

Ducks Unlimited CT

DucksUnlimitedCT@gmail.com

www.ducks.org/connecticut

Chairman's Message

I'd like to welcome all of you to the first edition of our CT DU Newsletter. Jim Evans, your State Chair Elect, put this initial edition together and has done a great job.

We hope this Newsletter improves our communication and outreach at the State level. We have an active and dedicated group of volunteers and members in Connecticut, and we want to get the word out about our successes (we don't have any failures!), upcoming events, new volunteers, State awards, etc.

But – Jim needs your help. He's a smart, bright, talented guy with a wonderful wife and two children, a veteran, a job he loves, a couple of dogs and keeps his (graying) hair cut short. In addition to needing more time for hunting and fishing, he needs content for the Newsletter. I've personally promised him something for each edition. If you can contribute something, it doesn't have to be elaborate. Even a "hook and bullet" picture, along with a couple of sentences describing your trophy would be great. A volunteer went the extra mile at an Event – let us know.

I hope you enjoy and find this and future Newsletters helpful and informative.

As always, thanks for everything you do for the Ducks!

John Kovarik
State Chairman

Name our Newsletter Contest

Our newsletter needs a name and what better way to come up with a name than a contest! So, we are asking everyone to submit your suggestion for the name of our newsletter to DucksUnlimitedCT@gmail.com by Friday March 30th. We will then take all submissions and run them through a committee of volunteers to narrow them down to the top 5. We will then put the top 5 names out for a voting contest on our Facebook page. The name with the most votes will win and the person who submitted that name will get a DU Swag bag prize. Contents of the swag bag are subject to creativity!



Upcoming Events

www.ducks.org/connecticut/events

March 3

Blue Trail Dinner, Middletown

March 10

Putnam Dinner, North Grosvenor Dale

March 30

Shoreline Dinner, Haddam

April - 20

Yale University Cocktails, New Haven

April 28

Tobacco Valley Dinner, Windsor Locks

May 18

Eastern CT Dinner, Mystic

May 30 – June 3

National Convention, Indianapolis, IN

July 1

Spring Shoot, Guilford

TBD

Glastonbury SNO, TBD

In This Issue

Welcome to the first edition of the CT Ducks Unlimited Newsletter!

Creating a quarterly newsletter is something we have been talking about for a while now and we finally have gotten around to getting it rolling. Our goal with this newsletter is simply to use it as a tool for communicating what is happening here in CT DU, regionally and nationally to our volunteers and members.

You will find regular updates on our DU fundraising efforts and happenings here locally and across the nation including conservation news, upcoming events, and hopefully some fun things shared from our volunteers and members. There is a lot that goes on with CT DU throughout the year, and it seems to have always been a challenge to share that information amongst our volunteers and members -- we truly hope that this newsletter helps.

In this issue:

- 2017 Fundraising Recap.
- Conservation News.
- Introduction from our Incoming State Chairman.
- 2018 Fundraising & Recruitment Goals.
- And much more.

We hope you find the communication helpful and the content useful. If there is something you would like to see in this newsletter, please feel free to send us your ideas and suggestions.

Have something to Share?

Do you have a favorite duck or goose recipe? How about a photo from this past waterfowl season? Maybe a hunting, shooting, or dog training tip? Some local conservation news? How about a committee, volunteer or member highlight? If there is something you would like to share with other CT DU members via our quarterly newsletter, please submit items via email to DucksUnlimitedCT@gmail.com and we will do our best to get them in a future newsletter.



Don't forget to follow us



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www.instagram.com/DucksUnlimitedCT

2017 Fundraising Recap

We held our annual State awards dinner on a very snowy Saturday this past February at the Skyline Restaurant in Windsor Locks. This is an annual awards dinner where we take some time to recognize the efforts and hard work from our volunteers, highlight our top Committees and events, and celebrate our fundraising efforts and accomplishments from the previous year. We also have some fun along the way by throwing in a few raffles, games and a small auction. We were also treated to conservation presentations from Sarah Fleming, DU's Northeast Manager of Conservation Programs and CT DEEP Migratory biologist Min Huang. This event is not just for volunteers, but is also open to everyone, so please remember that next February!

Fundraising efforts for 2017 surpassed all the goals we had established for CT DU. Our gross revenues from dinners and events increased by 19% to \$397,000. Our net income for 2017 increased by 42% to \$273,000. **Both of these amounts are records (again!) for the State.** We also hit our goals for new Life Sponsors, Upgrades, and Feather Society commitments. Although we came up a few points short of making the Top Ten States, CT DU did receive a Presidential Merit Designation for Major Gifts, recognizing us for achieving or surpassing our Life Sponsor, Upgrade and Feather Society goals, while meeting the national goal for participation at 63%.

Our Yale University Chapter and Putnam Chapters lead the way with the largest overall increase in Gross Income and Net Income respectively. The following chapters were also honored for their outstanding fundraising efforts in 2017: Eastern Connecticut, Shoreline, Greenwich and Tobacco Valley.

Our financial performance for 2017 is directly attributable to all the efforts of our volunteers, as well as the members of Chapters and Committees. While it may be an overused phrase, it is the truth - without our volunteers, we would not be as successful as we are. Thank you for all that you do for "the Ducks"!!!!

John Kovarik
State Chairman

Passing of Declan O'keefe

Ducks Unlimited lost a volunteer and friend with the passing of Declan Morgan John O'Keefe of Westport, CT, age 31. Declan lost his battle with brain cancer on February 12th, 2018 in Danbury, CT. Declan was a member of the Aspetuck Valley Chapter Committee and was an avid outdoorsman.

Declan is survived by his parents Kieran O'Keefe and Anne-Marie Grey, and his sister, Kathleen of Westport; his grandparents Robert and Ann Grey and Pamela O'Keefe; his aunts and uncles Brett and Julie Adler, Robert and Christine Grey, Marion Manaker and Liv Grey, and Shane O'Keefe; his cousins Robert, Zane and Christian Grey, Greta and Audrey Manaker; his girlfriend, Erica Juliano of Landisville, PA and their dog George.



Declan was born on July 5th, 1986 in Canberra, Australia. He graduated from Staples High School in Westport and the Institute of Culinary Education with a Diploma in Culinary Management. In 2015, accepted a position as a Beverage Manager at PJ Clarke's in New York City and became a Beverage Director for the Clarke's Restaurant Group in 2016. He was an active fundraiser for brain cancer research and Ducks Unlimited. His family and friends will always remember his wonderful smile, his sense of humor, his big heart and his courage over the past 18 months.

Declan will be missed by many including his DU friends and family!

National Chapter Excellence Awards

The National Ducks Unlimited Chapter Excellence awards are given out by Ducks Unlimited, Inc to those chapters that meet the growth criteria outlined below in a given calendar year. The Chapter's main Dinner (D) event must be 10/30 compliant.

Growth Categories:

- All income (including event income, non-event major donor income from a chapter's assigned zip codes, SBA proceeds and direct mail proceeds from a chapter's assigned zip codes)
- Event income from all chapter events
- All Members (includes event members and direct mail members from a chapter's assigned zip codes)
- Event attendees for all chapter events
- Chapter/committee volunteers

Growth in all 5 areas over a calendar year constitutes a Gold chapter, 4 is a Silver, and 3 is Bronze.

*University and Varsity chapters are exempt from the all member criteria as they do not have assigned zip codes. Growth in the remaining 4 categories is a Gold, 3 is Silver, and 2 a Bronze.

Bronze Level

Housatonic

Silver Level

Blue Trail

Shoreline

Yale University

Gold Level

Eastern CT

Putnam

Congratulations to our award-winning Chapters. National headquarters will be sending out award banners later this year, and we will deliver them to each Chapter.



2018 State Goals

Every year our state leadership along with our Regional DU staff review previous year's performance and work to set goals for the upcoming calendar year. Many of these goals revolve around Fundraising and Recruitment efforts. Below are the goals we established for 2018. You may notice that there is no specific revenue growth goal listed, which is due to the simple fact that if we achieve the goals outlined below, there will be a direct effect on increased revenue, which will most certainly set CT DU up for another great year.

State Fundraising & Recruitment Goals

- **Increase Event Attendance by 10% - 160 attendees.**
- **Increase # of sponsors by 15% - 14 new sponsors**
- **Increase Event Efficiency for D events to 60%, M events to 55%**
- **Maintain Positive Growth in New over Lost Events**
- **Increase # of volunteers by 30% - 31 Volunteers**

State Campaign Goals

- **New Life Sponsors - TBD**
- **Major Sponsor Upgrades or President's Council gifts - TBD**
- **New Feather Society commitments - TBD**

Increase Event Attendance by 10% - 160 attendees.

Our event attendance in 2017 was the best it has been in the past 8 years, yet there is still plenty of room for improvement. 11 of the 22 events held in 2017 had losses in event attendance. We also lost one entire event last year. The 2 new events we held in 2017 made up for almost 80% of the attendees lost at the other events. Only 5 of our events met the attendance growth incentive goal last year.

How: One thing we have learned over the past few years is that people sell tickets and that personal contact is one of the most important factors in filling the hall. Have a plan and a goal to increase attendance for your event. Use all the tools available to you such as attendee prospect lists, event flyers and mailers, social media posts, emails, phone calls, and especially face to face contact. Consider attending another chapter's event, and bring a friend.

Increase # of sponsors by 15% - 14 new sponsors

Adding sponsor members to your event can make an immediate and positive impact on your event and the bottom line. A sponsor is someone that has donated \$250 or more through the year or at an event. Last year Bronze (\$250), Silver (\$500), and Gold (\$1000) sponsors totaled 92, which is the 4th highest yearly total since 2010.

How: With every event offer up a Sponsor level ticket, or even start a formal sponsor program for your event. Your RD is a good resource for suggestions and ideas here. At a minimum, have someone designated to promote the Sponsor program to your event attendees during your event and to be available to talk with individuals interested in the program.

Increase Event Efficiency for D events to 60%, M events to 55%

An increase in our event efficiency translates in additional net/net revenue. Last year we had 4 Dinners (D Events) with an event efficiency of over 60%, 2 with efficiency between 55% - 59%, 3 with 50%-54%, and 3 that came in under 50%.

How: Increasing attendance and controlling costs are two key areas to focus on. Increasing the amount of underwriting dollars received along with donations will also help improve your bottom line. Increasing sponsor participation and your volunteer base will also help. Create and follow a budget planning worksheet for each event that includes goals and a plan of action. It is important to remember that net income to gross income is a key measure of efficiency. As you plan your event, do everything you can to make sure you have enough "dollars in the room" to justify your costs.

Maintain Positive Growth in New over Lost Events

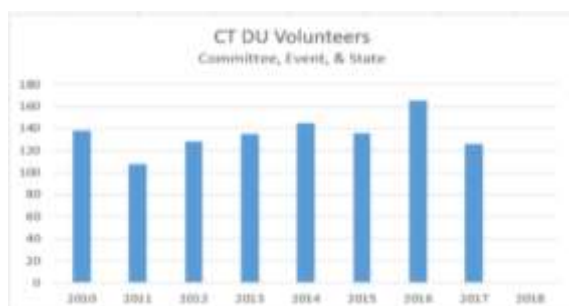
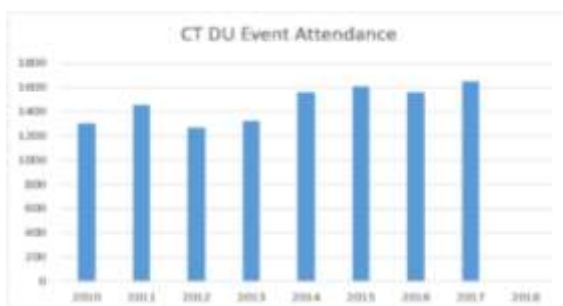
Last year in 2017 we lost an entire chapter that included a dinner event and a miscellaneous event, but we did restart a chapter by running an M event and held a new state raffle event which helped cover those losses.

How: First and foremost, it is easier to keep a chapter or event running then to start from scratch, so if you have any concerns about the health of your chapter and/or events, please reach out to your District Chair, State Leadership, or Regional Director as soon as possible. The earlier we know the quicker we can respond. Second, look for new opportunities to start a new chapter or hold a second or third event. There are plenty of opportunities to hold an M event such as a new Women's event, a raffle, Greenwing event, running a SBA program, or just about any other idea you can come up with. Don't be afraid to try something.

Increase # of volunteers by 30% - 31 Volunteers

Volunteer recruitment is and will continue to be the highest priority in DU. We can't say this enough but our volunteers are the back-bone of the DU fundraising system and are directly responsible for our success. As our lives change, we have to guard against decreased volunteer involvement. Continued recruitment is necessary both at the local committee level and state leadership level. Last year our Chapter & Event volunteers were down and the 124 volunteers we recorded last year are tied for the second lowest total in the past 8 years.

How: This requires some recruitment effort both at the local chapter level and the state level. This can take the form of a recruitment party or event, or just one friend asking another to come help out. It's also important for the Chapter Chairs to reach out as new volunteers names and contact information are forwarded to you from National. Make sure to seek out volunteers during your events as well. Keep your volunteers engaged and interested. Delegate tasks and jobs to everyone, get feedback from them and definitely provide a heartfelt thank you. If every chapter made an effort to find 3 new volunteers, that would meet our goal.



Connecticut Ducks Unlimited Turns 80

Many of you know that Ducks Unlimited was founded in 1937, and in 2017 DU celebrated 80 years of fundraising and conservation efforts. Well, did you know that Connecticut Ducks Unlimited started just one year later in 1938 and 2018 marks our 80th anniversary?

Connecticut currently has 2,510 members which includes 2,322 General Members, 39 Greenwing Members, 13 Legacy Greenwing Members, 92 Sponsor Members and 44 Major Sponsor Members. We have helped conserve 1,476 acres in our state and spent \$1,273,989 on these state projects. We currently have 11 chapters that in conjunction with our state committee have held 22 events in 2017 that raised \$274,092. Those are some solid numbers for a state our size.

Each and every one of us has the ability to make our 80th anniversary a huge success. Consider attending more than one event, bring 1 new person to a local DU event, or consider becoming a Sponsor member or Major Sponsor, or increasing your volunteer participation to help a local committee or event. Every hour of time you volunteer and every dollar you donate can and will make a difference. Remember for every \$250 we raise, we can conserve one acre of wetlands, so a little extra effort will make a big difference.

To order a 2018 CT DU pin visit: www.ducks.org/connecticut/ctdupins

Happy Anniversary!



We all know that DU volunteers are the life blood of the organization and necessary to achieve the DU mission of wetlands conservation. Some of you may already volunteer on your local chapter committee, but did you know that our state committee has volunteer opportunities as well?

We are looking for individuals with interest in joining our shoot committees, state awards dinner committee, and our Ladies committee. We are also looking for volunteers interested in social media, youth and education, and membership recruitment.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the above please feel free to reach out to me.

Jim Evans

State Chair Elect

jimevansct@gmail.com

Meet the New Incoming State Chairman – Jim Evans

My passion for the outdoors started long before I was old enough to hunt and directly linked to listening to hunting and fishing stories told by my father and uncles. At age 12 I officially started my hunting career chasing deer with a bow and arrow and upland bird hunting. My early introduction to duck hunting was in the form of jump-shooting small water holes and creeks. It wasn't until I was much older that I "officially" jumped into water fowling by hunting over decoys, learning to call and working with my first duck dog. I now spend the majority of my time afield chasing waterfowl here in CT, neighboring states and as far away as Saskatchewan, Canada.



My wonderful wife Meggan doesn't hunt but enjoys in the harvest, enjoys to shoot, and loves to spend time in the outdoors. My son Brendan and daughter Kaleigh have grown up shooting and hunting and also have a passion for the outdoors. Our entire family is involved with Ducks Unlimited here in Connecticut in some volunteer capacity and I'm confident we will continue to be active volunteers for many years to come.

Over the past 8 years I have served CT DU as a committee volunteer, committee chair, a District Chair, and currently serve as the State Chair Elect, where I work closely with our current State Chairman, John Kovarik. I have attended regional and national leadership training, local workshops, and my first National convention last year in San Antonio. Both Meggan and I encourage you to try to attend a National Convention if you can. The information and knowledge we received was incredible and we met so many fantastic volunteers and DU staff from across the US, Canada and Mexico.

My involvement in Ducks Unlimited has offered the opportunity to do something good for wetlands and waterfowl conservation and has afforded me to the opportunity to meet some great people with a strong passion for the DU mission. My tenure as State Chairman officially starts on July 1st and I find myself both excited and nervous for the challenge that awaits me. I have no doubt that the great volunteers in our state will have my back and join me in an effort to continue growing DU here in Connecticut. Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do as we move forward and work to fill the skies with waterfowl, today, tomorrow and forever!

Jim Evans
State Chair Elect

Suggestion Box

We always enjoying hearing from our volunteers and members and encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with us. If you have a suggestion for a new fund raising event, or thoughts on conservation activities in our state or region, or even would just like to tell us what you might like to see at your local events, just drop us an email with your thoughts and comments to DucksUnlimitedCT@gmail.com.

National News

Ducks Unlimited reaches conservation milestone!

You may have heard this news already but it is worth repeating – in 2017, Ducks Unlimited achieved a conservation milestone with more than 14 million acres of habitat conserved in North America. The groundbreaking number is a cumulative accomplishment of the millions of DU volunteers and partners who have been a part of the organization over the past 80 years. This is no small feat. To put 14 Million acres in perspective, that is enough wetlands to nearly fill Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont combined. A pretty impressive feat to say the least.

The groundbreaking number is a perfect example of how sportsman and others with a passion for waterfowl and wetlands conservation can come together for a common goal. DU's mission has always been to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitat for North America's waterfowl, and this milestone is a direct reflection of that statement.



Rescue Our Wetlands Campaign

2018 finds us in the final year of our [Rescue Our Wetlands](#) campaign which has a goal of raising 2 Billion dollars to invest in wetlands conservation. Many people thought that reaching this goal was impossible, but as we enter 2018, not only is this goal within reach, but the finish line is well within sight. We are certain we will reach our goal, and confident that with the support of all our DU volunteers, we will not only achieve the goal but surpass the \$2 billion mark!



Ducks Unlimited Leadership Visits Capitol Hill

For three days this past December, more than 70 Ducks Unlimited volunteers visited more than 100 offices on Capitol Hill to advocate for federal conservation programs and funding with a focus on funding and reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and conservation provisions in the upcoming Farm Bill. This trip started with public policy training for our DU contingent, followed by a day of visits and meetings on Capitol Hill. The trip finished with our DU delegation joining Capitol Hill staff, members of congress, and corporate partners at a reception hosted by Ducks Unlimited to celebrate our 80th anniversary. CT State Chairman John Kovarik attended this event and had many meetings with our state representatives.



More than 70 Ducks Unlimited volunteers and staff at the policy fly-in on Capitol Hill.

Conservation News

Del Reeves Marsh (CT)

Ducks Unlimited is partnering with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) to restore an important 25-acre freshwater emergent marsh that is part of Natchaug State Forest.

Work is expected to begin in 2018 on restoring Del Reeves Marsh. The project is part of a larger conservation effort to restore and protect 2,175 acres of critical wetland habitat the coastal boundary area of Connecticut.

Ducks Unlimited and CTDEEP will install new infrastructure to provide healthy freshwater wetland habitat for waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds. The restoration will benefit nesting and migration habitat for American black ducks and mallards. Infrastructure will provide water level management, which will help manage invasives and allow native vegetation to be restored that will benefit waterbirds and other wetland species throughout the life cycle. [Full Story HERE.](#)

Coastal CT Wetlands to be improved

Ducks Unlimited and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection are partnering to rejuvenate Barn Island Wildlife Management Area, 142 acres of coastal marsh crucial to 16 Greatest Conservation Need migratory bird species. The project includes wetland restoration and the re-establishment of tidal flow in the management area. Bird species benefiting include American green-winged teal, American black duck, clapper rail, saltmarsh sparrow and glossy ibis. The project is scheduled for completion by spring 2019. Barn Island is part of a larger conservation effort to restore and protect 2,175 acres of critical wetland habitat within the coastal boundary of Connecticut. The projects, funded by a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, improve public access for wildlife related activities such as bird watching, hiking, environmental education and hunting.

Wells Fargo, DU to improve Iowa Water Quality

This work isn't being done here in CT but we are proud of the fact that one of our State Leaders, Mr. Scott Salisbury, was instrumental in helping gain traction for this fantastic donation working with his employer, Wells Fargo. Scott is also hard at work on 3 new grant proposal for DU as well. A huge thank you to Scott for his work and efforts on these grants.

The recent \$250,000 grant from Wells Fargo will enable Ducks Unlimited to provide Iowa residents and wildlife cleaner water, thanks to improved wetland habitats.

Iowa has lost more than 95 percent of its historical wetlands due to human development. Wetlands act as nature's kidneys, filtering pollutants from rainwater runoff before it enters local waterways. Diminished wetlands in Iowa have led to severely degraded streams and rivers, which impact water quality for drinking and recreation. More than 50 percent of Iowa's waters are ranked "poor" and 500 waterways are "impaired."

Thanks to the Wells Fargo grant, Ducks Unlimited will work with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to restore vital wetlands to reduce nutrient runoff, improve water quality, reduce downstream flooding and provide waterfowl and wildlife habitat. Full story available [HERE.](#)

Ducks Unlimited 81st National Convention

Attending a DU National Convention should be on the bucket list of every volunteer and member. This nearly is a weeklong fun and information filled event with fellow DU volunteers, members and DU staff. Enjoy trips to many local attractions, general business sessions loaded with great information, outstanding networking opportunities with other DU volunteers and staff from all over the US, Canada and Mexico. Did I mention the nightly hospitality events and delicious food? The National Convention ends with a Saturday evening Gala.

This year's Convention is being held May 29 – June 3 in Indianapolis, Indiana and includes a host of local attractions and tours from the area including a trip to Lucas Oil Stadium, the home of the Indianapolis Colts, NCAA Hall of Champions, Museums, Art studios, a trip to City Market, Tours of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway museum and grounds, and even an Indy Care experience where you can ride along or drive yourself.

If you planning on attending or just have additional questions, please let us know by emailing us at DucksUnlimitedCT@gmail.com or contact John Kovarik or Jim Evans directly.



You can get more information on the 2018 National convention at: <http://www.ducks.org/ducks-unlimited-events/national-convention>

Major Sponsors Spotlight

In February at our annual CT State Awards dinner, we were honored to be able to recognize several Major Sponsors for their generous giving to Ducks Unlimited. We had 10 Major Donors present at this event, and were fortunate to recognize the completion of existing commitments and for new commitments by those members listed below.

Ray Scoggins

Mr. Ray Scoggins is a 30+ year DU member and volunteer that has served on the Boards of DU, Inc and DU Canada, and is currently an Emeritus Board member. Mr. Scoggins is seen here receiving his Diamond Sponsor in Perpetuity pins. Pictured along with Mr. Scoggins is John Kovarik, CT State Chairman and Mr. John Cushman, DU's Director of Development.



Peter Levinson

Mr. Peter Levinson is a 30+ year DU member and volunteer. Mr. Levinson received his plaque for completing his Heritage pledge. Mr. Levinson also received his DUMAC heritage pins for a recent commitment. Pictured along with Mr. Levinson is John Kovarik, CT State Chairman and Mr. John Cushman, DU's Director of Development.



Feather Society and Planned Giving

This is another component of DU's Major Donor program that recognizes donors who have included DU in their estate plan, ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy our valuable wetland and waterfowl resources.

Jim and Meggan Evans

Mr. Jim Evans, incoming State Chairman, and his wife Meggan, have been firm believers in the DU mission as well as very active volunteers here in CT. Jim and Meggan recently confirmed their commitment to the DU mission by including DU in their estate plan. Both Jim and Meggan were presented with their Feather Society pins at our state awards dinner in February. Pictured along with Mr. and Mrs. Evans is John Kovarik, CT State Chairman and Mr. John Cushman, DU's Director of Development.





CONNECTICUT SPONSOR AND MAJOR DONOR PROGRAMS

The **Connecticut Ducks Unlimited Sponsor Program** allows members and others to donate at three different levels, including Bronze (\$250), Silver (\$500) and Gold (\$1,000). This can be a one-time payment or paid in monthly installments by credit card or with an automatic withdrawal on your bank account. Each Bronze Sponsor commitment represents one acre of habitat conserved.

Connecticut Ducks Unlimited annually generates more than \$274,000 and our Sponsor Program contributes more than \$28,000 of that total. You can support your local chapter by becoming a Bronze, Silver or Gold Sponsor. Simply contact a local committee member to contribute.

Many volunteers and members choose to step up their giving and become a Major Donor. Major Donor pledges may be directed toward specific DU initiatives, including work in your own "backyard". The first level is a **Life Sponsor**, which requires a pledge of \$10,000 that can be paid over a period up to five years. Additionally, all donations you have made to the Sponsor Program (above) is called cumulative giving, and can be applied toward this \$10,000 pledge. Matching gifts also count towards an individual's lifetime giving and help to pay down a pledge. We would be happy to provide you with your current cumulative giving. Connecticut Unlimited Major Donor support continues to grow, with contributions of over \$109,000 coming through local events.

Another component of DU's Major Donor program is the **Feather Society** which entails including Ducks Unlimited in an Estate Plan. Anyone can become a member by making a documented pledge of a final gift to DU at the time of death and may be as simple as adding DU as a beneficiary or partial beneficiary to a life insurance policy, IRA, 401K or other investment.

Please consider joining our most dedicated donors by becoming a Ducks Unlimited Major Sponsor.

If you are ready to become a Life Sponsor or join the Feather Society, contact our Major Donor Chair John Kovarik at 917.971.0736 or jkovarik72@hotmail.com, or any of these Major Donor Team Members:

Larry Davis • 860.514.6283 • larryduxnbux@comcast.net

Scott Salisbury • 917.573.6151 • scott.a.salisbury@wellsfargo.com

Ray Scoggins • 203.849.9291 • rgscoggins@gmail.com

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Wayne Roberts • 484.553.7088 • wroberts@ducks.org

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John Cushman • 631.926.9432 • jcushman@ducks.org

Director of Gift Planning

Sarah McCallum • 734.945.8076 • smccallum@ducks.org



CONNECTICUT DUCKS UNLIMITED

Event Spotlight – Housatonic Chapter’s Wild Game Cooking Class

Our Housatonic chapter’s Wild Game Cooking Class is one of the first chapter events each and every year and there is no other event in CT like it. The event is held at the Two Steps Downtown Grille in Danbury, CT where Chef Tom Devine puts on a wild game cooking extravaganza. As you can imagine, the menu for this event changes depending on the game or fish donated by our volunteers and members. Chef Tom’s creativity has been challenged with the likes of squirrel, elk, bear, pheasant, and many other game species, including waterfowl. Chef Tom will actually cook a course live, offering up specific cooking techniques and tips, answering questions quest may have, and even add his comedic charm to the process. While Chef Tom is out in front of the crowd wowing you with his skills, his staff is in the kitchen preparing that same course for all to enjoy. You will leave this event filled with knowledge, some new recipes to try at home, a very full belly, and maybe even a prize or two.

This year’s event was held on Sunday February 11th and the menu consisted of elk, venison, duck & pheasant. Make sure to put this on your calendar for 2019. Space is limited for this event, so make sure to register as soon as registration is open.



Chef Tom Devine



Corn Crusted Fluke



Venison Bolognese



Pheasant with Mushrooms and Prosciutto

Chapter Spotlight –Yale University Chapter

The Yale University Chapter was started in 2011 and became the first Ivy League chapter in DU and our first, and currently only, Scholastic chapter here in Connecticut.

The very first event was held on April 15, 2011 at the famous Mory's Association in New Haven and Ari Opsahl was the first official Chapter Chairman. Yale started out with a single event and in 2016 added a second event to their chapter calendar.

Since their start, Yale University has raised over \$64,000 in gross revenue including \$12,270 in Major Donor dollars. The current chapter chairman is Colin Johnson and their annual dinner event will be held in April. Yale also received a 2017 National Silver Award for their fund raising efforts this past year. As you can imagine, there are many challenges for scholastic chapters, and one of Yale's is event attendance. Many of event attendees will typically be non-university attendees, which are crucial to the support of our scholastic chapter. So if you can fit Yale's dinner event into your calendar this April please come out and support these collegiate volunteers.



Tasty Treats

This recipe comes from one of the previous Wild Game Cooking classes that the Housatonic chapter hosts – see article in this newsletter.

Pheasant with Mushrooms and Prosciutto

Ingredients

- 1 oz. butter & 1 oz. olive oil
- 8 boneless pheasant breasts
- 1 cup seasoned flour (salt & pepper to taste)
- 8 thin slices of prosciutto
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped shallots
- 2 oz. Madeira wine
- 2 cups of chicken stock
- Generous pinch of fresh chopped sage
- 6 cups of fresh spinach
- 1 oz of Olive oil for cooking spinach

Cooking Instructions

- Coat pheasant with seasoned flour
- Heat oil and butter in large sauté pan
- Lightly sauté pheasant on both sides and remove from pan
- Add prosciutto to pan to crisp, then top each pheasant breast with one slice of prosciutto
- Add mushrooms to pan and brown
- Deglaze pan with madeira wine and reduce
- Add chicken stock and sage, reduce liquid
- Heat pheasant briefly in the oven
- In separate pan, wilt spinach in 1 oz. olive oil until just cooked. Season with salt & pepper to taste
- Remove pheasant from over, plate spinach, then pheasant and top with sauce



Don't forget to follow us



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