

Big Muddy Duck Hunt youth enjoy hands-on experience

On Saturday, October 24, 29 youth hunters gathered at the 4th Annual Big Muddy Duck Hunt. Beginning at the Extreme Fireworks building near Mound City, the young men and women rotated to five different stations, learning about duck identification, duck calling and hunting strategies, preparation of duck for consumption, basic shooting skills and intermediate shooting skills.

During the education rotations, members of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and other volunteers worked with the participants to enhance waterfowl hunting in Holt County and Northwest Mis-

souri for young hunters. The Big Muddy Duck Hunt organizers strive to impress on new hunters the importance of proper knowledge and safety when heading to the duck blind.

In the afternoon, the youth were split into groups of two and paired with a hunting guide and a safety guide. Each group traveled to a duck blind donated for the day by private individuals or duck clubs for an afternoon of hunting. A total of eight ducks were shot. Conservation Agent Jade Wright stated the ducks weren't cooperating but the hunters had a great time.

After sundown, the groups reconvened at the Extreme Fireworks building for a delicious supper of chili and soup and dessert, provided by the Mound City Kiwanis Club. Door prizes, provided by area businesses and organizations, including gift certificates, free mount certificates, a guided duck hunt and a shotgun, were handed out. Raffle tickets were sold all day for a Mossberg Flex 500 12 gauge shotgun, donated by St. Joe Guns, St. Joseph, MO. Kayne Blanchard, Lamar, MO, won the raffled gun. This is the second year in a row that one of his two purchased tickets was pulled as the winner.

The Big Muddy Duck Hunt organization is already making plans for next year's event and reservations are already coming in. For more information about the 2016 Big Muddy Duck Hunt, go to the website: bigmuddyduckhunt.org.



Bill Beasley, left, Fortescue, MO, and Craig Hayes, right, St. Joseph, MO - Manned Station #3 at the 2015 Big Muddy Duck Hunt on Saturday, October 24, showing several delicious ways to prepare duck. Samples were handed out to the participants.



Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) District Supervisor Russ Shifflett, left - And Adam Arnold, not pictured, of Buchanan County MDC led the Intermediate Shooting Skills station during the 2015 Big Muddy Duck Hunt event held on Saturday, October 24. The event started at the Extreme Fireworks building near Mound City for a five-station rotation. At the Intermediate Shooting Skills station, each young hunter stood up from behind a blind and tried to hit shooting clays.



Big Muddy Duck Hunt - Held its annual event on Saturday, October 24. Dakota Till, second from left, won the grand door prize shotgun; and Kayne Blanchard, second from right, won the raffled shotgun. The guns were donated by St. Joe Guns of St. Joseph, MO. Pictured with the lucky winners are Missouri Department of Conservation agents, Anthony Maupin, left, and Jade Wright, right.



Youth from the Big Muddy Duck Hunt - On Saturday, October 24, spent the afternoon shooting ducks in donated blinds. Each group of two young hunters was accompanied by a hunting guide and a safety guide. Jacob Yates, left, and Jonathan Rohr, right, each bagged a duck from a blind donated by Matthew Grace.

Nodaway-Holt R-VII yearbook program receives national award

Jostens, the leading producer of yearbooks and student-created content, announced in August, 2015, that Nodaway-Holt R-VII's yearbook program for 2014-2015 had been named a 2015 Jostens' National Yearbook Program of Excellence. The National Yearbook Program of Excellence recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body while helping students develop 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, and information and communication technologies (ICT) literacy.

The Nodaway-Holt award winning yearbook program is led by Nicole Albertson, Colbie Carden, Maddie Clement, Rachel Farmer, Samantha Keith, Jordan Long, Cassidy Saxton, and Ali Shewey, under the direction of Kristine Palmer, Nodaway-Holt yearbook adviser.

Palmer stated, "A great yearbook doesn't just happen. It takes hard work and a dedicated staff to excel in creating a masterpiece. I am incredibly proud of my staff and their successes. They truly went above and beyond to ensure that the students at Nodaway-Holt would have a keepsake that they could look back on for years to come."

Jostens' National Yearbook Program of Excellence Awards are presented twice a year, in spring and in fall for yearbooks delivered during the school year. The award was presented to the Nodaway-Holt yearbook program for achieving the defined criteria in each of three following categories: creating an inclusive yearbook, generating school engagement and successfully managing the yearbook creation process.

"Yearbooks connect students' hearts and minds to the school story, school



The Nodaway-Holt R-VII yearbook program for 2014-2015 - Has received the National Program of Yearbook Excellence Award. Members of the yearbook staff are, front row, left to right, Samantha Keith, Colbie Carden, Rachel Farmer, Nicole Albertson, and Advisor Kristine Palmer; and, back row, Maddie Clement, Jordan Long, Ali Shewey and Cassidy Saxton.

year experiences, and the community to memorialize moments that matter. Jostens is proud to recognize yearbook staffs and advisers who create engaging yearbooks that tell the story of their school communities," said Murad Velani, chief operating officer, Jostens. "We understand that a great yearbook program does not just happen, and we are dedicated to helping schools, yearbook advisers and students to strengthen

their programs by providing state of the art tools, resources and best practices that support the development and creation of award-winning yearbooks."

The Nodaway-Holt yearbook program will receive a plaque to display in the yearbook area and a banner to display in the school at Graham, MO, so the entire school community will be aware of the outstanding achievement.

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