

# Sixth annual Big Muddy Duck Hunt held October 28

**Britney Wright** | Contributor  
 The sixth annual Big Muddy Duck Hunt was held on Saturday, October 28, 2017, at the Extreme Fireworks building just outside of the Mound City city limits. Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and supported by many local organizations and businesses, the October event introduces and cultivates waterfowl hunting enthusiasm in kids ages 11 to 15.

Twenty-five openings are available every year for kids to take part in the all-day clinic. This year, two registered kids were unable to participate at the last minute, making 23 hunters the total. The Big Muddy Duck Hunt has proven to be a popular event and there is usually a waiting list. "We encourage people to sign up well in advance," Holt County conservation agent and Big Muddy Duck Hunt committee member, Jade Wright, of Mound City said. The

event organizers try to discourage repeat participation so that more kids can enjoy and learn from the day. Three local kids were able to participate this year including Gage Knapp and John Trimmer, both of Mound City, and Braxton Magee of Skidmore, MO. The event committee also tries to reach out to groups of military members. Members invite groups from Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, NE, and Fort Leavenworth, KS. Many participants come from Big Brothers/Big Sisters as well, introducing the sport to those who might not have a chance otherwise. This year, the participant with the farthest distance traveled was from St. Louis, MO.

The long, but fun, day begins at 9:30 a.m. as the mostly shy and unsure kids register and receive care packages put together by MDC and donated by businesses and organizations such as Dick's Sporting Goods and the Ducks Unlimited chapter. Later, each child receives a blind bag with



The Big Muddy Duck Hunt was held on Saturday, October 28 - At the Extreme Fireworks Building just outside of Mound City. It is an all-day clinic devoted to teaching kids, ages 11 to 15, the sport of waterfowl hunting. Throughout the day, the kids shift through education stations that have to do with duck identification, duck calling, duck cleaning, and shotgun skills and safety. The day comes to a climax with a guided duck hunt in the evening and a banquet.

over \$200 worth of hunting equipment packed in it. This year, some of the goodies included state-of-the-art duck calls, camouflage lanyards, ball caps and head lamps, cutting boards for cleaning harvested ducks, thermal mugs, and hand warmers.

After an introduction of the

day's activities, which included five "education stations," a lunch donated by Quackers Bar and Grill of Mound City, and last, but most definitely not least, a guided evening duck hunt, the kids split up into groups of five to their appropriate places.

The first education station was a duck identification station. Mounted ducks helped the young hunters become familiar with different species of duck characteristics. The second station was a duck calling/decoy/blind station where kids were able to put their new and noisy duck calls to the test and learn about how to lure in and "hide" from a duck. The third and fourth stations both dealt with shotgun handling, safety and shooting. Clay targets were seen

shooting in all directions. According to Russ Shifflett, Regional Supervisor, and one of about a dozen game wardens helping with the event, the shotgun shooting stations were very successful this year, making for a good hunt. The weather factored in to the success rate as well: "We had favorable weather - cold enough for us to see some ducks flying in, and warm enough so the kids were comfortable," Jade Wright commented.

Without the help of volunteers, the Big Muddy Duck Hunt wouldn't even be possible. "The reason why this event is a success

is because of volunteers who offer free "education stations," he said. Although he didn't shoot any ducks on his hunt, he won a very special prize at the dinner banquet that evening, which was held at the Extreme Fireworks Building after the hunters and guides returned from their blinds.

The Kiwanis Club of Mound City provided a chili, vegetable soup, and chicken noodle soup dinner along with pies and baked goods. Every child received a door prize at the banquet. Some won fishing poles, decoys, blind bags, taxidermy certificates for free mounts, or tickets to the annual Waterfowlers' Hall of Fame Banquet in Mound City. Knapp won a fishing pole and guided duck hunt with Bud Burrows of Kansas City, MO. Burrows owns a blind north

of Mound City dubbed Wingset Farms and he will take Knapp and his father on a hunt in the near future, on the date of their choice. A shotgun was also raffled off by Bill Hatting, owner of Flyway Technologies on Saturday evening, and the lucky winner was Garrett Bray of Maysville, MO.

"We are so thankful for the help from so many local businesses and duck clubs that make the Big Muddy possible," Jade Wright said. If anyone is interested in signing up for next year's event or just interested in the event as a whole, they should visit bigmuddyyuck hunt.org.



Gage Knapp (center) of Mound City, was the lucky winner of a guided duck hunt - At the Big Muddy Duck Hunt banquet on Saturday, October 28. Bud Burrows (right) of Kansas City, MO, donated the gift and will be taking Gage and his dad, Tyler Knapp (left) on a hunt sometime in the near future at his blind north of Mound City.

## Dental and vision checkup time



Dennis Sharkey Photo

Northwest Health Services - Provided free dental checkups to Mound City elementary students on Wednesday, Oct. 25. Sandy Trosper, right, shows Wesley Bryant of Lori Buttrick's fourth grade class how to properly brush teeth while she talks with the other students waiting to get their checkup.

### GET A FREE GIFT

LIMITED TIME ONLY - VALID DURING NOVEMBER!  
 FALL HOME AND WORKSHOP PEAK SEASON PRODUCTS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE GREAT DEALS

Offer good on any  
**John Deere Stainless-Steel 36" Tool Chest or Cabinet**

**BUY GET**

AC: M3103H-SS \$599 OR AC: M3103B-SS \$689

Receive a John Deere SAE or Metric Combination Wrench Set

FREE with the purchase of a John Deere Stainless-Steel 36" Tool Chest or Cabinet

TY19976 Retail Value \$124 OR TY19977 Retail Value \$145

Offer good on any  
**John Deere Loaded Triangle Toolbox**

**BUY GET**

Other toolboxes \$1,049  
**\$1,179**

AKJ-68R10110-G

Receive a 5" John Deere Bench Vice

FREE with the purchase of any John Deere 23" or 30" Loaded Triangle Toolbox or an 8" bench vice with the purchase of a 30" toolbox

Retail Value Up to \$185

Offer good on any  
**John Deere PR Series Pressure Washer**

**BUY GET**

**\$599**

PR-3200CM

Receive a 50-Foot Extension Hose

FREE with the purchase of any John Deere PR Series Pressure Washer

Retail Value \$105 AKJ-0857-0138

Ask your dealer for details

**HIAWATHA IMPLEMENT CO., INC.**  
 1410 STATE ST., PO BOX 310  
 MOUND CITY, MO 64470  
 660-442-3814

**HIAWATHA IMPLEMENT CO., INC.**  
 2000 OREGON ST.  
 HIAWATHA, KS 66434  
 785-741-7121



Russ Shifflett, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Regional Supervisor, of Mound City, right, helps a Big Muddy Duck Hunt participant - With shotgun shooting and safety on Saturday, October 28, 2017. This is the Big Muddy's 6th year in existence and is a popular event that helps kids, ages 11 to 15, become familiar with waterfowl hunting. All day the kids filed through education stations and then went on a guided evening duck hunt that night.

## Join us each week

### Sunday Brunch Buffet

From 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Also serving daily lunch specials

Restaurant Open 5 a.m.-Midnight  
 Call-in Orders • Meal Specials  
 Restaurant Bar Open 10 a.m.-Midnight

---

### Garden Inn Sports Bar Open Daily

Monday-Saturday: 7 p.m.-2 a.m. • Sunday: 7 p.m.-Midnight

**Garden Inn Truck Plaza**

Exit 79, I-29 • 660-442-0120

South of Mound City

gardeninntruckplaza@gmail.com