



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of April 5, 2010**

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# The Rites of Spring

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JEFFERSON CITY – It's finally good to see some sunshine after the last couple of weeks of cloudy, rainy weather. As I travel the district I see a lot of farmers starting to get out into their fields to prepare for spring planting season, and I want to remind folks to be on the lookout for slow-moving farm vehicles for the next few weeks.

We're also approaching the start of spring turkey hunting season, which I know a lot of hunters look forward to each year. This year the season runs from April 19-May 9. The youth turkey hunting season runs April 10-11, and I was honored to be a part of the annual Governor's Youth Turkey Hunt over the weekend.

We had a great turnout for this special event, with 15 young hunters and their families from across Missouri traveling to Jefferson City for a turkey hunt. On Friday, the young hunters and their families met at the Department of Conservation to review the rules, regulations and safety tips prior to the turkey hunt on Saturday. On Friday evening, Governor Nixon hosted a banquet at the Governor's Mansion for the hunters, their families and the guides who accompanied the hunters on Saturday. After the hunt on Saturday, we hosted a dinner for them in the Capitol rotunda.

As co-chairman of the Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, I think the Governor's Youth Turkey Hunt is a great way to introduce young people to the great Missouri outdoors. Several of these young people had never hunted before and a couple of the hunters were participating as part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation program for children with life-threatening medical conditions. All of the young hunters had a great time, judging by the smiles on their faces.

The Sportsmen's Caucus also is hosting our annual trap shoot on Monday night after the legislature adjourns for the evening, and we're hoping for a great turnout.

We welcomed a lot of visitors to our Capitol office this week, including child care advocates from the district, members of Parents-As-Teachers, numerous school superintendents from northeast Missouri who came to the Capitol to discuss the state budget, advocates for the YMCA, and a large group of “Toms and Beckys” from Hannibal.

If you have any questions or comments about these or any other issues give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an e-mail at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.