

QUILWIFE



Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation
 Making a Difference for Wildlife and Clean Streams, One Acre, One Stream, at a Time

THE HABITAT GUIDE

Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation

Notes from the Dashboard: Is it fall yet?

GoFundMe to benefit WY girl with OMAS

The family of 2-year-old Harper Hissong of Wyoming has launched a GoFundMe page to cover various costs as she undergoes treatment for Opsoclonus Myoclonus Ataxia Syndrome.

Harper’s parents, Geoff and Sarah Hissong, are friends of the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation and Chief Biologist Nick Prough.

According to the family’s GoFundMe page, the mortality rate for OMAS is low; however, it is not curable.

Harper will require treatment in Colorado every month for the next two years, which will include three consecutive days of infusions and steroid treatments.

According to the page, “Contributions will help us with food, lodging, transportation, and medical expenses as we fight this disease.”

For more information, or to donate, click [here](#).

For all your chapter needs, please call Leslie Casanova [direct](#) at Sportsman Insurance Agency at 1-800-925-7767. In most cases, Leslie can have your insurance the same day!



By Craig Alderman — We have lived on the farm now in Missouri for a few decades plus. We always have 100-degree days in August, a few, to make you appreciate the cool mornings of fall about to unfold. Well, they came early in June and July, stayed longer and made life a bit more of a challenge with little or no rain at all this summer.

Are we below average in rain fall due to the drought? No, about equal, maybe a little up even but it came early in the spring and did no good for

the real growing season. Then it decided to become a bit of a huge oven hitting extreme heat ambient temps of 107, causing a serious drought here in the Midwest and elsewhere.

The lawn has not recovered in many areas, mowing or any tractor work requires wearing a filter mask as the dust is very bad. The garden was a waste of time and you tend to not want to overwork your well just in case, so you pick your watering spots carefully. The extreme drought brought with it more woollyboogers (highly professional term) more bees than normal, more ticks (a real pain for so many), and a personal favorite, chiggers (no see ums).



I had two days two weeks ago that stayed in the 80s so I hit the fields spraying

for thistle, teasel and Serecia Lespedeza. We made good headway, then bang, right back up to 106 to 107 for the next week. It hit over 105 by 11 a.m. each morning, so it was just plain hot.

Serecia in the fields and along the roadway has to be sprayed to prevent the spread into the fields and pastures. A properly controlled application hits it hard to kill it (photo above). If you mow it or try and burn it, it spreads even faster. Gly won’t kill it either, just makes it mad.

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Continued from Page 1 — It is easily spread by equipment passing through it once it goes to seed and may take another year of chemical application to kill the seeds already in the ground when they germinate.

Thistle is another pest (photo right) you have to get to before it heads out and seeds drop or it will quickly spread. Again, this was along the roadway and our driveway as well as many plants in the field itself. I think we got them all but are prepared if the battles are needed again. The ticks were and are thick this year, we wear tick gators and spray our clothing etc. with permethrin then have 100% deet but we still find them crawling around. Always check for ticks.

NOTE: If you live in tick country and feel sick or see the tell-tale ring around a bite, get to the doctor and get a FULL tick panel done to be sure.



Serecia, thistle and teasel all seem to really love the hot dry, weather but controlling them is a must if you want a good hay field, food plot, or pasture. We also sprayed spots of Johnsongrass along the road and fence lines. Though we do not run cattle here, we don't want it in the fields at all.

Take Care of Your Livestock and Pets

As hot as you are, you can get relief inside, livestock and outside pets can't. Make sure they have ample access to water AND shade to get out of the sun. If you have not installed exhaust fans in the gables of your barn, do it. Getting rid of the heat and having air flow really helps them stay cool.

Extreme heat like this is very tough on equipment too. Take it easy and do not overwork the equipment, parts are scarce for one and repairs are exceptionally costly right now. The ground is like concrete when it is parched dry, so dirt work is very hard on implements.

Cooler days are ahead, watch it drop below freezing and give us no enjoyable fall, or fall will last 24 hours, at night, on Tuesdays. Catch you over the dry creek bed.

Craig Alderman is the QUWF executive director.

Oklahoma: Free hunting days coming Sept. 2-3

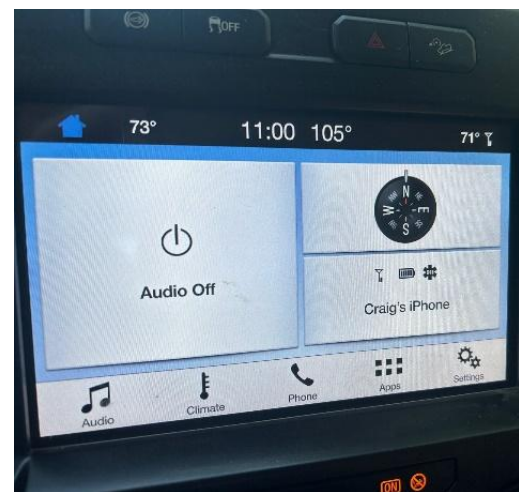
The first full weekend of September is traditionally Free Hunting Days in Oklahoma. On these two days, Oklahoma residents may participate in open hunting seasons without the requirement to have a state hunting license.

These free days provide a perfect chance for seasoned hunters to instruct a newcomer to the sport or even to introduce someone completely new to the time-honored American tradition of hunting

This year, open hunting seasons during Free Hunting Days include a number of species, such as dove, squirrel, and coyote. Others are listed in the current Oklahoma Fishing & Hunting Regulations.

However, Game Wardens will be on duty as usual to ensure compliance with bag limits, shooting hours, shotgun plugs, hunter education requirements, special area regulations, and other general regulations that are published in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations.

The regulations are available online at wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/regs and in the free Go Outdoors Oklahoma mobile app for Apple or Android.



Olin-Winchester to acquire White Flyer Targets

Clayton, MO — Olin Corporation (NYSE: OLN) announced an agreement to acquire the assets of White Flyer Targets, LLC, North America's preeminent leader in recreational trap, skeet, and sporting clay targets, and combine it with the Winchester Ammunition business.

The acquisition includes White Flyer's five state of the art manufacturing facilities in Coal Township, Pennsylvania; Dalton, Georgia; Webb City, Missouri; Knox, Indiana; and, San Bernardino, California and includes White Flyer's recently announced ECO FLYER® target product line.

"We are extremely excited to bring together these two leading brands to serve the millions of people who participate in competitive and recreational shotgun shooting sports," said Brett Flaughter, president of Winchester Ammunition. "The combination of Winchester and White Flyer should enhance the continued growth of trap, skeet, sporting clays, and other shotgun sports. This acquisition offers the unique opportunity to provide comprehensive ammunition and clay target solutions for the thousands of shooting ranges across America."

Robert Lippert, President and CEO of Reagent Diversified Holdings, Inc., owner of White Flyer Targets, LLC, noted, "Winchester is the perfect choice to take ownership of our iconic brand. The pride our employees have in White Flyer Targets, LLC will only expand as they are welcomed into the Winchester team. We are confident that shooting sports, overall, will benefit from this pairing."

The transaction is contingent on Olin's completion of confirmatory due diligence, definitive agreements, and final approval of both companies' Boards of Directors. The transaction is not expected to require any premerger filings and is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2023. Olin would fund the transaction with cash on hand and anticipates that the transaction would be immediately accretive to Olin's shareholders.

WI: DNR stocks Great Lakes to improve angling

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to help enhance fish populations in Lake Michigan and Lake Superior through its 2023 stocking efforts.

"The fisheries of the Great Lakes provide world-class fishing opportunities for our stakeholders," said Brad Eggold, DNR Great Lakes District Fisheries Supervisor. "We continue to assess the fish populations of the Great Lakes and stock appropriate numbers and species of fish to build on the success that started over five decades ago."

Stocking efforts will continue throughout the year, including stocking 50,000 brook trout, 44,468 brown trout and 258,228 coho salmon into the Great Lakes, to ensure the 2023 stocking quotas are fulfilled.

Since the start of 2023, DNR fisheries staff have stocked the following fish into the Great Lakes:

LAKE MICHIGAN

- 405,532 brown trout
- 1,386,492 Chinook salmon
- 241,772 coho salmon
- 7,681 muskellunge
- 522,852 rainbow trout

LAKE SUPERIOR

- 174,906 brown trout
- 58,300 lake trout
- 40,816 splake
- 100,000 walleye



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Ask Alexa to play 101.3 Real Country or AM 560 in the Morning, or go online and download the free app.

Continued from Page 3 — During this year’s data entry, DNR staff discovered that approximately 4,200 additional steelhead yearlings stocked into Lake Michigan in 2022 had not been recorded in the database. The database has since been updated to reflect this addition to the fishery.

[Read more fast facts about our Great Lakes stocking efforts on this DNR publication.](#)

You can find previous years’ [fish stocking](#) information for [Lake Michigan](#) and [Lake Superior](#) on the [DNR fisheries webpage](#).



Vermont resident Canada goose season begins Sept. 1

Vermont’s resident Canada goose hunting season will be held September 1 through September 25 to help control Vermont’s resident Canada goose population prior to the arrival of Canada geese migrating south from Canada according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

The season will be open statewide with a daily bag limit of five Canada geese in the Connecticut River Zone and eight in the rest of Vermont.

A second Canada goose hunting season for resident and migrant birds will be held October 14-November 27 with a daily bag limit of three Canada geese in the Lake Champlain Zone and Interior Vermont Zone.

In the Connecticut River Zone, the second Canada goose season will be October 5-November 3, and November 22-December 21 with a daily bag limit of two Canada geese.

For a second year, a late Canada goose season will be held targeting resident birds. Within the Lake Champlain and Interior zones, the season will be held from December 1 to January 6, with a five-bird daily bag limit. The season will run December 22 to January 6 in the Connecticut River zone and applies only to the lands of the zone, not Connecticut River waters.



A hunting license is required, and a waterfowl hunter 16 or older must carry current federal and Vermont duck stamps. [Federal stamps](#) are sold at post offices, federal refuges and on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website <https://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp.php>. Vermont is not one of the states where you can buy an electronic federal duck stamp, but you can purchase one from any state that sells them.

Vermont duck stamps can be added to your hunting license on Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) and through license agents. The hunter must sign the federal duck stamp.

All migratory game bird hunters must also be registered with the Harvest Information Program (H.I.P.). This can be done on Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website or by calling toll-free 1-877-306-7091. After providing some basic information, you will receive your annual H.I.P. registration number, which you then need to record on your hunting license.

A printable copy of [migratory bird hunting regulations](#) can be downloaded from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website under “Hunt” – “Waterfowl.” A printed version is available from license agents and post offices.

Instructor-led hunter ed courses coming up in southwest Idaho

Southwest Idaho currently has 14 instructor-led courses slated for September, with more to come. Among the upcoming offerings in the Southwest Region are Hunter Education Certification, Hunter & Bowhunter (Combo) Education Certification, Trapper Education Certification, and Wolf Trapper Certification.

Students should note there are various types of Hunter Education Certification courses in the list below, including pre-study options such as expedited one- or two-day courses and Hybrid Hunter Education (an interactive, virtual course with a hands-on field day), as well as the traditional Hunter Education format. Be sure to read the class description before signing up for a course.

Here is a list of upcoming courses and scheduled start-dates. Follow the links to see more information about each class and to register. **Note: If a particular course has filled up, check if there are other options that will work for you in the list below. If not, be sure to provide your information to join the waitlist. Seats may open up for the course in which you are interested, and/or it could help us schedule additional classes to meet demand!**

- [Sept. 9 - Hunter Certification \(One-Day Course\) - Council](#)
- [Sept. 9 - Wolf Trapper Certification - Nampa](#)
- [Sept. 10 - Hunter Certification \(One-Day Course\) - Council](#)
- [Sept. 12 - Hunter Certification \(Pre-Study Course\) - Nampa](#)
- [Sept. 16 - Hunter Certification \(One-Day Course\) - Council](#)
- [Sept. 17 - Hunter Certification \(One-Day Course\) - Council](#)
- [Sept. 18 - Hunter Certification - Nampa](#)
- [Sept. 23 - Trapper Certification - Nampa](#)



Why sign up for an instructor-led course?

Learn from experienced hunters/instructors: Maybe you have a question about something that wasn't directly covered in the coursework, or maybe you just want a little more explanation. With instructor-led courses, you have the opportunity to dive a little deeper than what you find in the Hunter Education book. Instructors provide person-to-person interaction that you won't find through a strictly online course.

It's hands-on: In-person instruction provides a hands-on component to hunter education that simply isn't available in the online format. So, what exactly do we mean by "hands-on?" While both the online and in-person courses cover the same information, in-person students have the benefit of putting the concepts they learn into practice under the guidance of Hunter Education instructors who can explain and demonstrate.

For example, in every instructor-led course (including hybrid courses), students have the opportunity to practice safe firearm handling with inert firearms in the classroom, and receive specific training based on scenarios that most often lead to hunting-related accidents.

It's affordable: The cost for enrolling in instructor-led certification courses is less than a box of shotgun shells: just \$9.75. To see a full list of instructor-led courses scheduled go to <https://register-ed.com/programs/idaho>.



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Pennsylvania DMAP permits available on state game lands

Pennsylvania's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) is available on some state game lands for the first time in the 2023-24 hunting seasons.

Through DMAP, hunters can get permits that allow them to harvest antlerless deer – one per tag – on the specific property for which the permit was issued.

DMAP permits for the 2023-24 deer seasons go on sale at 8 a.m. Monday, Aug. 14.

DMAP has been around for years, but previously was offered only on other public lands and private lands to help landowners achieve land use goals and/or to limit the spread of chronic wasting disease. But it's needed on some state game lands now as well, said Game Commission Forestry Division Chief Paul Weiss.

Forest management conducted on state game lands is intended to create the best variety of habitat for wildlife, a desirable distribution of tree age classes, including early successional forest. But, Weiss said, overbrowsing attributable to deer is limiting the success of those efforts.

"We cannot successfully re-establish new age classes and get them through to maturity if we cannot get the seedlings beyond deer browse height," Weiss said.

He pointed to State Game Lands 100 in Centre and Clearfield counties as an example of what's going on. It was hit hard by spongy moths between 2006 and 2009, so the Game Commission did salvage harvests, treated the area with herbicides twice and conducted prescribed fires on about 2,000 acres.

Together, that opened the canopy enough that a new forest should be growing.

"But if you stand up there and spin in a circle, as far as you can see, there's no vegetation taller than the height of the ferns," Weiss said.

Dig beneath the ferns and you can find knee-high red maples as big around as your thumb, he noted. But they can get no taller before deer browse them back. If that continues, that would-be forest – and others like it elsewhere – "have no future," he said.

That's bad not just for the trees, but for the deer and a wide range of other wildlife, ruffed grouse among them, that need young forest to thrive, he said.

The Game Commission has tried to overcome deer browsing using fencing, but that's expensive. Weiss noted that, over the past two years, deer fence installation costs increased by about 50%, to about \$579 an acre.

Hunters can help control deer in those situations, Weiss said. But by excluding state game lands from DMAP previously, hunters often had greater incentive to hunt elsewhere.

Weiss pointed out that Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), which manages state parks and forests, and Allegheny National Forest both use DMAP. They are two of the state's three largest public landowners, with the Game Commission being the other.

The state's two largest private landowners, Collins Pine and Lyme Timber Co., use DMAP, as well.

All have property either adjacent to or surrounding state game lands.

State Game Lands 34 in Clearfield and Elk counties, for example, is completely surrounded by DCNR lands enrolled in DMAP. State Game Lands 29 in Warren County is completely surrounded by Allegheny National Forest, while State Game Lands 24 in Forest and Clarion counties is bounded by Allegheny National Forest on one side and Collins Pine land on the other.

"This means in areas where we have significant overbrowsing problems, oftentimes hunters are incentivized to hunt on lands surrounding game lands because of the additional tags and opportunities," Weiss said.

So this season, the Game Commission is turning to DMAP on game lands in the Northwest, Northcentral and Northeast regions to better achieve its goal of creating healthy wildlife habitat while also providing more opportunities for hunters.

Game Lands enrolled were chosen using a thorough, targeted process that included developing individual land management plans for each. Even then, lands enrolled include only those where every other option to promote successful forest habitat regeneration – from opening roads to increasing deer hunter access to creating deer hunter focus areas to fencing – were first exhausted.

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Continued from Page 7 — Details on those properties, such as the total number of DMAP permits available and the number remaining for sale, are available at <https://www.pgcapps.pa.gov/Harvest/DMAP>. Find state game lands – listed by the game lands number and/or a four-digit DMAP unit number – using the search function to identify the property region and county.

Hunters can purchase up to two DMAP permits per state game lands DMAP unit. The same limit applies for DMAP units on other public properties. For private properties where DMAP is used, landowners might provide coupons hunters must obtain before buying a DMAP permit. On those properties, hunters can purchase up to four permits.

DMAP permits cost \$10.97 for Pennsylvania residents and \$35.97 for nonresidents. They can be purchased from any license issuing agent or online at www.huntfish.pa.gov. Hunters must identify the DMAP unit number when purchasing a permit.

All hunters who get a DMAP tag must report whether they harvested a deer or not at www.huntfish.pa.gov, or by calling 1-800-838-4431 or sending in a postage-paid report card available in the *2023-24 Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Digest*.

Round 3 antlerless license outlook

Not only will Monday, Aug. 14 mark the start of DMAP permit sales, it's also when the third round of antlerless deer license sales begins.

In Round 3, hunters who already have purchased two antlerless deer licenses may pick up a third for any Wildlife Management Unit where licenses remain. Sales of both third-round antlerless licenses and DMAP permits will begin at 8 a.m. at all locations where licenses are sold, including online.

To date, seven of Pennsylvania's 22 Wildlife Management Units are sold out of antlerless licenses, and additional WMUs could sell out before the third round arrives. Other WMUs likely will still have tens of thousands of licenses remaining for purchase in the third round.

Hunters can track the remaining number of licenses in each WMU in real time online at the [Antlerless Deer License Quota page](#) at HuntFishPA. A link to this page also can be accessed by clicking on the red box titled "Antlerless Deer Quota" near the top of the home page at www.pgc.pa.gov.

Those attempting to buy antlerless licenses and DMAP permits online at the start of the third round can enter a virtual waiting room beginning at 7 a.m., when online sales for Round 2 end. Customers in the waiting room are placed in line to buy licenses promptly at 8 a.m., so they will be served ahead of those customers who are just coming onto the system as sales are getting underway. However, customers in the waiting room are placed in line randomly, so there's no advantage in entering the waiting room first. A customer who enters the waiting room later than you still might be placed in line ahead of you.

Also remember that, once sales begin, online customers likely will be routed to a queue, and won't be able to purchase their licenses until their turn arrives. The online sales queue is triggered during periods of high-volume license sales, and during these times, the line coming through the queue may move slowly.

Lines at in-person license issuing agents might move faster because in-person sales are never routed to a queue.

Another difference between online and in-person sales is that Round 2 antlerless license sales at in-person issuing agents remain open right up until the 8 a.m. start of Round 3. Other licenses and privileges not subject to the coming 8 a.m. start also can be purchased in-person, but not online, between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Antlerless deer licenses cost \$6.97 for Pennsylvania residents and \$26.97 for nonresidents. DMAP permits cost \$10.97 for residents and \$35.97 for nonresidents.

Did you know? EV bus maker files for bankruptcy

Proterra filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which means that the company can stay in business while it restructures its obligations. This marks a fall from grace for the electric bus and battery producer, which had received a \$1.6 billion valuation in a January 2021 merger with another firm.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm drew [scrutiny](#) when it was revealed that she maintained her financial positions in the firm after she assumed her post as the leader of the Department of Energy (DOE) and began directing policies which could have favored her own financial interests. Granholm sold her shares in 2021, netting capital gains of \$1.6 million.

Public asked to report dead, sick big game animals

Nebraska wildlife officials say conditions in certain areas of the state are suitable for the spread of deadly viral diseases among big game populations. They are asking the public to report unexplained death or illnesses of deer, pronghorn, elk and bighorn sheep.

Observations of unhealthy big game animals or unexplained deaths should be reported to the nearest Nebraska Game and Parks Commission office. Locations include Alliance, Bassett, Kearney, Gretna, North Platte, Lincoln, Omaha and Norfolk.

In big game animals, [epizootic hemorrhagic disease](#), or EHD, often causes high fever, internal bleeding, swelling, lesions, lethargy, increased heart rate, dehydration, salivation, incoordination and loss of fear of humans. The symptoms and spread are similar to bluetongue disease, another disorder that can kill certain wildlife and domestic livestock.

Both are labeled hemorrhagic diseases and indistinguishable without laboratory analysis. While the diseases do not affect humans, they can be destructive to big game populations.

The diseases are most prevalent in late summer until the first frost. For both EHD and bluetongue, certain tiny midges or gnats bite a host and move the virus to nearby animals. When animals congregate at water during drought, the insects have potential to spread the virus to more animals. Additionally, infected animals often seek water for relief and die in or near it.

The Aug. 3 report from the U.S. Drought Monitor shows conditions throughout eastern Nebraska range from “abnormally dry” to “exceptional drought,” the most severe condition.

For contact information and more details about [wildlife diseases](#), visit OutdoorNebraska.gov.



Vermont hunter education courses available now

If you or someone you know would like to go hunting this fall but have never taken a hunter education course, this is the time to act. Vermont’s volunteer hunter education instructors are now holding a limited number of courses throughout the state.

A person must pass the basic [hunter education course](#) before they can purchase their first hunting license.

“Most of these courses are held in August and September,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s Hunter Education Coordinator Nicole Meier. “All of our instructors are volunteers. They teach because they are passionate about hunting and want to ensure that Vermont’s safe hunting legacy continues. We credit Vermont’s strong safety record with our volunteer instructors.”

“Volunteer instructors are the backbone of the Vermont Hunter Education Program. They are vital to Vermont’s strong record of safe hunting. Hands-on and in-person learning from an experienced instructor are the best ways to become familiar with the skills associated with safe hunting.”

“Courses are available in basic hunter education, bowhunter education, trapper education, and combination hunter-bowhunter education. We expect more classes to be posted throughout August and September, so check our website frequently.”

“Beginning on September 1, you must be 18 years old to take the online hunter or bowhunter education courses.”

The courses will be listed as they become available on Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

On the Home page, click on Hunt and then Hunter Education and [Find the Right Class for You](#). To register for a course, go to this link: <https://www.register-ed.com/programs/vermont>



Emergency law halts spread of invasive species

To reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species in Maine, a law was passed by the Maine Legislature that requires boaters to take specific actions to encourage water to drain from their watercraft prior to entering a water body or leaving a launch site (**PUBLIC LAW 2023 CHAPTER 190**). Aquatic invasive species are any fish, wildlife, or plant species that spreads to a water body where they do not naturally occur. These species are often transferred to new locations on watercraft, watercraft trailers, and other equipment associated with water recreation, and they impact the health of our waters, fish, and wildlife.

Effective June 16th, 2023, boaters are now required to do the following:

- **Prior to entering a water body and when preparing to leave launch sites**, boaters are required to remove or open any devices designed for routine removal/opening (for example, hull drain plugs, bailers, live wells, ballast tanks) to encourage draining of areas containing water (excluding live bait containers). This must be done in a way that does not allow drained water to enter any inland water of the state.

This puts into law what the Clean, Drain, Dry educational and outreach campaign has already been encouraging boaters to do.

By ensuring that all boaters are draining water when it is from a different source than the inland water body they are about to enter, the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species including some that are not always visible by eye, to new areas is drastically reduced.

Similar laws are already in effect in more than 20 other states, including neighboring New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

This law will limit the spread of aquatic invasive species we already have in Maine while proactively limiting potential for the introduction of aquatic invasive species that would be new to the state such as quagga mussels and the spiny water flea.

Where should I drain my watercraft?

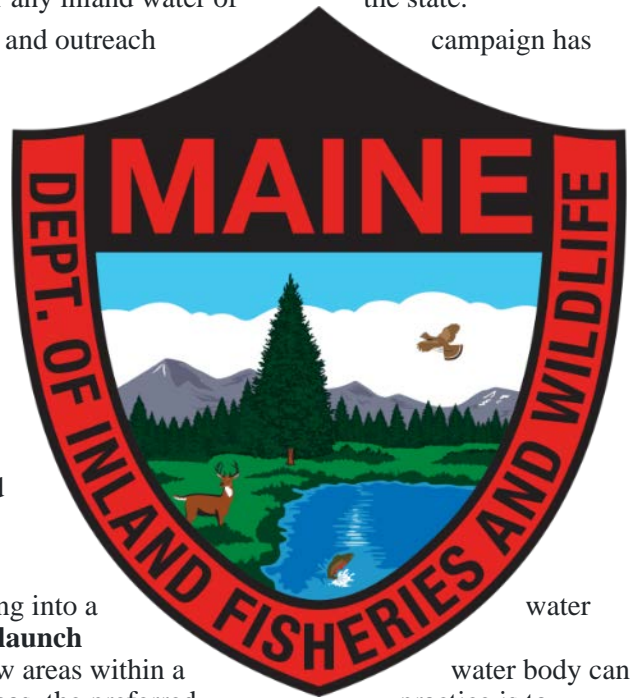
Away from any inland water body to prevent direct draining into a body. **Watercrafts should NOT be drained on the boat launch ramp.** Since the transfer of aquatic invasive species to new areas within a worsen the infestation, especially in high traffic launch areas, the preferred prevent direct draining back into the water body even when leaving the water body.

What does encouraging draining of a watercraft entail?

Boaters shall remove or open any hull drain plugs, bailers, valves, live wells, ballast tanks and other devices designed for routine removal or opening and closing to encourage water to drain from areas containing water. Containers holding live baitfish for personal or commercial use are exempted from these requirements.

What is considered a watercraft?

"Watercraft" means any type of vessel, boat, canoe, or craft capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, other than a seaplane. This includes motorboats, sailboats, paddle craft (canoes, kayaks, standup paddleboards, etc.)





Find the Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation on Instagram

@quwfinc

Updated regularly!

Notes from the Road:

Landowners continued to play key role in battle against invasives



By Nick Prough — At QUWF, we work with private landowners daily to help them improve their wildlife habitat as well as improve their farms/ranches across the landscape for a wide variety of species.

Over the past several years fighting invasive plant species has become an ever-increasing portion of that technical assistance (TA) with private landowners as they continue to battle the ongoing invasion of invasive plant species across the country's landscape. In a recent social media post from QUWF I was quoted as saying, "If you haven't been out fighting invasive plant species in the fields, pastures and right-of-way's the past several years, then you are probably way behind the curve."

This is most definitely true this past summer as I have seen this portion of landowner TA truly triple or even quadruple in call volume and landowner assistance requests over the past several years. Some of this can be attributed to the multi-year drought patterns we have seen in many midwestern states over the past several years where many invasive plant species seem to thrive and expand during extreme drought conditions.

However, this expansion is also attributable to the lack of control on many tracts of land and it is very easy to see once you start recognize the invasive species you have in your area and start to look for them in your local area while you are out and about in your daily travels I have had tons of landowners comment to me the past several years just how expansive the invasive plants such as teasel, johnsongrass, sericea lespedeza, and other invasives are once they started to look for them not only on their own lands but along the highways and roads across their county as well as on many of their adjoining neighboring properties.



"They are literally everywhere, Nick," stated one landowner, "It's almost impossible to drive 5 minutes and not see one of those 3 invasives in any direction from my farm and usually you see all 3." That is unfortunately the case in many counties and states across our country's current landscape, and unless everyone begins to fight the same invasive battle at the same time on every possible treatable acre that they can find to do control and spraying on then that case will continue.

In addition to these "Dirty 3" that I tend to term them as, many invasive tree species such as honey locust, Bradford pear and autumn olive continue to plague landowner's properties as well as state highway department of transportation agencies highway right-of-ways. Many public land agencies such as state game and fish agencies, state and county parks agencies, also continue to fight these invasive species on the lands they manage as well.



Continued on Page 12

Continued from Page 11 — If we all continue to work on our side of the fence then we can come together with a much-improved landscape in which invading species of undesirable plants are much more limited and controlled and not becoming the dominate plant species we see in our daily travels both on the farm and in between farms.

We all have to row in the same direction at the same speed to truly get a handle on these invasive plant species, if just a hand full of landowners work on this, we may feel like we are winning a local battle on a select few but the larger war will remain very much out of reach and once again those pesky invasives will be knocking and creeping in at the fence line of even those “islands of landowners which did try to control them the first time”.

As a QUWF biologist, I for one have been working very closely with local and regional MODOT staff over the past year which are tasked with the daunting task of controlling these pesky invasives on the thousands of miles of highway right-of ways across the state by contacting them and assisting them in their ongoing efforts in any way we can as well as helping them in locating high density invasive species problem areas in and around many of our existing quality landowner wildlife habitat projects or in focal areas such as quail habitat priority landscapes.

We have all worked way too hard of many years on these priority habitats with landowners to let the invasives get a strong foothold to overtake and degrade these quality habitats.

As I stated above if we continue to attack these pesky invasives on both sides of the fence of not only our adjoining landowner’s properties but along our highway and roadside right-of way’s then we can finally begin to gain some additional traction on this ongoing invasive battle we face across our landscape.

Keep up all the great work out there that each of you, your landowners, your chapters and conservation partners are doing on crucial wildlife habitat projects, youth field day events, as well as all your other conservation outreach efforts, you are working on in your local communities each and every day, as you are definitely ... **“Making a Difference for Wildlife One Acre at a Time”!**

Nick Prough is the QUWF chief wildlife biologist and landowner liaison.

Did you know?
QUWF has four landowner coops: The Grouse Coop and the Niangua Coop in Missouri, and the Catskill Mountains Wildlife and Oregon Joint Wildlife coops.
Interested in forming a coop?
Email Craig Alderman at admin@quwf.net.



FWP to determine cause of trout decline

Dead trout. Sick trout. Trout with fungus on their skin. What is going on with the fish of the Big Hole, Beaverhead and Ruby Rivers?

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in partnership with the Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit (MCFRU) at Montana State University wants to find out. Together, they are launching three studies to determine what is affecting fish abundance in these streams. A fourth study, conducted by FWP, will look at fish health and building capacity to sample fish for diseases.

“Those who work and recreate on these rivers are troubled by what they see happening to the trout populations,” said FWP Director Dustin Temple. “FWP is troubled, too, and staff have a plan in place to figure out what’s driving the decline in trout health and abundance. FWP along with private and public partners have a long history of effective conservation work on these rivers. This plan is the first next step towards understanding how those same partners can turn the current circumstance around.”

FWP fisheries staff in southwest Montana and MCFRU are finalizing how best to tackle this challenge. While the details are new, this collaborative is a familiar one. The research unit is a long-standing collaboration among FWP, MSU, U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Its mission is to conduct fisheries research, educate future fishery professionals and provide technical assistance to fisheries biologists working for state and federal agencies, nonprofits and industry.

“We’ve worked with FWP on hundreds of projects since our inception in 1963,” said Dr. Al Zale, the leader of MCFRU and a professor at MSU.

Those projects included native species restoration, fish diseases – especially whirling disease, catch-and-release mortality, predation, Missouri and Yellowstone river fisheries and much more.

FWP’s Region 3 fisheries manager Mike Duncan and his staff are comparing notes with MCFRU.

“We all met several times to come up with a plan of what knowledge gaps to fill,” Duncan said.

The three studies with MCFRU will focus on adult mortality, juvenile origins and survival and fish diseases.

Since 2011, trout numbers in these rivers have steadily declined and are now near historic lows. While those declines can be linked to low flows and warm water temperatures, the research projects will take a more in-depth look at other factors that may be affecting these fisheries.

The adult mortality study will involve tagging and tracking fish, Duncan said. FWP staff will capture and tag fish on the Big Hole, Beaverhead and Ruby rivers, along with the Madison River. The project will assess how flows, water temperatures, angling and disease influence survival.

As part of the study, fish biologists Matt Jaeger and Jim Olsen are developing adaptive management plans that will inform fishing regulations on the Big Hole, Beaverhead and Ruby rivers. “This could include spawning closures and catch-and-release as examples,” Duncan said.

The juvenile study will look at where fish are born and their spawning and rearing habitat. “We’ll mainly be looking in tributaries,” Duncan said. Biologists will sample the fish’s otolith, or ear bone, to determine where the fish has lived and traveled during its life. This work will help focus and direct potential habitat projects.

The third project will examine the level that disease is impacting trout populations on these three rivers. It will include testing for novel pathogens and help determine better ways to routinely sample fish for disease in the future.

Some of these projects will involve recruiting graduate students to work with MCFRU. “These usually take four or five years in fisheries science because of the seasonal cycles that regulate nature,” Zale said.

To accompany these projects, FWP will increase fish health monitoring and reporting resources. “We want to get a better handle on environment triggers and how pathogens are affecting the fisheries,” Duncan said.

The public can participate in fish health monitoring by reporting dead and sick-looking fish on the new web portal fwp.mt.gov/sickfish.

For more information and to follow the progress of the research projects, visit fwp.mt.gov/conservation/fisheries-management/trout-mgmt-sw-mt



Montana FWP completes elk, deer surveys

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks recently completed extensive public opinion surveys of elk and deer hunters in Montana to gauge their satisfaction with hunting and harvest opportunities. The surveys were each sent to 5,000 randomly selected resident hunters.

The elk survey allowed FWP to take the first comprehensive look at [elk hunter opinions](#). Overall, 73 percent of the respondents from this survey are satisfied with elk management in Montana. Generally, hunters surveyed were also satisfied with current elk hunting regulations and support the timing of the current general elk hunting season.

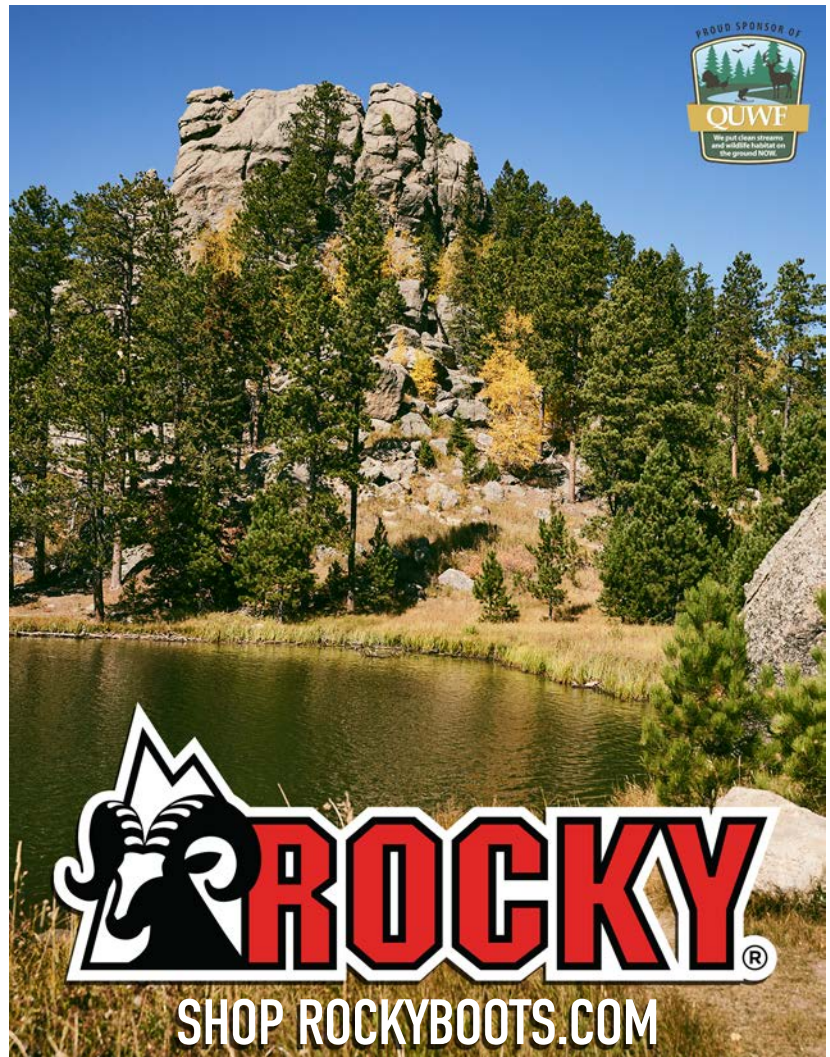
However, many resident elk hunters shared their concerns about a variety of elk hunting related issues, including hunting access on private land and too few elk on public lands. Crowding in the field was also a concern. The survey also indicated that while important to many, harvesting a mature bull was the least important reason for hunting elk in Montana. Hunters preferred less restrictive elk hunting regulations across the state compared to more restrictive regulations that would limit opportunity in favor of hunting for older age class bulls.

A comprehensive report of the survey can be found [here](#).

The [2023 deer survey](#) focused on mule deer hunting and was nearly identical to one conducted in 2011. Results were similar to results from the [2011 survey](#), and showed continued support for current mule deer management in Montana, including season length, timing and the opportunity to hunt mule deer every year.

However, the survey also indicated that some hunters are looking for changes. For instance, when asked about hunting bucks every year or hunting them once every several years, about 60 percent of hunters liked the ability to hunt mule deer bucks every year, which is generally the current framework in Montana. Alternatively, nearly 40 percent of hunters said they would choose to hunt mule deer bucks once every several years if it meant having the opportunity to harvest a mature buck. A comprehensive survey report can be found [here](#).

Continued on Page 15



Continued from Page 14 — “These surveys are important ways for us to gauge hunter opinion on our elk and mule deer management,” said FWP Director Dustin Temple. “We’re currently working on regulation proposals for the public’s review early this fall. We hope hunters take the time to review the proposals and let us know what they think.”

Regulation proposals will be out for public comment in October and will be in front of the Fish and Wildlife Commission for a final decision in December.

FWP also sent surveys to nonresident elk and deer hunters (800 surveys each). In general, nonresident hunters expressed satisfaction with hunting opportunities in Montana and trust in FWP’s game management. Results from nonresident surveys can be found here: [nonresident elk hunters](#), [nonresident deer hunters](#).

High water temperatures causing fish die-offs

Nebraska Game and Parks biologists are investigating the extent of a fish die-off along the Platte and Loup rivers near Columbus and downstream, as well as along the Loup Power Canal.

Multiple species of dead fish were documented along the waterways July 28, but more are expected to perish as hot and dry conditions persist and water levels decline.

Extreme heat has led to water temperatures measuring over 90 degrees in shallow stretches of these rivers in recent days and is the likely cause of the die-offs.

It is hoped cooler temperatures in the forecast will reduce additional effects.



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Maryland creates new black bass conservation fund

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources now has a dedicated source of funding for conservation of Maryland’s largemouth bass and smallmouth bass—collectively called black bass—to which the state’s anglers, boaters, hunters, and others can contribute when [purchasing their licenses](#).

Governor Wes Moore signed legislation on May 8 to create the Black Bass Conservation Fund, establishing a voluntary donation program through the Department of Natural Resources’ online COMPASS licensing system to help conserve the species and protect the fishery. Donations will be used to procure bass for remediation stocking in freshwater waterways, install structures for enhancing aquatic habitat, purchase supplies that promote conservation during bass tournaments, and support scientific research related to conservation of the resource.

“This dedicated source of funding has been long in the making and should enable us to do more to make better fisheries for our black bass anglers,” said Dr. Joseph Love, the Department of Natural Resources’ program manager for black bass conservation. “While management objectives have been met with existing funding, expanding existing access to the fishery and addressing long-term challenges that bass face in our ecosystems requires new approaches and a new way of funding them.”



Continued on Page 17



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Continued from Page 16 — Changing and challenging ecosystems—such as the spread of invasive species, warming waters, sea level rise, and development pressure—have impacted the viability of largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in some Maryland waterways. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources is looking to improve access to bass fishing for anglers through projects such as building underwater reefs or fishing trails.

Projects will be considered for funding through the new program each year by the Department of Natural Resources and its [Black Bass Advisory Committee](#), which comprises bass anglers, conservations, tournament directors, fishing guides, and other experts appointed by the department secretary.



Quiet **ADVICE** for social media users:

With the increasing negative use of information posted on ANY social media site by overly aggressive government agency's along with others up to no good, consider NOT posting any pictures of firearms you own, use or purchase.

Regardless of what you think you deleted, it is there for a lifetime. Further, never include any pictures of ammo or your hunting or archery supplies.

Also, many apps today request access to your photo albums, including your contact list, on your phone, guess what? Even though you did not post it on social media, they have full access and so do unwanted agencies. Make your own security plan. Put photos on your PC and get them off your phone. Like iCloud? All items saved there are fully accessible.

It is a sad day but unfortunately you have to understand the political and social structure we live in.

 The advertisement features a hunter in a field of tall grass, viewed from behind, holding a rifle. The hunter is wearing a red jacket, a backpack, and a cap. The background is a vast, open field under a cloudy sky.

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NE: Mountain lion presence confirmed along Papillion Creek

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission confirmed mountain lion presence in Omaha on Aug. 2 via tracks and photo evidence.

The animal was moving south along Papillion Creek between Interstate 80 and 96th Street.

Also, a Game and Parks law enforcement officer and the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office responded to a reported observation of a mountain lion east of Walnut Creek Recreation Area near the southern city limit of Papillion around midnight Aug. 3. This observation is considered probable but unconfirmed by Game and Parks due to a lack of definitive evidence.

Game and Parks and other agencies will continue to monitor and search for the animal and are requesting people call Game and Parks or local police if they observe a mountain lion.

Game and Parks cannot relocate mountain lions for the following reasons:

- Public safety is the top priority.
- Nebraska does not have large tracts of public land with adequate habitat for a lion to be relocated. Nebraska is approximately 98% privately owned, any mountain lion moved could quickly enter private land.
- Zoos typically do not accept adult mountain lions that have lived in the wild; these animals are stressed by people and confinement and do not do well in zoos.
- Tranquilizers can take up to 10 minutes to take effect, and animals often run after being darted. These animals may be difficult or impossible to relocate and may cross into traffic or highly populated areas in a partially drugged state.

Game and Parks reminds people that mountain lion attacks are rare. In the event of a mountain lion encounter:

- Do not approach a mountain lion.
- Leave the animal an avenue of escape.
- Stay calm, move slowly.
- Back away safely if you can. Do not turn your back to the lion or start running.
- Raise your arms or backpack to appear larger.
- Lift your children to prevent them from running.
- If you are being attacked fight back. Mountain lions have been successfully driven off with bare hands. Use rocks, or whatever you can get your hands on. Try to remain on your feet or get back up if knocked down.

To view the mountain lion response plan or more information about mountain lions visit, [OutdoorNebraska.gov](https://www.outdoornebraska.gov).

CMP hosts public premier shooting expo at Talladega

TALLADEGA, Ala. – The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) invites guests to Talladega Marksmanship Park on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, as it hosts the inaugural Premier Shooting Expo – the foremost gathering of firearm industry professionals in the south! Open to the public, the event will feature several exhibitors from the marksmanship and shooting sports communities, all showcasing a variety of products available on the market today.

Journeying from booth to booth, visitors will be able to personally interact with vendors and experience hands-on access to their current product lines while touring the 500 acres of Talladega's Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, Archery, Action Bay and Unknown Distance areas. Food vendors will also be onsite throughout the day.

Discounted tickets for the event go on sale Aug. 1, 2023 (\$75 if purchased before Sept. 1 and \$100 after that date). Please email Antonio Davis to purchase your tickets at adavis@thecmp.org. Don't miss out on this fun and exciting event for both businesses and consumers!

For more information, visit <https://thecmp.org/ranges/talladega-marksmanship-park/cmp-premier-shooting-expo/> or contact CMP's Antonio Davis at 256-835-8455 ext. 520 or adavis@thecmp.org.

About the CMP and Talladega Marksmanship Park:

The Civilian Marksmanship Program is a national organization dedicated to training and educating U.S. citizens in responsible uses of firearms and air guns through gun safety training, marksmanship training and competitions.

Continued on Page 20

Continued from Page 19 — Talladega Marksmanship Park, “**The Home of Marksmanship**,” is a worthy destination for firearm supporters and guests looking for practice, competition and mindful learning opportunities. Featuring CMP electronic targets and scoring monitors that can only be found at the 500-acre facility, the park regularly hosts rifle, pistol and shotgun events all year long. The CMP’s Unknown Distance Range at Talladega also allows guests to practice their skills in the field of over 100 steel targets, out to 625 yards, while the 20-lane life-size 3D target Archery Range provides even more marksmanship fun at the Park.



The public is welcome daily, all year long, to test out their firearms or to simply explore the grounds. Off the firing line, the Club House holds a fully stocked Pro Shop that includes an exclusive collection of rifles, ammunition, marksmanship accessories and CMP memorabilia that is always open during park hours. Learn more about Talladega Marksmanship Park at <https://thecmp.org/ranges/talladega-marksmanship-park/>.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program is a federally chartered 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. It is dedicated to firearm safety and marksmanship training and to the promotion of marksmanship competition for citizens of the United States. For more information about the CMP and its programs, log onto www.TheCMP.org.

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Wildlife Commission of Year honor goes to Oklahoma

Oklahoma's Wildlife Conservation Commission was recognized as the **Wildlife Commission of the Year** for 2023 at the summer meeting of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ([WAFWA](#)).

The honor is presented each year to the commission or board that made a significant contribution to the management, protection or enhancement of fish and wildlife resources within the past five years. It is meant to show appreciation for the work that commissioners do day in and day out to support the conservation mission of the wildlife agencies they oversee.

Oklahoma's Wildlife Conservation Commission **Chairman Leigh Gaddis** of Ada and **Vice Chairman James V. Barwick** of Edmond accepted the award at the event in Santa Fe, N.M.

"It's truly an honor for [Oklahoma's Wildlife Commission](#) to be recognized, and it serves as a testament for all the hard work our eight commissioners put in all year long," Gaddis said.

"Serving as commissioners and working with such an outstanding state agency for the benefit of our wildlife and our sportsmen and sportswomen is actually a labor of love."

Some of the Commission's accomplishments cited in the award recognition included:

- Beginning an aggressive campaign to bring public target shooting ranges to nearly 20 wildlife management areas statewide.
- Helping to create the [Oklahoma Land Access Program](#) to open private leased land for hunting and fishing access.
- Acquiring three new management areas, opening thousands of acres for public use.
- Supported formation of the [Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation](#) as a private, nonprofit, fundraising organization.
- Overseeing a complete renovation of the [Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's](#) headquarters building in Oklahoma City.
- Approving a re-branding campaign to solidify ODWC's values and image (which included a new logo).
- Supporting the implementation of new, modern, customer-focused [license sales system](#) and [mobile app](#).

The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission is the eight-member governing board of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. The Commission establishes state hunting and fishing regulations, sets policy for the Wildlife Department, and indirectly oversees all state fish and wildlife conservation activities. Commission members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Oklahoma Senate.

Serving with Gaddis and Barwick on the Wildlife Conservation Commission are Secretary **Rick Holder** of Creta, **Tim Diehl** of McAlester, **D. Chad Dillingham** of Enid, **Jess Kane** of Bartlesville, **Mark Mabrey** of Okmulgee, and **John P. Zelbst** of Meers.

Created in 1922, WAFWA now represents 24 states and Canadian provinces, an area covering nearly 3.7 million square miles of some of North America's most wild and scenic country, inhabited by over 1,500 wildlife species. WAFWA's goal has been to support sound resource management and build partnerships to conserve wildlife for the use and benefit of all citizens, now and in the future.



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Students attend Rifle Small Arms Firing School

The Rifle Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) kicked off with instruction from the Army Marksmanship Unit at Camp Perry on July 22 and 23rd for 310 students. This class gives new and experienced competitors alike the opportunity to learn from the best in the nation and develop their skills in a controlled and safe environment.

The class started out with two hours of instruction in Camp Perry’s Hough Auditorium, complete with demonstrations and time for questions. New students were encouraged to handle the AR-15 rifle to learn the mechanics and understand marksmanship basics like sight alignment and trigger control. More experienced competitors had the opportunity to ask advanced questions.

For the next section of the class, students headed out to Rodriguez Range and use their own equipment (scope, jacket, glove, mat, etc.) for training and eventually, the Excellence-In-Competition rifle match on Day II. The AR-15 rifle, sling and ammunition were provided by the CMP for the class and match that followed. Teams of four shooters worked their coaches and began training by dry-firing. Instructors worked with students individually to teach them the basics for prone, sitting/kneeling, and standing positions.



The dry fire and position work period was followed by live fire practice. Two members from each firing point were sent to the pits to raise, lower and score targets for the two relays on the range. Pit duty is crucial because the class and match are shot on paper targets and it provides valuable scoring opportunities.

Jeff Schneider, a SAFS coach, offered his advice to his students during the live-fire practice. “Shoot like you’re dry firing, focus on the front sight, follow through the trigger and repeat. Forget your last shot; focus on the one you’re taking. Pretend you are Dory from *Finding Nemo* and ‘just keep swimming’,” he said.

Students John Tofil and Tyler Robinson, both of the U.S. Navy, described valuable knowledge they picked up throughout the course. Robinson explained it was his first service rifle match and the coaches helped him fine tune his technique. He said in the future he will continue to work on his standing to sitting rapid fire movement. Tofil shared that he took away a sage piece of wisdom that his coach who said, “Sometimes you need to know what shot not to take, just take your finger off the trigger and reset.”

Continued on Page 23

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Continued from Page 22 — On day two of the class, all competitors reported to the firing line at 7AM for the rifle Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) Match. An EIC match awards special credits - points - to the top 10 percent of eligible participants. Those who eventually earn a total of 30 points, are awarded the Distinguished Rifleman Badge. In the case of the SAFS course, four introductory points are awarded to a select few.

The SAFS course of fire includes:

- 10 shots prone, slow-fire in 10 minutes
- 10 shots prone from standing, rapid-fire in 60 seconds
- 10 shots sitting from standing, rapid-fire in 60 seconds
- 10 shots standing, slow-fire in 10 minutes

The weather both days of the school and match were hot, with highs in the 80's. The chief range officer frequently reminded competitors and coaches to hydrate and even sang an occasional song of encouragement. During one of the two cease fires, due to boats entering the impact area, the competitors in Relay 4 were serenaded with a rendition of "row, row, row your boat." At one point, a threatening storm crept close to the shore of Camp Perry, but luckily it held off until the awards ceremony later in the day.



After the match, competitors were awarded their certificates of attendance and match lapel pins. The top 28 eligible competitors were awarded their first 4 EIC points towards the Distinguished Rifleman Badge. The points in this introductory match can only be earned if the competitor has no previous points. View full results at <https://ct.thecmp.org/23NMRiflresults>.

The top competitor for the SAFS Rifle EIC match was Paige Sauer, 21, of Morrisville, NC, with a score of 392-13X. She did not expect to win, saying "I was trying to go into it without any numbers in my head because I get very nervous for EIC matches. I just wanted the points."

Sauer has taken classes at Camp Perry before, including the Marine Corps Highpower Junior Rifle Clinic, and said after each class she usually adds another tool to her belt. This time, the tool was wind reading. Paige plans to compete in the National Trophy Rifle Matches and will utilize the knowledge she gained earlier in the week as she looks to gain 10 more EIC points.

If you're interested in attending the Rifle Small Arms Firing School next year, save the date - July 27-28, 2024. In the meantime, Jeff Schneider suggests that you visit the CMP's indoor airgun range at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center. You can practice, work on positions and marksmanship to prep for the big matches. The indoor range is open throughout the National Matches and has rental equipment available. Visitors can even participate in the National Match Air Gun Events – find out more information at <https://thecmp.org/cmp-matches/national-matches-air-gun-events/>.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program is a federally chartered 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. It is dedicated to firearm safety and marksmanship training and to the promotion of marksmanship competition for citizens of the United States. For more information about the CMP and its programs, log onto www.TheCMP.org.

Restricted 18+ in CA in compliance with CA State Assembly Bill 2571 prohibiting the marketing of firearms to minors in the State of CA.

Michigan bear forum, furtaker group sets meetings

Hunting and trapping are an undeniable part of our state's outdoor traditions. New and veteran hunters and trappers and anyone interested in how the Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages wildlife populations are invited to two upcoming opportunities in St. Ignace: the Michigan Bear Forum (Aug. 19) and the Michigan Furtaker User Group meeting (Sept. 1).

Keep reading for details about each event, including links to surveys where the DNR will be collecting recommendations to help shape the discussions.

- [Michigan Bear Forum](#)
- [Michigan Furtaker User Group meeting](#)

CSF, Senate CSC leads effort to pass Duck Stamp act

Thursday evening, the U.S. Senate passed a top priority for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) known as the [Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023](#) (S. 788). This bipartisan bill is led by the entire Senate Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Leadership, Co-Chairs Sens. John Boozman and Joe Manchin and Vice-Chairs Sens. Angus King and Roger Marshall.

Prior to the vote, CSF worked with the bill sponsors and key offices to help navigate this bill through the political process and ultimately a successful floor vote. The Senate passage of this bill builds upon the House Natural Resources Committee passage of the House companion bill led by CSC Vice-Chair Rep. Garret Graves and CSC Member Rep. Mike Thompson.

The Duck Stamp Modernization Act will simplify the Federal Duck Stamp process by allowing hunters to have an electronic duck stamp on their smartphone for the entirety of the hunting season. Under current law, when a hunter purchases an electronic Federal Duck Stamp (e-stamp), the e-stamp is only valid for a period of 45 days to allow for the actual stamp to be mailed. Once the actual stamp is received by the e-stamp purchaser, the actual stamp must be signed by the respective hunter across the face of the stamp and be in the hunter's possession while afield. However, this legislation will remove the 45-day validation period and make the electronic stamp valid for the entirety of the hunting season. To ensure the continuance and integrity of the Federal Duck Stamp art contest, a longstanding tradition for waterfowlers and other bird enthusiasts alike, S. 788 will ensure that purchasers of e-stamps still receive the actual stamp in the mail. Specifically, the legislation will provide that actual stamps will be mailed to purchasers from March 10 to June 30.

"The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation thanks the Senate CSC Leadership for shepherding the Duck Stamp Modernization Act through the Senate on a unanimous vote," said CSF President and CEO Jeff Crane. "This legislation not only improves the Federal duck stamp process for nearly one million waterfowl hunters, but it also safeguards the rich history and traditions of the Federal Duck Stamp artwork contest."

Signed into law in 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp has generated over \$1.1 billion for wetlands conservation and helped conserve over 6 million acres of wetlands within the National Wildlife Refuge System. In 1934, there were roughly 635,000 stamps sold. Today, that number has grown to over 1.5 million stamp purchases, which generates more than \$37.5 million for wetlands conservation. Importantly, approximately 98% of the Federal Duck Stamp purchase price is spent directly on the management and acquisition of wetlands to bolster habitat for wetland dependent species such as ducks, geese, shorebirds, fish, turtles, and countless others.

S. 788 now heads to the House for further consideration. CSF will continue to work with the Congressional Sportsmen's Leaders and House Leadership to see that this bill passes the House and goes to the President's desk for signature.



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Dorsey covers risks of defunding school hunting programs

Editor's Note: If this example by the Biden Administration does not snap your reality switch, wake up, your about to lose the very heritage of our country. There are 9,000 schools enrolled in the archery program alone with over 1.1 million students learning the right way of the outdoors.

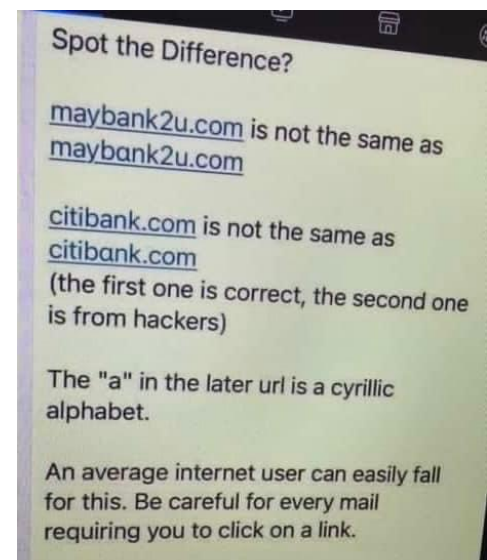
As America faces a storm of geopolitical threats, endures a flood of fentanyl streaming across a largely open southern border—now killing some 100,000 Americans annually, wrestles with soaring inflation, and experiences unmitigated crime in many of our largest cities, the Biden Administration's recent move to defund schools that offer hunter safety and archery programs has many questioning President Biden's priorities. The administration seems to be misfiring on many cylinders and, not surprisingly, Joe Biden's approval rating continues to plummet. "It's right up there with jock itch," recently quipped Senator John Kennedy.

The administration is twisting the intent of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) passed last year—with the help of 15 Republican Senators voting in favor—and the Education Secretary, Miguel Cardona, has moved to block funding from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to schools that offer hunter education and archery programs. BSCA prohibits ESEA funds from being used to provide training in the use of a "dangerous weapon."

Hacking and spam alerts:

We all are exceptionally tied to the internet and email, and the hacking attempts are growing in cleverness and appearance. The following illustration shows some great examples of hacking attempts just posted by law enforcement. You must be diligent on opening any email and if it has a link for any reason, don't open it until you REALLY examine it closely. If it is from what you think is a legitimate source, CALL THEM FIRST to verify. In most cases it will be SPAM or a hacking attempt. If you find the types of clues that show a hacking attempt, block it and then delete it.

Most often they mention prizes, awards and or invoices for items ready to ship you never purchased. DELETE and BLOCK. Try to never purchase anything off of Facebook links, they are ripe for hackers and some are hackers period. Also look at the sender, examine the source email totally. The hackers follow Amazon purchases as well, if you buy something like a brand named tool, you may receive an email saying you won a prize from that brand, just click on the link. DON'T, block it and delete. NEVER EVER give any personal information, passwords and especially banking information of any type. Your bank, Social Security and other financial institutions will never ask you that via email.



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National Staff

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