



# WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS DIVISION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**NEXT MEETING - September 20th, 2006 - 7:00 PM**

**Sara's Place Restaurant**

**Joliet, IL (815)741-3076**

Our guest speaker for September will be a **Conservation Police Officer** from Region Two of the **Illinois Department of Natural Resources**. Now that fall is just around the corner, this is the perfect time to learn how to get the most out of the season. Hunters, fishermen, hikers and other nature enthusiasts are invited to attend to hear about the latest rules, regulations and information pertaining to Illinois' parks and natural resources. Family and friends are welcome. We hope to see you there!

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## **Responsible and Ethical Hunting**

In August, we welcomed Mike Jones, a loyal ISRA Grassroots attendee and avid hunter, as our guest speaker.

Mike is an instructor for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). In Illinois, by a state law passed in 1996, anyone born after January 1, 1980 must attend a Hunter Safety Course and pass the given test in order to obtain a hunting license.

Every month, forty to sixty students attend Hunter Safety classes. Although the majority of the attendees are children, some accompanied by their parent(s), there are also some adults who have chosen to either learn about or polish up their safe hunting practices. The instructors teach the attendees how to be safe, responsible hunters while educating them on related topics such as the different types of firearms and ammunition, field first aid practices and current state regulations. Even a veteran hunter will leave the class with additional knowledge, leading to a more memorable and safe hunting experience.

While hunting, you must not only obey the laws, but also be courteous to land owners. Whether it's a good friend or merely a casual acquaintance, that person is allowing you to hunt on their property and you should never abuse that privilege. It is your

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## **WILL COUNTY GRASSROOTS CONTACTS**

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[member@isra.org](mailto:member@isra.org)

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responsibility to be familiar with the rules and regulations associated with hunting, specifically the type of hunting you are doing at any given time or place. Different regions may have varying regulations that must be adhered to for the safety and enjoyment of everyone involved (humans and animals alike).

The ethical hunting practices you employ will help to preserve hunting activities for everyone. Some simple and common sense rules are: take only "clean" shots (those that are within the limitations of your skill level

and your firearm's capabilities in the given conditions); take only the legal limit of game allowed (even when you think no one would know, don't be greedy); leave the area cleaner than when you got there (even if others have left it a mess); and don't waste game (only take what you will be able to use).

If a Conservation Police Officer approaches, please remember to be respectful of his role in the world of hunting. Make your firearm safe, unload it and show the open breach to the officer. This will make for much calmer and safer encounter. If you ever witness any game violations, report them immediately to the authorities as they only smear the name of all hunters and make it more difficult to keep the sport alive.

Do not argue or aggravate non-hunters, as it usually ends up hurting the cause. When approached by someone, remain calm and do not become a threat to them. They may develop a better attitude toward you if you simply explain that you are a safe and responsible sportsman that is abiding by all applicable laws and that you mean no harm to others or the environment. Only ten percent of adults polled actually oppose hunting, but many still have questions and concerns when it comes to what is ethical.

Remember...hunting is a privilege, not a right. If you violate the law, you will be held responsible for your actions and possibly have your privileges revoked. Don't let that happen. Be responsible. Be ethical. And, most of all, be safe.

Thank you, Mike, for sharing your knowledge with us.

Doug Mayhall, Chairman

Additional information can be found at the IDNR website at [www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us)

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**?? ? Suggestions Anyone ? ? ?**

We are always searching for interesting topics and speakers for future meetings. What would you like to learn more about? Legislative issues? Personal protection? Competitive shooting? Who would you like to see as our next speaker? Contact us at [willcounty@isra.org](mailto:willcounty@isra.org) or let us know at the next meeting.

Be  
sure to visit the ISRA-PVF website

<http://www.isra-pvf.com>

for a list of ISRA-PVF endorsements and candidate preferences.



### Chairman's Notes

With the November elections fast approaching, it is very important that we do all we possibly can to help pro-gun candidates get elected. This is true in national, state and local elections.

Starting with national elections, if either the House or Senate become Democratic, we will have an extremely anti-gun person, such as Nancy Pelosi (D), as Speaker of the House. There are no bigger "gun haters" in the House than Pelosi. One of the most important ways to help prevent her from obtaining this prominent position is to donate. Donate money to her opponent in California, to Republican representatives and to your local representative. Money is the lifeblood of any campaign for elected officials. If the Republicans keep the majority, she will not have nearly as much clout. Even if all you can afford is five dollars, imagine if everyone gave that how it would add up. I once read that Republicans raise most of their money from more individuals giving smaller donations, whereas Democrats raise most of their money from fewer individuals giving larger donations.

It is also very important to donate your time to aid local candidates in either remaining in his/her position or help pro-gun candidates get elected to replace existing anti-gun officials currently in office. Campaigns always need people to do phone banks, walk precincts, stuff envelopes, etc. Money and volunteers that support a good candidate and help them get their message out is what gets them elected.

If the Senate becomes Democratic-controlled, we will be in a world of trouble with the likes of Kennedy, Schumer, Durbin, Feinstein, Clinton and Boxer all emphatically pushing their agendas.

Also, on the national scope, is the United Nations (UN). The UN is demanding that international gun laws be passed that would trump federal, state and local laws. If the Republicans lose in the national elections, the UN wins and we could very well lose our gun rights.

Regarding state elections, there are several Democrats who are very pro-gun and several Republicans who are anti-gun, so it is more a district-by-district challenge to determine who should be supported. Renee Kosel (R), who happens to be my Representative, is very pro-gun as is Christine Radogno (R), who is running for State Treasurer. Another local Representative, Careen Gordon (D), is very pro-gun.

In the Governor's race, there is no contest. Rod Blagojevich (D) is EXTREMELY anti-gun, whereas Judy Barr-Topinka is pro-gun. With Richard M. Daley and Blagojevich in power, we are up to our necks in alligators and we must do everything we can to prevent them from remaining in their existing positions. That should be the top priority for all the pro-gun citizens of Illinois.

So, we need to quit "preaching to the choir" and go out and do all we can to help our pro-gun officials get elected. There are less than two months left before the elections. Depending on the outcome, there could be a drastic change in our current gun laws, so please do your part...and spread the word to others to do the same.

Doug Mayhall  
Chairman

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**Political Disclaimer**

The ISRA and the Will County Division of the ISRA **CAN NOT** and **WILL NOT** endorse any candidate or party. We feature speakers to allow us to learn about the positions a candidate holds about the Second Amendment, and welcome all candidates to speak to us. Only the ISRA Political Victory Fund can endorse candidates or donate to political campaigns.

## Northern Illinois National Hunting and Fishing Days September 23 & 24, 2006

September heralds in many changes. The fall season begins and with it, the beginning of the hunting season. Many of us will head out to the fields and try our hand at doves or squirrels or scout for the best area to find a white tail deer for the upcoming season. Fishing is very productive at this time, too, and many fishermen enjoy the fall angling season. Just enjoying the outdoors at this time of year is a very pleasant experience. The weather is agreeable and bugs are at a minimum.

Much of what we have today is because of the foresight of outdoor enthusiasts and early conservationists who felt that wildlife management was needed to preserve our natural resources. Since the passage of the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, outdoorsmen and women have financially contributed directly into government programs, via excise taxes on sporting equipment, to re-establish and maintain our natural habitats. The successes of these programs have been outstanding.

In the 1960's the environmental movement caught on and it seemed that many efforts of the sportsmen were not acknowledged. To recognize these early efforts, a resolution was passed in Washington and proclaimed that the fourth Saturday in September be known as "National Hunting and Fishing Days".

The Northern Illinois National Hunting and Fishing Days will be held at the Silver Springs State Park near Yorkville, Illinois. This two-day event showcases many exhibitors, clubs and organizations. Enlightening and educational, this is a weekend for the entire family. Admission is not charged. There will be food vendors or you can bring a picnic basket. If you have some extra time that weekend and want to do something with your family or friends that is fun and informative, make the drive out to Silver Springs State Park and enjoy something different. The Illinois State Rifle Association will be there too, so stop by and say "hello". More information can be found at [www.huntingandfishingdays.org](http://www.huntingandfishingdays.org)

Al Tiscareno

## YOU MIGHT BE A GUN ENTHUSIAST IF.....

- \* If you ever dabbed a little Hoppe's on your neck before going on a date.....
- \* If you bought checkering tools, checkered all your gunstocks and are now starting on the bedposts.....
- \* If you cannot recall just how many guns you own.....
- \* Surplus ammunition suppliers call you to see if there was anything you were looking for.....
- \* If you bought a gun from a gun shop, only to realize you used to own it years ago.....
- \* If you've ever shot out a 1911 barrel.....
- \* If you save brass and have a case tumbler, but don't reload.....
- \* If you ever stripped the paint off of your car and then blued it.....
- \* If you ever bought ammo for a caliber you didn't shoot, thinking that someday you might own a gun in that caliber.....
- \* If your computer passwords are gun-related.....
- \* If your five-year-old can detail strip and fully reassemble an M-1 Garand.....
- \* If you take your guns out of the safe and handle them, just so you can wipe them down before going to bed.....
- \* If your local gunsmith calls you for obsolete parts...
- \* If you home-school and use ballistic tables for math lessons.....
- \* If your gun safe is bigger than your refrigerator.....
- \* If the speedometer on your car is in both m.p.h. and fps.....
- \* If you call Brownells and they recognize your voice.....

- \* If you own reloading dies for calibers that you do not shoot.....
- \* If you understand Smith and Wesson's model numbers.....
- \* If you ever had to explain "that it's not the same gun, it's a variant!".....
- \* If watching the Lion King gives you the itch for a .470 Nitro.....
- \* If you cut out your best groups and carry them in your wallet like photos.....
- \* If you've ever gone to a gun show three times in one month, and were excited every time.....
- \* If you feel that a golf course is a willful and deliberate misuse of a perfectly good rifle range.....
- \* If you ever accidentally seasoned a steak with FFFFg black powder.....
- \* If your brass tumbler used to be a small cement mixer.....
- \* If you identify the gun on the cover of Dillon's Blue Press before you notice the girl.....
- \* If you make \$30/hr at work and spent 35 minutes on your knees at the range looking for that last piece of .40 brass.....
- \* If the FBI asks you to identify firearms they can't.....
- \* If your shoulder is callused.....
- \* If you get misty eyed every time you sell a gun.....
- \* If you went out to the range this weekend to shoot up ammo, just so you'd have some brass to reload.....

Contributed by Linda Ward

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## Calendar of Events

- September 23 & 24** Northern IL National Hunting & Fishing Days - Silver Springs State Park - Yorkville, IL  
[www.huntingandfishingdays.org](http://www.huntingandfishingdays.org)
- October 1** Wheaton Gun Show - Dupage County Fairgrounds - (773) 237-8844
- October 8** Kane County Gun Show - Kane County Fairgrounds - (773) 237-8844

*\* Please use the above contact information to confirm events as dates may change without notice \**  
*Please contact Chairman, Doug Mayhall, or the ISRA office if you would like to help out at any of the ISRA events*  
*E-mail [willcounty@isra.org](mailto:willcounty@isra.org) if you have any events you would like included in next month's newsletter*

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