

March 2026

News Letter

Officers

President:

Richard O'Dell

Vice President:

Mathew Ludwig

Treasurer:

Bryan Kemper

Recording Secretary:

Anthony Thebeau

Corresponding Secretary:

James R. Ernst Jr.

Directors

Chairman:

Charles W. Mateker

Darryl Held

Steven Pokorny

Kevin Miller

Greg Rodermund

Jerry Sauder

Frank Wagner

Club Historian:

William C. Abbott



Presidents Report:

Hello Big Game Hunters!

As we end hunting season on rabbit and squirrel, turkey season will be upon us. Fishing will start and our hunting seasons starts all over again. Please check all your equipment, firearms and ammo that has been sitting for a year.

At our March 11th meeting, a representative from the NRA will visit our club for a Q&A meeting. Caitlyn Benecke will be our guest. Let's see everyone show up and maybe bring a friend. They want to talk about the restructure of the NRA. We will have finger foods and drinks—\$10.00. Remember to vote your ballot in the January NRA magazine.

The Wild Game Dinner was a HUGE success. It was our best dinner ever. I want to thank everyone who helped with the games and BIG thank you to Jeff Galiley and Kevin Miller. These gentlemen warmed up the food and made sure all the wild game was perfect for all our guests.

Everyone said it was the best food they every had! They loved the new recipes that came from Charlie Mateker, Jay Ernst and Rick O'Dell. All who attended the food prep, had a great time and we had a lot of laughs. Brian Kemper came out just to work. The food prep set-up and games were run by – Mark Palubiak, Darryl Held, Steve Ogden, Martin Heck, Frank Wagner, Ed Rulo, Tim Madden, Bruce Berger and his grandson Josh Givens, Steve Pokorny and granddaughter and Ryan Galiley, Paul and Anita Suellentrop, Bob Grimm and Jerry Sauder

A thank you to Matt Ludwig and Greg Roderman who donated a Pheasant Hunt. Kurt Jaeger and his son Zach, Rusty Ellis and his son Chris worked the card raffles. Chrystian O'Dell for running the 3 Gun Raffle. Shawn O'Dell and Rhema Taylor for selling the 50/50 tickets. We had several volunteers who worked this event who are not members but came out to help. Most of all, thank you to Michelle Ernst and Karen O'Dell for getting raffle items and computer work completed. If I forgot anyone I am sorry!

The Trap Range is under construction and is delayed due to our January snow storm.

Everyone, have a safe and successful hunting season. Remember to email your stories and pictures to biggamehuntersstl1@gmail.com

Finally, remember to keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction.

Rick O'Dell
President BGH

WILD GAME DINNER was February 6 at the Moolah Shrine. Next years date is Feb 5, 2027!

Thank You to all who donated Meat and Fish to the event! The workers are second to none for without them the even would not be any where near the success that it is!

MARCH 7, 2026 Work Day at the Home Site, Rain Date MARCH 14 8AM Please call Rick O'Dell @ 314 303 1226 if you can make it .

Lake Michigan Fishing Trip— If anyone is interested in a Lake Michigan fishing trip in late April or early May, this may be a Monday/Tuesday or Tuesday/Wednesday, please contact me. Each boat can hold 6 individuals and the outfitter has two boats. We can make more than one trip, if needed. I have to call them the first week of January to secure a reservation because they fill up fast. If you are interested please call Rick O'Dell at 314 303 1226.

Lake Taneycomo Fishing Trip—Several years ago the several members from the club and their guests would head down and spend 3 days fishing for trout, gigging suckers and eating like kings. We usually went mid January. I am going to put this trip together again for January 2027. We stayed at Trout Hollow Lodge. They have a large dock with slips to rent and also have boats to rent. If any is interested please contact Jay Ernst 314 660 0590 or the club email at biggamehuntersstl1@gmail.com



Hunt report:

Kai Holderby

I had a decent duck hunt down in southern MO at a friends lease a few days before Christmas. Was able to shoot a green head and a snow goose. We were also drawn for duck creek the next morning where I shot two ring neck and a hen mallard.



Fishing Report:

Jay Ernst & Kevin Miller

January Sucker gigging trip on the Meramec outside of Londell MO The gar was not bad eating deep fried. Next time we will try it in a shrimp boil.



March 11, 2026 General Meeting at the Home Site 6pm. The NRA will be in attendance. See Rick's comments on page 1.

April 8, 2026 General Meeting at the Home Site 6pm. April is our awards meeting. Turkey calling champion Keith Wahlig will be doing a turkey calling presentation. Keith was on staff at Knight and Hale Calls for some time. He is now on the pro staff of Woodhaven Calls. Keith holds numerous Missouri and National awards. Plan on coming out for a great evening

General Meetings: for 2025 are the Second Wednesdays of January, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October. For Reservations call (314) 719-2832 The cost is \$25.00 per person for advanced reservations or \$30.00 per person with no reservation. If you do not have an advanced reservation we will not be able to guarantee there will be enough food for you and you will be served last.
All meetings will be held at the Homesite, Doors open at 6:00pm

Board of Directors Meetings: in 2025 are the Third Wednesday of each month starting at 6:00 pm. Call Jerry Sauder, (314) 581-4140 for a reservation if you would like to attend. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Members are welcome!

Reservations for the General meetings: Please call (314) 719-2832 by 6:30pm on the Monday prior to the meeting.

Send hunting and fishing reports to: biggamehuntersstl1@gmail.com