

ARNOLD CHOSEN TO LEAD IFOR

Bo Arnold, President of the Friends of Sanganois, was recently chosen to serve as the President of the Illinois Federation of Outdoor Resources (IFOR) at its Fall 2009 meeting. Bo has served as a member of IFOR's Board of Directors since 2006. Arnold will be taking over the helm of the IFOR from Bob Becker, who is retiring. All Illinois sportsmen owe a debt of gratitude to Bob for all his efforts over the past 20 years as Becker was instrumental in starting IFOR, which is a not-for-profit 501 C (4) Conservation Organization whose main purpose is to unite Illinois Outdoorsmen under one statewide umbrella and protect and defend the recreational rights of natural resource users in the state of Illinois. Currently over 100 conservation groups and in excess of 75,000 outdoorsmen have united as members of IFOR. Friends of Sanganois has been a conservation group member of IFOR for the past 6 years and is a strong supporter of this vital group.

IFOR's Mission Statement is: To unite all outdoor resource user groups and conservationists (ex. hunters, fishermen, trappers, trail riders, etc.), dedicated to preserving, restoring and developing the State's natural resources, and to provide a professional liaison to the Illinois Legislature and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), to protect sportsmen's rights and recreational opportunities; and to work together to ensure long-term, adequate dedicated funding for, and professional management of, the IDNR.

Congratulations to Bo and best wishes as he takes over responsibility for this important organization that all hunters should belong to as members. They defend our right to hunt, fish and trap. For more information about IFOR, please go to their website at www.if-or.org.

THE LOSS OF A FOS FRIEND

On December 18, 2009, the Friends of Sanganois lost a great friend. Kenny Sielschott, 69, of Chandlerville passed away. For those that were fortunate enough to know Kenny know what a genuine person he was. He loved Sanganois and being outdoors. He was passionate about hunting ducks. A retired farmer that took up log cutting in retirement, there was nothing more important to Kenny than his family.

One of the memorials Kenny requested was for contributions to Friends of Sanganois. This request was very typical of Kenny. A desire to leave something better than he found it so his kid's, grandkids and their kids would still be able to enjoy Sanganois Conservation Area. Many thanks to those that contributed to Friends of Sanganois in Kenny's memory. Your support is greatly appreciated.

May your heavenly duck hunts always be cool and sunny with the wind at your back and all greenhead days. You've earned it! We'll miss you Kenny.



Spring, 2010, Volume 1
www.sanganois.org

WATERFOWL SEASON RECAP



Flood water pouring over the newly constructed Barkhausen Levee in November of 2009.

What started out to have such great promise, but once again ended in great disappointment, would be a fair characterization of this year's duck season. Or we could just say, "water, water everywhere" and end it there. Yes, once again, high water ruled this season.

Just one week before the season opener, conditions appeared to be perfect. Plenty of food everywhere and just the right amount of water, but it didn't last. The Youth Hunt was the only time many saw the inside of a duck blind at Sanganois. In just one week, the entire area was under water. Many of us spent the season opener hunting from a boat as the water kept above flood stage. With the area being flooded, food was not difficult to find. Every morning must have seemed like Christmas morning for ducks, as unpicked cornfields were flooded all the way up to the "ears on the stalks!"

After a couple of weeks, the water receded temporarily, only to rise once again. This drop gave us another opportunity to return to the blind, but it was short lived as the waters once again came up at the end of the duck season. Along with this high water came the freeze up as well. Once again, the water dropped only to rise again in mid-January. This is four river rises in one 90-day waterfowl season.

If this recap sounds familiar, that's because it is. Since the Barkhausen Levee break in 2003, the following seven seasons have been ruined by high water **four** times. This year, with the main Barkhausen Levee break repair completed but the interior Whites Levee work as yet uncompleted, flooding of the area continued unabated. Possible damage to the repaired Barkhausen Levee has yet to be evaluated, as high water is still present.

The fact that October 2009 was one of the ten wettest months in the past 100 years contributed greatly to the flooding. But, it also underscores the incredible loss of natural wetlands throughout our state. Instead of having wetland acres to absorb much of this rainfall, we now have parking lots paved with asphalt, which runs off into the drainage system that eventually ends up in the Illinois and Sangamon Rivers flooding the Sanganois area. Sounds very simplistic...stop the loss of wetlands to help stop flooding! Hopefully, after next year's season, you won't have to listen to this "broken record" any longer!

Friends of Sanganois
P.O. Box 208
Chandlerville, IL 62627

Friends of Sanganois 6th Annual Fish Fry, Saturday March 27

FOS \$\$ HELP FUND NEW FLEX WING ROTARY CUTTER FOR SANGANOIS

Doug Jallas, Site Superintendent for Sanganois Conservation Area, recently notified Friends of Sanganois that the matching funds to purchase a new fifteen foot Flex Wing Mower/Shredder, have been approved by the Habitat Fund Committee. The amount awarded was over \$10,000 from State Habitat Stamp sales. The Friends of Sanganois will provide the remaining dollars needed to purchase this much-needed piece of equipment.

Wildlife habitat management at Sanganois suffers from frequent and unpredictable flooding from both the Illinois and Sangamon Rivers. Spring and fall floods often prevent annual or seasonal cropping and/or planned moist soil, cropland, grassland and woodland management activities on significant acres. This unpredictability causes woody encroachment to areas that are then lost to site management activities. This mower will help us quickly reclaim those acres. It will also be a nice complement to the recently acquired Browns Tree Cutter, which is needed in areas where woody encroachment has progressed further. These two significant pieces of equipment will help reclaim needed habitat for waterfowl and other migratory species as well as turkey, deer and upland game.

Friends of Sanganois is pleased to assist the Sanganois site staff and IDNR by providing the required funds to complete this transaction. It will result in increased acres under management control by the site staff and will ultimately benefit wildlife and migratory birds.



70TH ANNIVERSARY DUCKS UNLIMITED GUN RAFFLE

The Friends of Sanganois is conducting a gun raffle that started in October for the limited edition, 70th anniversary Ducks Unlimited Commemorative shotgun.

This special edition gun is a Browning Silver Hunter, 12 gauge, 3 ½ inch autoloader with a 28" ventilated rib barrel. It also comes with 3 choke tubes, wrench, gunlock and hard shell case to protect your investment.

Tickets for this "one-of-a-kind, collectors edition shotgun" will be \$5 each. Tickets are available at the site office or from any of the FOS board members. Also, if you're interested in helping sell tickets, please contact us through the FOS website at www.sanganois.org or contact any of the board members to help.

The drawing for the gun will take place on March 27, 2010 at the FOS Annual Fish Fry. The winner does not need to be present to win.

For more information or to sell or buy tickets for this fundraising raffle, call Bo Arnold at 217.741.1373, Mark Frech at 217.725.3825 or Mike Kafer at 217.370.0799 or Rich Sapp at 217.652.4623.

6th ANNUAL FRIENDS OF SANGANOIS FISH FRY

On Saturday, March 27, 2010, the Friends of Sanganois will host its 6th Annual fish fry at the Sanganois Conservation Area site office building. This well attended event has become an early spring tradition that gives everyone an opportunity to visit with friends, swap past season stories and hear from Sanganois site manager Doug Jallas about projects for this year and the "state of the site."

Doug's report this year will be of special interest to everyone, as he'll give us insight on the Barkhausen Levee repair project and how it fared during the fall flooding, as well as a projected timetable for construction completion on the Whites interior levee.

The fish fry will begin at 11 am and end by 2 p.m. The cost per adult is \$10, which includes all the fish, potato salad & beans you want. Spoonies (those 16 and under) can once again eat for free, so bring the kids along! Beverages will also be provided.

We'll have raffles as well as hats & shirts available for purchase. Some new waterfowl products from Boyt will be available also. Your 2010 membership renewal application is included in this newsletter or you can pick it up at the fish fry. For those that want to join or renew their FOS membership, applications will be available.

Once again, like last year, we will have a gun to give away to those that **join or renew their 2010 Friends of Sanganois membership** on or before March 27th. All members that renew by mail will also be included in the drawing. Therefore, the winner **does not have to be present to win!** You must join or renew your FOS membership to be eligible for the drawing. This year's membership gun is a Stoeger Condor over & under shotgun. It's a 12 gauge, 28" barrel, an A-grade American walnut stock with a set of screw-in chokes. The gun drawing will take place between 1:00 and 2:00 pm. Make sure you arrive early and don't miss out!

Also, the drawing for the limited edition, 70th anniversary Ducks Unlimited Commemorative shotgun will be held. This special edition gun is a Browning Silver Hunter, 12 gauge, 3 ½ inch autoloader with a 28" ventilated rib barrel. It also comes with 3 choke tubes, wrench, gunlock and hard shell case to protect your investment. Tickets are \$5 each and are limited, so get yours early.

All membership items will be on display to help you in deciding which level, i.e. Greenhead, Wood Duck, Bull Sprig etc, that you want for 2010. For each additional membership level, you receive an additional ticket for the gun raffle. Anyone that has not received their 2009 membership item, it will be available for pick-up at the March 27th Fish Fry or any other time at the site office. If you have any questions regarding membership items, past or current, please call Mark Frech at 217-787-2538.

Last year, over 150 people attended this fun event and had a great time. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on March 27th.

