

Ducks Unlimited CT

DucksUnlimitedCT@gmail.com

www.ducks.org/connecticut

Chairman's Message

Well this is my first newsletter as State Chairman as my term officially started on July 1, 2018. So how does a state chairman spend his first day on the job? For me, it was finishing up my duties as Shoot Chairman as I sat on an igloo drink cooler and started filling out shoot registration score cards on the makeshift desk of coolers as we waited for someone from the gun club to show up and open the doors to the club house. Honestly I wouldn't have had it any other way! I truly love being a volunteer for DU.

DU CT has been on a roll the past few years including a record and successful 2017. In order to continue our growth; volunteer and membership recruitment will remain a big focus of what I ask our state leadership to work on in the coming years. Our youth are not only the future of sport hunting, but the future generation of conservationists and leaders and we need to find ways to get them active in DU and grow our Youth and Education presence across the state. In order to achieve DU's conservation goals we need to continue to raise funds both in our event system and through our Major Donor Programs. This is not a one person job by any means, and it will take all our state leaders and volunteers working together to have success in these areas.

For many, our lives are busy, priorities are constantly changing and finding time to volunteer may be challenging. I ask that all of you consider finding some time to join us in our efforts here in CT. I promise that we will not waste your time and that you will have fun volunteering and your efforts will truly make a difference.

I am constantly amazed at the great work our volunteers do planning, setting up, and running the 20+ events we hold each year here in CT. I look forward to seeing many of you as I travel across the state from event to event and look forward to those new friendships we will surely make along the way.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Jim Evans



Upcoming Events

www.ducks.org/connecticut/events

September Events

Sept 8 - Fall Sporting Clays Shoot, Chaplin

Sept 14 - Housatonic Dinner, Monroe

Sept 22 - Shoreline Brats & Beer, Steady Habit Brewing Co., Haddam

TBD - Eastern CT Steak & Bake Cookout, Pawcatuck

Sept - Safe Raffle tickets on sale

October Events

Oct 20 - Tobacco Valley Brats & Beer, Hooker Brewery, Bloomfield

Oct 24 - Aspetuck Valley Dinner, Norwalk

Important Announcement

Mystery Safe Raffle tickets will be on sale starting in September. This raffle sold out quickly last year so don't miss your chance to get in on this exciting raffle.

In This Issue

Welcome to the summer edition of the CT Ducks Unlimited Newsletter, which is now named DABBLINGS!

As we enter the summer months here in Connecticut we hope all of you are finding time to enjoy and relax. Here at DU we are busy planning for the fall and winter fundraising season and are working on some training sessions for our volunteers.

In this issue:

- 2018 Fundraising & Goals Update
- Conservation News
- National Convention Recap
- Upcoming Events
- 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.

Name our Newsletter Contest Winner

In our previous newsletter we challenged you to come up with a name for our newsletter. Submission were very, very light but one submission stood out and that was the one from Kathy Knapp. Kathy and her husband Ted have been long time DU members and volunteers. Ted and Kathy were state Co-Chairs, local Chapter Chairs for the Housatonic Chapter and Major Donors at the Diamond Life Sponsor level. Back when Ted and Kathy were State Co-Chairs they ran the newsletter that was named DABBLINGS and we knew right away we had to use the same name moving forward. I'm not sure Ted and Kathy need any more DU swag, but we will most certainly get some swag out to both of them for their winning newsletter name submission. Thank you both for your support and being part of our volunteer community.

Have something to Share?

Do you have a favorite duck or goose recipe? How about a photo proudly wearing your DU apparel while out and about? 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 fellow 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.



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A Message from Outgoing State Chairman John Kovarik

By the time you read this, my term as your State Chair will have ended. Don't ask me why, but DU does some things (Chair terms, for example) on a fiscal year basis and others on a calendar year. I've asked our esteemed RD why it's done this way and his answer is a bit convoluted, so we'll leave it at that.

I've had a wonderful, educational, enriching and enjoyable time as the CT State Chair. I've attended each event at least once, and most two or three times. At every one I've attended, I've marveled at the dedication and commitment of all of you. Your willingness to ask for donations and sell tickets, your time attending Committee meetings; for some of you, leaving work early or taking the day off to help set up for the event. Most of all, I have been just plain amazed at your efforts, year-in and year-out, to help "the ducks".

We've had some wonderful successes over the past four or five years. We increased our gross and net income every year. Last year, in seven of the ten criteria for event and State results and performance, we placed in the Top 10 out of the 50 States for percentage improvement. What should be particularly gratifying to everyone is that Total Income from all events increased by 45.9%, 4th best in the US and Event Efficiency was 66.9%, good for eighth best in the US (and evidence of our efforts to not only run great events, but events that run efficiently). Included in the Newsletter, is a picture of the call I received, recognizing our performance. In reality, that call doesn't belong to me - it belongs to every volunteer in CT, because all of your hard work paid off in achieving those results.

Another success was our first Mystery Safe Raffle, held in December 2017. Jim Evans, Larry Davis, Wayne Roberts, and I were sitting in the hotel lobby in Memphis last August (after the Leadership Conference had ended) and I said we should take the successful Mystery Safe Raffle from the Convention in San Antonio and do it in CT. There was a doubter among us (to which I am sworn to secrecy never to divulge . . .). But let's just say that those of you who did not buy your tickets early (like really early), missed out on a great raffle. All kidding aside, pulling this raffle off was a statewide effort, ranging from purchasing and storing the safe, obtaining underwriting for the guns, getting the tickets distributed, etc.

Finally, the tremendous improvements and success in our Major Gifts efforts should be noted. Last year, we had a 150% increase in new Life Sponsor commitments, good for 6th in the US. In addition (and because of the dedicated work of Scott Salisbury), we have been awarded several grants from the Wells Fargo Foundation. These grants were leveraged into obtaining the additional funding necessary for completing water quality improvement projects in NY State and Iowa. In addition, recognition for these increases, we were awarded a DU Presidential Merit Designation for our Major Gifts program performance.

Jim Evans is your new State Chair. He's done tremendous and successful work this past year in helping me with events, going to the Conventions and Leadership Conferences and working on the Newsletter. He's going to do, as a friend of mine from South Africa says, a "most excellent" job as your Chairman. But, he's going to need and want your help. While he has the State Pin Program well under control, he can always use another volunteer to help plan an event or sell raffle tickets. If he calls, asking for your assistance, tell him yes. It will make a difference.

Finally, I want to thank each and every CT DU volunteer. There's a saying in DU, originally from a past DU President that goes "I came for the mission but I stayed for the people." Truer words have never been spoken about CT DU volunteers. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as your State Chair and I thank you for that opportunity.

Sincerely;
John Kovarik

2018 State Goals – Mid Year Update

Below are the goals we established for 2018. You may recall 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 impact of 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**

Increase Event Attendance by 10% - 160 attendees.

Currently attendance is down about 8% from the same time last year. Only three of our events registered growth in attendance. This is a concerning trend and something we need to all work on. Some of this can be accounted for in changes with local chapter volunteers, potentially not collecting and submitting all attendee registration information, and relying on mailers and email to reach attendees. We will continue to find ways to reach past and future attendees using all tools available, but in the end it still comes down to people selling tickets and having that personal contact with potential attendees. If you are planning on attending an event this fall or winter, please consider inviting one new person to tag along with you.

Increase # of sponsors by 15% - 14 new sponsors

We have added four new sponsors in the first half of the year. A sponsor is someone that has donated \$250 or more through the year or at an event. If you are planning on attending an upcoming event, please consider becoming a sponsor and your donation will help conserve an acre of wetlands.

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

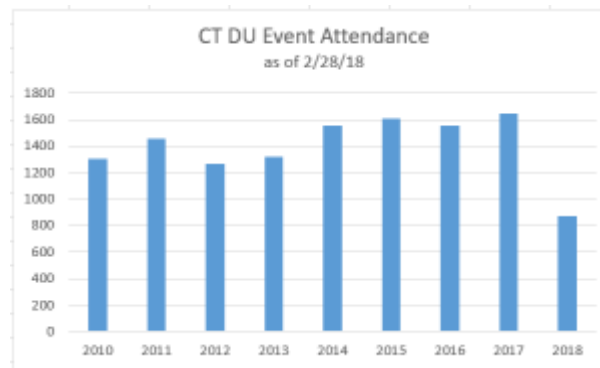
Currently we have a 60% efficiency rating for our Main (D) events which is a 2% increase over the same time last year. Our efficiency for Miscellaneous (M) events is just under 65%. This is a direct contributor to increasing our net income over last year. Very nice job everyone.

Maintain Positive Growth in New over Lost Events

I am happy to announce we did not lose a single event for the first half of the year and added one new event this past year with the addition of the Glastonbury Chapter's Sportsman BBQ this past June.

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. Currently, we have added 15 new volunteers to our team so far this year. That is a fantastic number and if we keep this pace for the remainder of 2018 we will most certainly hit our goal.



State Campaign Goals

- **New Life Sponsors - 2**
- **Major Sponsor Upgrades or President's Council Gifts - 3**
- **New Feather Society Commitments - 2**

New Life Sponsors

Currently we have met our goal of new Life Sponsors thanks to the generosity of Stefan and Jean Golicz, and John Larkin. With the addition of one more new Life Sponsor we will maximize our points in this category, which are also used in National award calculations.

Major Sponsor Upgrades or President's Council Gifts

Currently we are at four upgrades thanks to Larry & Laurie Davis, Frank McCauley, Ray & Sue Scoggins, and Wells Fargo. We need a 5th to maximize our points in this category which are also used in National award calculations.

New Feather Society Commitments

Currently we have zero Feather Society commitments and need two to meet our goal and three to maximize our points. We will be working hard to meet this goal by the end of the year. If you have not done so already, consider including Ducks Unlimited in your Estate Plan. This final gift to DU is as simple as adding Ducks Unlimited as a beneficiary or partial beneficiary to a life insurance policy, IRA, 401K, or other investment.



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

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CONNECTICUT DUCKS UNLIMITED


HELP WANTED
DU Needs Volunteers

Ducks Unlimited volunteers are the life blood of the organization and necessary to achieve the DU mission of wetlands conservation. There are many opportunities to volunteer at the local chapter level, state leadership level, and state event level.

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

At the chapter level we always encourage new volunteers to come out and join us and to bring a friend. Volunteering at the chapter level can be anything from helping to sell tickets, soliciting donations, contacting past and future attendees, set up and tear down at the event and more.

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

Jim Evans
State Chairman
jimevansct@gmail.com

Suggestion Box

We always enjoy 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 fundraising 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.



Find a local event at
www.ducks.org/connecticut/events

National News

Rescue our Wetlands Campaign

The second half of 2018 represents the final stretch for our \$2 Billion Rescue our Wetlands Campaign and all indications are that we will meet the \$2 Billion dollar goal. In typical DU fashion, we don't just want to meet that goal but hope to blow past the finish line at full speed. You can help by attending a local event or making an additional contribution.

Connecticut DU Honored at National Convention

Connecticut received a Bronze State Excellence Award and a Presidential Merit Award for our fund raising efforts during 2017.

Although we came up just short of making the "Top Ten States", we did receive The Presidential Merit award for our growth in 2017. Here are some of the categories that Connecticut held spots in the "Top Ten".

- 4th in Total Income From all Events % Increase – 45.93%
- 8th in Efficiency Rating Average For All Events – 66.98%
- 10th in Total Event Attendance Increase % - 9.5%
- 7th in Total Sponsors for All Sources % Increase – 10.84%
- 6th in New Life Sponsors % Increase – 150%
- Tied for 4th in New Feather Society Commitments Increase - 2
- Tied for 4th in New Feather Society Commitments % Increase – 100%



The State Excellence Award program is used to recognize all states that excel in the same valued criteria as the Top 10 State Awards, these being:

- all income
- event income
- all members
- event attendance
- volunteers

Growth in all five within a calendar year equates to Gold Level status, four equates to Silver Level status and three to Bronze Level status.

Southern Fairfield Chapter earns President Elite Chapter Designation.

Connecticut DU's Southern Fairfield Chapter was recognized as a Presidents Elite Chapter for their fundraising efforts in 2017 coming in at #26 out of 76 chapters recognized in this category. To make the honor roll for President Elite Chapter, the chapter must raise between \$100,000 to \$249,000 grassroots fundraising dollars. Congratulations to our Southern Fairfield Chapter and all their chapter volunteers.

Conservation News

Quinnipiac River Hunting Closure & SB 109

During the spring legislative session Sen. Martin Looney introduced and pushed bill SB 109 - An Act Concerning the Designation of Certain State Refuges for Wildlife, which designated portions of the Quinnipiac and Mill Rivers in New Haven as state wildlife refuges; prohibiting hunting, trapping, fishing, or trespassing in these areas. Ducks Unlimited was opposed to this bill for many reasons as it usurps the authority of, and undermines the existing processes in place at the DEEP to determine when areas of the state are deemed inappropriate to remain open to hunting. This legislation not only reduces hunting opportunities in the State of Connecticut, at a time when hunting access is reported as the biggest barrier to recruiting new and lapsed hunters, but it also sets a dangerous precedent for how decisions impacting the regulation of hunting are made in the future. SB 109 never made it to a vote and died with the end of the session. CT DU leaders, along with our regional and national staff, were intimately involved in providing information and feedback to CT legislators on this Bill.

After an effort by the state Senate President Martin Looney to legislatively ban hunting on a section of the Quinnipiac River was defeated, politicians in the New Haven area worked with local police to orchestrate a request to the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to place a one-year moratorium on hunting in that area of the river. The hunting ban request is in response to local homeowner complaints about noise. The Department abided and hunting is now banned on a section of river that was previously open and available to hunting. Lawmakers have been public that they plan to use this time to generate additional legislative support for passing a more permanent ban once the legislature returns to session next year. Ducks Unlimited is extremely disappointed in the department's decision to succumb to political forces and plan to question the department thoroughly and build a strategy to defeat future hunting ban legislation.

Preserving the Atlantic Flyway - *Norah Machia - NNY Living*

Starting this spring, more than \$3.3 million will be invested in a project being spearheaded by the nonprofit Ducks Unlimited organization to preserve and restore vital wetlands throughout the North Country. The funds will be used to protect 2,700 acres of wetlands throughout Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties, which will also include associated habitats for waterfowl and other wildlife, said Chris Sebastian, a Ducks Unlimited spokesperson. "New York is an important focus for us," Mr. Sebastian said. "It contains vital wetland habitats for birds migrating north and south."

The state is positioned in what is considered the "Atlantic Flyway," one of several "aerial highways" that have been identified for birds migrating between breeding grounds in Canada and wintering grounds as far south as Mexico. Most of the areas that have been identified for the preservation and restoration efforts are located near important aquatic resources such as bays, rivers and streams, and other protected lands. It's a continuation of an earlier phase of work that protected 1,901 acres and enhanced 200 acres of important wetland habitat landscapes in the same region last year. These included large interior freshwater wetland complexes, and coastal wetland habitats along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. [Read Complete Story Here!](#)

STATE EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

BRONZE

Connecticut



CT DU Fly Fishing Experience

In May we invited volunteers and donors from CT, RI, NY and ME to join us for a Fly Fishing experience event here in CT. This event was hosted by CT DU member John Larkin and held at the East Haddam Hunt and Fishing Club in East Haddam CT where John is a member. This unique weekend experience offered up the opportunity to gather together to discuss the DU conservation mission, and spend some time outdoors fishing the grounds the club pond and stretches of Eightmile River that runs through the club grounds.

The weekend started with everyone arriving at the clubhouse on a Saturday afternoon for a light lunch and stowing our gear into the guest rooms we were assigned. For those that were new to fly fishing, we offered a basic instruction clinic that covered the basics of fly fishing from rod & reels, flies and even casting lessons which was led by our Regional Director Wayne Roberts. After the basic instructions, attendees then put their new skills to use, casting to trout in the club pond. Those attendees that were experienced in fly fishing headed out to fish the sections of the Eightmile River that runs through club property. Between the heavy rains that afternoon, fish were caught, stories were told, and new friendships were made.

After fishing we all proceeded back to the club house where we cleaned up, and gathered in the living room of the clubhouse, to warm by a fire and enjoy some delicious appetizers and some cordials. For dinner, we were treated to grass-fed bone-in ribeye steaks grilled to perfection and an assortment of side dishes, with ice cream brownie sundaes for desert. After dinner we were treated by talks from Sarah Fleming, Manager of Conservation Programs and John Cushman, Director of Development. The talks covered conservation projects and concerns, information on how the funds raised during our DU events are used to complete conservation projects. We closed out the evening with a night cap and more great conversation. During the first night's events, we also signed up 2 new Major Donors and big thank you goes out to Stefan and Jean Golicz and John Larkin for taking the next step in their dedication to the DU mission with their new Life Sponsor commitments.

Sunday morning found us gathered around the breakfast table for a quick bite to eat and much needed coffee and then it was off to the Eightmile River again for some fishing. The weather was more cooperative as we were treated to warm sunny skies and plenty of fish, all of which released back into the river to be caught another day. After a great morning of fishing we headed back to the club house, gathered our things, said our goodbyes to our new friends, and parted ways as we headed home.

A huge thank you to John Larkin for helping to put all this together and hosting us for such a great event and to the DU staff and volunteers who joined us. Hopefully this is the first of many more CT DU experiences to come.



Ducks Unlimited National Convention Recap

The 2018 Ducks Unlimited National Convention was held in Indianapolis on May 29 – June 2. I, along with 5 other volunteers and members from our state and our Regional Director Wayne Roberts attended. Once again, DU pulled off a fantastic event with many great guest speakers. States were recognized for their fundraising successes and efforts in 2017, along with recognition for many of our Major Donors for completing their pledges and new commitments.

Opening night was a treat, as we bused our way over to the Indianapolis Zoo for a dinner and private access to the exhibits. The highlight of the night was a special dolphin show that displayed how intelligent and acrobatic the dolphins are, along with the conservation efforts related to wetlands and clean water. Even DU President Rogers Hoyt, Jr. got into the act as he interacted with the dolphins.



A new format for this year's convention broke the general business sessions into two morning events instead of one full day, along with a dedicated recognition dinner on Friday evening. The recognition dinner was hosted by Jeff Corwin and truly had an awards style theme and feel to it. Connecticut was recognized as receiving a Bronze State Excellence Award for our fundraising success in 2017 and it was truly an honor and pleasure to represent all of our great volunteers as we walked across the stage in front of 1000 DU members, volunteers and staff.



The general business session highlighted the conservation efforts across the US, Canada and Mexico, providing valuable updates to our fundraising efforts and goals and featured two guest speakers. U.S Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke spoke during the Friday session and shed light on conservation efforts and challenges present in today's landscape. Saturday we were treated to a sit down conversation with DU CEO Dale Hall and FEDEX Founder and CEO Frederick W. Smith. Mr. John L. Morris, Founder of Bass Pro Shops was presented with the Corporate Conservation Achievement Award. Mr. Morris and Bass Pro Shops are great friends of DU and support DU and our mission in many ways, ranging from 4,500 square feet of space in the Bass Pro Pyramid in Memphis, TN for the DU

Heritage Center, representation in the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium, to visibility on their NASCAR race cars, and making DU the primary beneficiary of their Round up for Conservation program during the month of October every year.

If you haven't been to a National Convention this is most certainly an event to put on your bucket list. Next year's convention will be held in Waikoloa, Hawaii May 29 – June 2, 2019, so plan on registering early for this one, as I'm sure it will be a great time, and space will fill fast. If Hawaii isn't in your future next year, don't worry the 2020 convention is being held in Orlando, Florida, so mark your calendar.

[See additional photos](#)

Event Spotlight – Fall Sporting clays Fun Shoot and Eastern CT chapter’s Steak & Bake

Fall Sporting clays fun Shoot

The Fall Sporting Clays Fun Shoot will be held on September 8th at the Fin, Fur & Feather Club in Chaplin, CT. This is a great outdoor event that offers up some challenging shooting situations spread out along the beautifully wooded area of the Fin, Fur & Feather. This is an excellent way to get tuned up for the upcoming waterfowl season and you might walk away with some prizes for your shooting skills. We use the Lewis Class scoring system and it gives everyone an opportunity to potentially win something. This event also puts on a delicious BBQ Pork lunch with all the fixins and you might get treated to some delicious duck and goose apps and some sweets for desert. There is a great raffle and even some vendor displays. This event has sold out the past three years, so register early.



Eastern CT Steak & Bake

The volunteers with our Eastern CT Chapter hold a fantastic low key event held on the Davis Family Farm in Pawcatuck, CT. This event boasts a great farm setting on the banks of the Pawcatuck River, where it flows into the Long Island Sound, coupled with a delicious ribeye steak cookout. The Davis Farm is owned and operated by our very own Larry Davis and is the oldest working family farm in New England. You need to bring your appetite for the large cut of ribeye that ends up on your plate barely leaving room for many of the numerous sides served at this event. Bring your favorite drink, chairs and even your fishing poles. Enjoy a great meal and watch the sun set and sit by the bon fire as you chat with your fellow DU supporters and you might even be treated to a little history of the farm and surrounding area from Larry. Date will be announced soon but this event is usually held the last weekend in September or first weekend in October.



Volunteer Spotlight – Larry Davis



Larry Davis is a long time DU member and Volunteer and as he likes to say, “Just a local farm boy”. Well that farm boy just happens to be an 11th generation farmer on his family farm which was established in 1654 and is located in Pawcatuck, CT on the banks of the Pawcatuck River where it flows into Long Island Sound. The Davis Family farm lays claim to the title of longest continuously worked farm in both Connecticut and New England.

Along with being just a farm boy, Larry has been a long time DU member and volunteer both at the local, state, and national level. Larry is a past CT DU State Chairman, currently a co-chair of the Eastern CT Chapter and serving his 3rd term as member of DU’s National Conservation Policy Committee (CPC). Larry along with his wife Laurie are also Major Donors at the Sponsor in Perpetuity level.

Any chance to sit down with Larry and listen to his stories from the farm, his time working the circuit with draft horses and wagons, or his outings chasing ducks and geese and you will most certainly see the passion he has for conservation and the land. That passion is present in his volunteer efforts with DU and his conservation efforts and land-use practices on his farm.

Tasty Treats

This recipe comes from an anonymous source, but if you have attended our fall shoot in the past, you probably tasted this delicious treat.

Marinated Goose Breasts

Ingredients

- Goose Breasts – Skinless, whole
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup cooking sherry
- 2 tablespoons chopped garlic
- 1 tablespoon ginger
- 1 tbs kosher salt – Adjust to your taste
- 2 tbs ground black pepper – Adjust to your taste

Cooking Instructions

- Mix Marinade ingredients pour over goose breasts in plastic bag or container and Marinate for 24 hours
- Grill on a high heat for 5 mins, then flip
- Remove after another 5 minutes and let rest
- Slice thin for an appetizer, or eat whole as a meal. Taste just as good cold

*Adjust cooking time for your preferred doneness.