flight birds from Northern Michi-
gan where I hunt. Woodcock research-
ers have also found that the birds make
small mini migrations of a few miles
North, South, East and West, while stag-
ing for their longer migration. Some
years I have found lots of birds in some
of my coverts in late September/early
October. By mid October these coverts
were empty or nearly so. Then in late
October/early November, these same
coverts were chock full of birds again.
Perhaps it was an example of a "mini
migration." Perhaps I saw succeeding
waves of birds. The local birds may
have moved South in Mid October and
the late October birds were possibly late
migrants coming down from Northern
Michigan. The one thing I know for sure
is that woodcock move around a lot in
Southern Michigan in October. You can
have coverts full of birds one weekend
and empty the next. I have come back
to coverts on a Wednesday that were full
of birds 3 days before, only to find them
devoid of birds or nearly so. If a hunter
misses a weekend of hunting in October,
she/he could literally miss the biggest
flights of that Autumn.

Scientists claim that the full moon
doesn't affect woodcock migration.
However, at the latitude I hunt, I have

noticed significant woodcock movement
in October during the phase of the full
moon. I have noticed significant wood-
cock movement during the new moon
phase as well. According to the solunar
theory developed by John Alden Knight
(Knight also wrote a book about wood-
cock), Solar and Lunar activity is high-
est during the full and new moon phas-
es. According to this theory, those two
phases of the moon in any given month
are the times when fish and game are
the most active. Therefore, those are the
best times to hunt and fish. I don't have
any personal data pertaining to solunar
activity and fishing. However, in my ex-
perience hunting woodcock in Southern
Michigan, there is often a strong cor-
relation between peak solunar activity
and woodcock movement and migra-
tion in October. I always try to make
time to hunt my favorite coverts during

the phase of the
full moon and
new moon that
month. If we
get cold weath-
er and/or rain
during a period
of high solunar
activity in Octo-
ber, it is almost
a sure thing
woodcock will
be on the move.
This October
(2020) there will
be a full moon
on Thursday,
October 1st and
on Halloween (a
Saturday). The new moon will fall on a
Friday (October 16th). This October we
will have high solunar activity on three
different weekends, instead of the usual
two! I plan to be afield all three of those
weekends.

I have one last tip for predicting
woodcock migration. In Michigan we
have a lot of robins in the Spring, Sum-
mer and Fall (they are the state bird).
I have found that when I see robins in
my yard flocked up in October, usu-
ally the woodcock are in my coverts in
good numbers. Robins feed extensively
on worms as do woodcock. It stands to
reason that they will migrate at similar
times of the year. All of these tips for
predicting woodcock migration are not
accurate 100% of the time. Woodcock
are too unpredictable for that level of
accuracy. That mystery is part of the
charm, allure and enchantment of pur-
suing these birds.

In the early portion of the season the
foliage is extremely thick in Southern
Michigan. You will rarely see a bird,
much less get a shot, past 15 yards. Dur-
ing the early season I like to use #9 shot
in my 20 gauge Crescent double, that is
choked cylinder in both barrels. I have
found #9's have plenty of energy at
close range; and I like the pattern den-
sity they give me when shooting through
the heavy foliage of early autumn. As
the foliage drops and the possibility of
longer shots (15-30 yards) at woodcock
increases, I switch to #8's. I like the ex-
tra energy the bigger pellets provide on
slightly longer shots. I have also used
#81/2 and #71/2 shot with good results.
I have settled on #9's early and then #8's
as the season progresses, as my favorite
shot sizes, however.

In Michigan, many downstate and out
of state hunters drive by prime wood-
cock cover while driving up north to
hunt these birds. The woodcock are
there in Southern Michigan. Just keep
in mind that they will often be found in
different habitat from what they use "up
North."

The Great Gun Debate

With the changing of administrations and many of us worried about our guns. I asked a simple question in THE gun group on Facebook, the response amazed me. I cleaned things up a bit and names have been removed to protect... everyone!

Simple question: Is there a process or website to find out what guns are registered in your name? Asking For A FRIEND!

A funny thing happened when I loaded All my guns up to go target practice and my truck sank in a sink hole....guns and ammo never to be seen again....the end

If it comes to that the second amendment was pointless !!

Maybe you need to pay more attention to what just was put into office.... just not only our 2nd adventure is at stake...but everything else is. This country is now heading down a deep dark path and its called socialism...please pay more attention to who is running this country now and all forms of government in this country

You think I don't know that this guy is a f'n moron who will ruin everything this country was built on the forefathers are rolling over in their graves they knew that some day this would rear its ugly head that's why they attempted to be safeguards in place to stop this but these people have no regard for our Constitution! To many of our citizens have become brainwashed into believing that Government is above the citizens who put them there! The people in power now consider themselves the ruling class and it is being allowed to stand!

YES BROTHER sorry for my response

I can't help myself at times let's pray it's only for two years. We still can primary the f-ers out then. Every single one of them!!

If it's an ATF Form and I don't know the numberit's a government form. You buy there is a record. I think anyone with a FFAL they ask ... you send. 4473...the FFLs maintain those records

Yes they do. I agree. You think if the federal government says we want ... the person with the FFL

SAYS NO that is the end of the discussion? You think that?

That's not the question chief... there is no registry

Ok there is no registry. I agree. But if the fed says we want all ATF forms 4473 ... the FFL holder is going to refuse?

Who said that they would? You ever had to sort through a couple thousand 4473s looking for something? I have...it takes weeks...and no ones doing without purpose.

You have faith on a system that I don't share. I lost faith years ago.

Not faith...just experience actually doing it. Next time you are in a gun store ask them how often they get called to pull a 4473 and how they file them...

Yes. I don't know the process. But I worked in the U.S. government for 32 years I've first hand experience with the false information it can produce. I think that is our disconnect. But it seems you have experience I don't

I spent the last decade with DHS...

I was an agent with DoD office of special investigations. Stories I got millions ... deny knowledge deny responsibility make counter allegations. The way of the world almost everyday, and its a pain in the ass

They don't get that phone call. The ATF shows up to do audits to make sure dealers are doing it right. Randomly. Unless they are tracking down a guns owner because gun was used in a crime..

They do in deed get those phone calls.

ME: Wouldn't be nice to have two safes: a registered & not registered... just Sayin!
The ATF keeps your Form 4437 for 20 years if you buy from a dealer. If you sell or buy privately, they have no clue. Not sure if a citizen can find the records.

Any guns bought from a store will be registered with ATF

False... 4473s stay with the FFL

Can a person access that registry to make sure it's correct

Not necessarily. I've bought guns and sold them to individuals. I've bought guns from individuals. They only know who bought the gun new.

Were all registered,...they say were not, it's against fed. law...they got us all, they know where all legal guns are....but they still have to come, and take them !!!

Unless you never bought new or through an FFL.

There is not a gun registration as such. Federal Firearm Dealers have the 4473 forms and transfer records.

however many years they want. FYI shops keep the record for 5yrs, tax purposes. ATF IS an off branch of the IRS. So they can go back even farther if they want, which is where the FBI checks come in, when they run your background check it contains your name, address, contact info, and what you are purchasing. As well as current employer at the time and emergency contact info. So your friends and family are involved when you purchase.

I will not comply!

Checked with a gun dealer. All there work is done on paper. Never entered into a computer. They had years of guns sold on paper n it was stacked in a box. If Feds go snooping they will have to dig through that paperwork to find you.

All on computers now the NICS check was SUPPOSED to have the data deleted. But they saved it. So anything done with a background check can be tied to you.

Even the bullet in storage from each gun fired and the rifling in the barrel, extractor and firing pin also.

Wisconsin has no registration requirements.

There documented now LoL

If a firearm is deployed in a crime it can be traced from the manufacturer, to the distributor, the dealer and the transferee...

Boating accident...

The problem that is if they find you with that lost Gun it's bad!

Well with peer to peer sales it is very hard to prove who has what. It's one of the reasons why they want to close the gun show loophole! As it stands now they can't be sure who has what.

I think what Dennis is asking. Is there a way to find out if guns are Registered in his name that he knows nothing about.

There is no gun registration in this state or federal

I'm MN we need to go through a background check

Gun registries are illegal...a background check doesn't equal registration

Every gun shop holds record of sale, the ATF only have to walk in and demand the sales reports for



**The END?
NO WAY
THE DEBATE
NEVER ENDS!**

Rainbow Bridge

Save a copy of this for someday

Dogs Go To Heaven

Our 14-year-old dog Abbey died last month. The day after she passed away my 4-year-old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognize her. I told her that I thought we could so, and she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her very much. I am happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick.

I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and play with balls. I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog. I really miss her.

Love, Meredith

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith and addressed it to God/Heaven. We put our return address on it. Then Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letterbox at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had gotten the letter yet. I told her that I thought He had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith' in an unfamiliar hand. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called, 'When a Pet Dies.' Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope. On the opposite page were the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

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www.Bdarn.com

Name _____
Adr _____
City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help and I recognized her right away.

Abbey isn't sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me just like it stays in your heart. Abbey loved being your dog. Since we don't need our bodies in heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I am sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me. What a wonderful mother you have. I picked her especially for you. I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you very much. By the way, I'm easy to find. I am wherever there is love.

Love, God

Don't say you're too busy to Share this. Just go ahead and do it

Suspended Coffees You will all be happy to know this wonderful story is 100% true, please don't take offense to the reference of God, it's part of the story.

"Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind, and the third is to be kind."

Those that say dogs are here but 10-15 years have never loved a dog!

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State News You Can Use!

ILLINOIS

Club Grants

• Quail and Upland Game Alliance – A project statewide on private landowner and state lands to help landowners complete wildlife friendly management work on both Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Non-CRP acreage. State Habitat funds totaling \$50,000 were awarded, with the grantee providing \$32,783.72 in matching funds. <http://quga.org/>

• Quail and Upland Game Alliance

A project to hire a Habitat Specialist that works on public and private lands with the landowner to establish and improve habitat for all upland game on their properties, including invasives removal, strip disking, strip spraying, prairie plantings including pollinator plants, inter-seeding, and prescribed burns. State Habitat funds totaling \$44,000 were awarded, with the grantee providing \$95,340 in matching funds. <http://quga.org/>

• Pheasants Forever

A project to hire three fulltime positions for Farm Bill Biologists to provide conservation technical assistance for the restoration of improved habitat on state owned and private lands totaling approximately 20,000 acres of habitat restoration. This position will help manage existing projects in Marion, Clay, Jefferson, Hamilton, White, Wayne, Richland, Lawrence, Edwards, Wabash, Perry, Washington, Randolph, Jackson, Franklin, Gallatin, and Hardin counties, and seek out additional projects with landowners and resource professionals within the project area. State Habitat funds totaling \$102,096 were awarded, with the grantee providing \$306,288 in matching funds. <https://pheasantsforever.org/>

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RECOMMENDED HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE SPORTSPERSONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

The Commission recommended the following hunting regulations:

* Creating a wanton waste regulation specific to deer, elk, bear and game birds. This regulation would require hunters to make a reasonable effort to retrieve all game species taken as well as requiring the removal of usable portions of applicable game animals from the field. Thirty-two other states have wanton waste regulations already in place. The proposed regulation also contains language to define the dumping of animal carcasses as littering.

* Replacing the special youth-only waterfowl hunting weekends for the east and west zones with two special statewide waterfowl hunting weekends for youths and veterans/active duty military. The first would occur the weekend before Thanksgiving, while the second would take place the second weekend of February. The Saturday of these two weekends would be for youth hunters, and the Sunday would be for military veterans and those on active duty. State waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting regulations must conform to a framework in federal law.

MINNESOTA

DNR SEEKS INPUT ON STATEWIDE OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLE TRAILS

MASTER PLAN

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has initiated a statewide master planning project for off-highway motorcycle (OHM) trails.

As part of the planning process, members of the public are invited to provide comments regarding the desired types and locations of additional trails, any concerns about OHM trails, and related issues. Both OHM riders and nonriders are encouraged to share their insights. Comments may be submitted via an online public input form (link is external), or by mail or email to DNR planner Joe Unger (link sends email).

Local governments—such as cities, townships and counties—also are encouraged to provide input on potential opportunities or challenges related to OHM recreation in their area. Local governments wishing to participate may complete a separate online input form (link is external).

The public and local government input opportunities are open now through Feb. 15.

The DNR will consider public and local government comments in drafting a master plan for OHM trails in Minnesota. The master plan will detail current use and trends of OHM riders in the state; describe the feedback received from Minnesotans; analyze and explore potential opportunities for expanded trails; identify any concerns needing attention; and identify strategies to guide the department's management of OHM recreation.

Once the draft master plan is developed, there will be another opportunity for public comment.

For more information, visit the DNR's off-highway motorcycle planning website. To sign up for the project contact list to receive updates for the project such as upcoming public meetings, contact planner Joe Unger at MN DNR Parks and Trails, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155; 651-605-5861; or joe.unger@state.mn.us

DNR SEEKS INPUT ON POTENTIAL WATERFOWL HUNTING CHANGES

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is seeking public input as it updates the state's waterfowl hunting regulations. As a first step, the DNR is asking people to comment on potential changes that could alter seasons and create additional opportunities to hunt waterfowl.

MARKETPLACE

BOYKIN SPANIELS

J & L BOYKIN SPANIELS: For information on upcoming litters, stud service, training or just want to talk about the "little brown dogs" just call Jan or Larry Hinchman, Hammond, WI 715-796-5251 www.Bdarn.com/jl

BRITTANY

GILMORE BRITTANY'S: Kevin & Angela Gilmore, Boscobel, WI 608-732-3557 www.gilmorebrittanys.com

WHITE SWAN BRITTANY'S: Steve Decker, Minneapolis, MN 612-926-2449 whiteswanbrittanys.com

ENGLISH SETTERS

DeCOVERLY KENNEL: Factoryville, PA 717-378-3357 www.decoverlykennels.com

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

FLUSH 'EM HIGH KENNEL: See our display adv on page 2. Jim O'Shea, Glendive, MT 717-673-0664 www.flushemhigh.com

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THUNDERHEAD GSPS: Ron & Debbie Stott, Kewaunee, WI 920-265-5375 www.thunderheadgsp.com

GERMAN WIREHAIED POINTERS

GET MY POINT KENNELS: John Faskell, New London, WI 920-427-7774 www.getmypointllc.com

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ROLIDA KENNELS: Dave Dahlberg Wheatridge CO 303-810-7404 www.rolida.com

SMITH FARMS LABRADORS: Jodi Smith, Grove City, MN 320-857-2312 www.smithfarmlabradors.com

POINTING LABRADOR

ALCORN HUNTERS HAVEN: Ross Alcorn, Hay Springs, NE 308-430-0729 www.nebraskahuntingdogs.com

IOWA POINTING LABS: Tim Galeazzi, Knoxville, IA, 515-314-5757 www.IowaPointingLabs.com

SMALL MUNSTER-LAENDERS

RIVERHILLS KENNEL: Richard Owens, Sioux City, IA, 712-258-5050 www.Riverhillkennel.com

VIZSLAS

BUSCH KENNELS: Jim and Linda Busch, Home of DC AFC Askim, Winnebago, IL 815-335-7673 www.buschvizslas.com

A summary of these potential changes and a questionnaire that seeks input is available on the DNR's website through Monday, Jan. 31. The DNR will consider this initial public input in developing its proposed changes to the waterfowl regulations. These proposed regulations will then be presented for public comment in March.

"We're asking people to engage with us early so we can use their input to help us narrow the list of potential changes," said Steve Cordts, DNR waterfowl specialist. "Getting some feedback up front allows us to be responsive and fully consider the preferences expressed."

Among the potential changes on which the DNR is currently seeking input are an early teal season, allowing motorized decoys, eliminating the 4 p.m. early season closure, expanding trolling motor use, and increasing the Canada goose bag limit.

The second step in the process will come in March, when the DNR releases its proposed regulation changes. As part of this phase, the DNR will hold a virtual town hall meeting to discuss the proposed regulations and will take additional public comment.

Final regulation changes will factor in those public comments and could become effective as early as this fall's waterfowl season.

For more information about this engagement effort and waterfowl management in Minnesota, visit mndnr.gov/waterfowl.

MISSOURI

BUSCH SHOOTING RANGE STAFF HOLDS VIRTUAL INTRODUCTION TO SHOTGUN PROGRAM FEB. 2

When done correctly, shooting can be one of the safest sports. It can help teach focus, confidence, and self-esteem. And learning proper shotgun use can open a new world of hunting and recreational shooting opportunities.

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will hold an online Introduction to Shotguns class Tuesday, Feb. 2 from 6-7:30 p.m. It's designed to famil-

iarize new shooters with shotguns in a safe and responsible way. The class will be taught by the staff of the August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center in Defiance.

Attendees interested in getting into shooting sports like trap, skeet, or 5-stand shooting will learn all the basics during this virtual class. The program will cover fundamentals of shotgun shooting including safety, actions, and what to look for when choosing a shotgun. In addition, it will introduce participants to the important aspects of care and cleaning, ammunition types, and fitting shotguns. The proper way to shoot a shotgun will be another focus. Finally, the class will go over how to properly store firearms.

Introduction to Shotguns is a free virtual program open to ages 16 and up, but advanced online registration is required at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZaN>. Attendees will receive an invitation and program link by email from WebEx the day before the program.

MDC offers many free educational programs in the St. Louis region to help people discover nature, fishing, hunting, and the outdoors. Stay informed by going to the MDC St. Louis regional events page at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZP6>.

MDC'S BUSCH SHOOTING RANGE HOLDS BEGINNING PHEASANT CLINICS AND HUNT IN FEBRUARY

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is creating an opportunity for both adults and youths to discover upland gamebird hunting at the Beginning Youth Pheasant Hunt and Clinic. The staff at MDC's August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center in Defiance is putting on two virtual Upland Bird Hunting Clinics for beginners in February. One is geared for adults age 16 and up, and the other for youths age 11-15. They will be followed by a mentored pheasant hunt, so participants can put their new skills into practice.

Both clinics will take place on Monday, Feb. 8 from 6-7:30 p.m.

via WebEx. They are free online events, but advanced registration is required using the following links:

* Adult Upland Bird Hunting Clinic, <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZEH>

* Youth Upland Bird Hunting Clinic, <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZEY>

This virtual clinic will teach the basics of upland hunting with emphasis on ring-necked pheasants. "We'll also cover some biology, firearm handling, and how to clean the birds. We'll even give participants some recipes to help them prepare the pheasants for eating," said MDC Busch Outdoor Education Center Manager Bryant Hertel.

The clinic is mandatory to attend the hunt and it is preferred the attendees are hunter education certified. Hunters should also be comfortable with handling a shotgun. The hunt and clinic are open to first-time attendees only.

The pheasant hunt itself for participants of both clinics will take place on Saturday, Feb. 13 at the Missouri Gun and Quail Club located in Wright City. "This guided hunt is an excellent chance for anyone who want to get introduced to upland bird hunting to do it in a supportive, safe and controlled environment," Hertel said.

For the safety of participants and our staff, MDC encourages all guests to observe social distancing guidelines and wear facemasks where appropriate due to Covid-19 considerations.

MDC offers many free educational programs in the St. Louis region to help people discover nature, fishing, hunting, and the outdoors. Stay informed by going to the MDC St. Louis regional events page at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZP6>.

NEBRASKA

GOVERNOR APPOINTS CURRY TO GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Gov. Pete Ricketts has appointed Ken Curry of Columbus, a corporate leader in public power and customer care, to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to represent District 3 (northeast Nebraska).

Curry is vice president of customer services and chief customer officer for Nebraska Public Power District, which sells power to customers in all or part of 86 of Nebraska's 93 counties.

"My role is to focus on the customer and to do the very best for the customers and to bring them the services they are looking for at a very affordable cost," Curry said. He sees that translating to his role on the Commission, which he said already provides outstanding customer service, in

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Ken Curry

his ability to continue to improve those services with Nebraskans.

Curry was an Eagle Scout and is now the father of two Eagle Scouts. "I grew up loving the outdoors, and my dad introduced me to all kinds of great outdoor experiences. Growing up in the outdoors is beneficial to our kids and families."

With an interest in youth outdoor activities, Curry says his new role fits perfectly. "Supporting the outdoors, supporting new generations getting exposure to the outdoors and the youth aspects are very appealing to me," he said.

Curry's appointment, subject to approval by the Nebraska Legislature, will be effective through Jan. 15, 2025. He succeeds Jim Ernst of Columbus on the board.

"I'm truly honored to be appointed to this role by the Governor and extremely excited to serve," Curry said. "The Game and Parks Commission is a great organization, and I look forward to supporting the team and helping move the agency forward."

Jim Douglas, director of the Commission, said, "Ken has a tremendous passion for the outdoors, and his knowledge and devotion to customer service also will be an incredible asset to this agency. We are pleased to welcome him and look forward to working together as we serve Nebraska's citizens and visitors."

To view a list of commissioners or districts or for more information, go to OutdoorNebraska.org.

UPHOFF FIRST YOUTH TO COMPLETE DUCK SLAM THIS SEASON

As he often does, 15-year-old Jacob Uphoff of Lincoln used a day off from school last fall to go hunting with his dad. That October day, he completed the Nebraska Duck Slam, making him the first youth to do so this season.

Jacob was excited and surprised to hear the news, his father, Blane, said. His accomplishment comes on the back of years of waterfowl hunting experience, he added.

"He's been going to duck blinds with us since he was 2," Blane Uphoff said. "We're always planning for the next hunt."

The Nebraska Duck Slam challenges hunters to harvest a teal

(blue-winged or green-winged) of either sex, as well as drakes of three other species: an American wigeon, a mallard and a northern pintail. All ducks must be harvested in Nebraska, and hunters must upload a photo of each harvest at OutdoorNebraska.org/DuckSlam.

To date, 314 hunters – including nine youth – have participated in the challenge. To date, 127 hunters have completed the Duck Slam – 117 Nebraskans and 10 nonresidents.

Jacob persevered despite an "extremely difficult" year for waterfowl hunting, his father said, one in which conditions were often very dry. "One morning he carried our gear in about three quarters of a mile to the marsh, only to find that the marsh was completely dry," he said. "But we hunted it."

Jacob also harvested all his birds using a 20-gauge shotgun, adding to his accomplishment, Uphoff said.

Hunters who complete the Slam will receive an official certificate, a Nebraska Duck Slam pin, four tasty meals and Central Flyway bragging rights. Additionally, all hunters who complete the Slam during the 2020-2021 season will be registered to win one of several prizes donated by Ducks Unlimited. A drawing for the grand prize, a Special Edition Ducks Unlimited Winchester SX 4 12-gauge shotgun, will take place Feb. 20 at the Ducks Unlimited State Banquet.

Find more information on the Slam at OutdoorNebraska.org/DuckSlam, and view lands open to public hunting in the Public Access Atlas at OutdoorNebraska.gov/PublicAccessAtlas.

NORTH DAKOTA

MIDWINTER WATERFOWL SURVEY

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's annual midwinter waterfowl survey in early January indicated about 165,000 Canada geese in the state.

Andy Dinges, department migratory game bird biologist, said an estimated 67,200 Canada geese were observed on the Missouri River from MacLean Bot-



Jacob Uphoff

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2021 Tentative Season Opening Dates

Season	Tentative Open Date
Dove	Sept 1
Sharptail, Hun, Ruffed Grouse,	
Squirrel	Sept 11
Youth Waterfowl	Sept 18
Early Resident Waterfowl	Sept 25
Regular Waterfowl, Youth Pheasant	Oct 2
Pheasant	Oct 9

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to anything because
you procrastinate'**

I said, 'Just you wait'.



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toms Wildlife Management Area south of Bismarck to Garrison Dam. An additional 65,100 Canada geese were observed on the lower portion of Lake Sakakawea, which still had substantial open water during this year's survey. Nelson Lake in Oliver County was also holding 13,600 Canada geese and the remainder were scattered throughout the state in areas with open water.

Dinges said after summarizing the numbers, an additional 34,200 mallards were tallied statewide. Most were observed on Lake Sakakawea and on Nelson Lake.

"We've had an unusually mild winter with little snow accumulation. Availability of food should have been good and overall wintering conditions were excellent," he said.

The first large waves of migrating waterfowl, according to Dinges, occurred during the last two weeks in October.

"After that short cold spell, above average temperatures, with little snow accumulation, allowed birds to remain in the state on the Missouri River System up until the survey date," he said. "In addition, several reservoirs in the state that are typically frozen by late November had small pockets of open water and were still holding some birds."

The 10-year average (2011-20) for the midwinter survey in North Dakota is 107,400 Canada geese and 21,800 mallards.

All states participate in the midwinter survey

2021 TENTATIVE SEASON DATES

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department annually provides its best estimate for opening dates to help hunters prepare for hunting seasons.

Last Laugh

Reasons Dogs Are Better Than Boyfriends

Hi Dennis

I don't just read your magazine. I read your front to back. I enjoy your articles. There interesting and I learn from your articles. Just to give you a little hard time about your joke page. It was funny about the dogs better then women but how about the attached too.

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Debra Kuchera

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Dogs are nice to your relatives.

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