



The MI Marsh Chatter



Michigan Ducks Unlimited Quarterly Newsletter

Third Quarter Events

July

17th Roseville SNO Rex Marshal RexMarshall44@yahoo.com

August

1st – 3rd **State Convention** Diana Anderson djmf1994@gmail.com
 2nd Curtis Sue Tokar stoker@sbcglobal.net
 13th Lapeer WHP Todd Rumball cneducks11@gmail.com
 17th N. Oakland BP Hunt Chuck Myers chuck7230@hotmail.com
 19th W. Wayne shoot Jim Stewart jamesb6254@comcast.net
 22nd N. Oakland Golf Chuck Myers chuck7230@hotmail.com
 22nd Davison SNO Jim Toth jagermeisterjt@gmail.com
 27th East Jordan Shoot Mark Lercel mark@ejplastics.com
 TBA Traverse City shoot Mike Newman mike@5stardrilling.com

September

6th Gratiot County Deb Vusch debvusich@gmail.com
 7th Mesick/Manton sht. Todd Schultz toadschultz@hotmail.com
 7th Benzie County Gaylord Jowett gaylordjowett@gmail.com
 9th N. Oakland Sponsors Chuck Myers chuck7230@hotmail.com
 9th Rochester-Romeo Don Walkowicz don.walkowicz@ameritech.net
 11th Midland Todd Sloggett TASloggett@dow.com
 13th Montmorency Co. Mike Hachigian Mike.Hachigian@brakepartsinc.co
 13th Oscoda SNO Paul Thompson pdthompson@fs.fd.us
 18th Fenton/Holly Garl Gordon garl.w.gordon@gmail.com
 18th South Oakland Chuck Yago chuckyago@att.net
 19th Sanilac County Dean Noble Dean_Noble@cable.comcast.com
 20th Gladwin Neldin Emans neldin.emans@yahoo.com
 20th Manistee Jesse Scudder fishhawk_6686@yahoo.com
 20th Presque Isle County Dave Smrcek dsmrcek@gmail.com
 20th St. Ignace Chris Groty chrisgroty@sbcglobal.net
 25th Hunters Creek Gaylord Jowett gaylordjowett@gmail.com
 27th Huron Valley WHP Dave Meilke theduckboys@gmail.com
 27th The Thumb Area Dave Dybowski dybowski22@hotmail.com
 30th Charlevoix Sponsors John Ochs jforph@gmail.com
 TBA Otsego Co. SNO Rick Nash nashes348@yahoo.com

October

4th Cedarville Nathan Harrison nathanharrison2010@yahoo.com
 9th Ogemaw Co. Linda Ahleman linahlem@aol.com
 15th East Jordan Marc Lercel mark@ejplastics.com
 23rd Clare County Lloyd Wilson lwilson@ducks.org

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2014

In this issue:



New Events boost fundraising
Two new events help to boost the fundraising efforts in Southwestern Michigan!

[Full story on page 3](#)



Kids Free Fishing Day

Despite the rain a number of young people enjoyed the free fishing day in Au Gres

[Full story on page 3](#)



National Convention in review
State Chairman's review of the great time had by the attendees of the 2014 National Convention.

Don't miss Milwaukee next year!

[Full story on page 9](#)



Salmon & Bourbon

Here is a nice recipe for some of that outstanding Great Lakes Salmon.

[Full Recipe on page 5](#)



MI DU State Convention
Don't miss the fun this summer. Mark your calendar now. August 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 2014



A Word from our Chairman

Pete Albrecht: 2012-2014 State Chairman



As we move into July, we mark the beginning and ending of Ducks Unlimited's fiscal year. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and members, the preliminary numbers are looking very positive.

Michigan DU will have close to \$1.8 million in total income; an increase of 5% over the FY 2013 income of \$1.71 Million. Our Event-based income is projected to be \$1.55 million, which is up 7.7% over FY 2012. These great numbers are reflective of our volunteer and membership numbers as they are also improved over FY 2013. Our total adult membership for FY 2014 is 26,155 which is an increase of over 9.7%. Our all-important volunteer numbers rose to 2,425 from 2,257 the year before. This is an increase of more than 6.9%-

OUTSTANDING!!!! FY 2013 was a good year for Ducks Unlimited in Michigan, thanks to all of you, and I think FY 2014 will be even better.

Shortly, we will be receiving the Michigan DU 2015 raffle calendars. These calendars feature a year-long raffle of 5 firearms per week. The weekly drawing will be held at the Great Lakes/ Atlantic Region Office in Ann Arbor each Wednesday and the results will then be posted on the Michigan DU website. All tickets are returned to the drum after each drawing, so it is conceivable to have multiple winners on one ticket. Instructions for the winners to claim their firearms are printed in the calendars. Sales are limited to 5000 calendars and are available through your Area Chairman and Regional Director. Don't miss out as the net for your chapter's sales will be reflected in your National numbers.

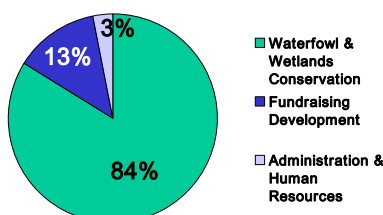
Just around the corner is our State Convention; August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. It is being held at the beautiful Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights. The venue was picked to give our volunteers and members in Southern Michigan a close location to join us for a fun and informative weekend.

Please remember that we are a volunteer organization. As such, we should always be looking for and welcoming new individuals to join our ranks.

Thank you for all that you DU, and I hope to see you along the way.

Pete Albrecht

How your DU dollars are spent



New Chapters in SW Michigan

We had 2 new chapters, Lowell DU and Russ Bengal (Jackson) start up in the SW region this May. They both started in early January with planning and both had great events! The chapters got their start by people wanting to do a little more for Momma Duck.

One of the gentlemen, Travis McLeod of Lowell has been a volunteer (Rockford and Flat River) for a few years but he noticed that there was not a chapter in his town, so he asked if he could possibly start a chapter in Lowell. We planned a recruitment meeting and we had a great turn out of people who wanted to do a little extra for the ducks. In the following weeks they got together, planned for their events and had a great time putting on the event.

The other chapter was headed up by Ira Huff from Jackson; I met Ira at the Barry O'Brien dinner last fall. After the event he was asking about how he and some of his friends could become more involved at the committee level. Ira put together a meeting with his friends and we put a plan into action to bring the Russ Bengal chapter back to Jackson. This is the home of Russ Bengal – the Grandfather of Michigan DU! Russ did more than his part to start many of the MI DU chapters that are still in existence today, there is a volunteer award named after Russ that goes to a deserving volunteer every year. This award is given by past award winners. So it was a great pleasure to get this chapter back up and running with this group of people. Most of these new volunteers had never attended an event let alone put one on so they had a big learning curve. What a night they had!

To sum up, both of these dinners, they did a fantastic job for the ducks! They both had over a 180 attendees which for new events is great, combined they did over \$30,000.00 for the ducks. That translates into 120 acres of habitat for the DUCKS, that would not have happened unless we had gotten these new chapters and volunteers engaged!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that these chapters had help from MI DU volunteer leaders as well – Kevin Winter, Bob Fabian, Blair Bissell, and others. We are **Team DU!**

So if you want to be like these people please let us know if you want to volunteer or know of someone who wants to do a little more for the DUCKS.

Craig Curtis

MI DU supports Au Gres Kids Fishing Day

Ducks Unlimited, the Sterling Sportsman's Association, USFWS, Friends of the Jordan River Hatchery, the Arenac County Walleye Club, and the Troy Williamson Family hosted their 3rd annual Kids Fishing Day on May 3rd. There was no charge for the event, but registration was required. Refreshments and a light lunch were provided and as you can see by the smiles the kids had a great day despite the rain.

We had a two fish limit but opened that up to three later in the day and then finally five as our attendance was down due to the rain but we had 1500 brook trout planted. And many of these kids caught their five. I know one group had five kids and they caught 25 of them!



The State Convention

Is less than a month away!

This year's state convention is in the heart of Michigan. Convenient for everyone! Bring your family, there are a ton of wonderful family activities, including a waterpark right at our hotel! Don't be the only one from your Chapter to miss out on this opportunity to help MI DU grow and to find out about all the fantastic things DU has on the horizon.

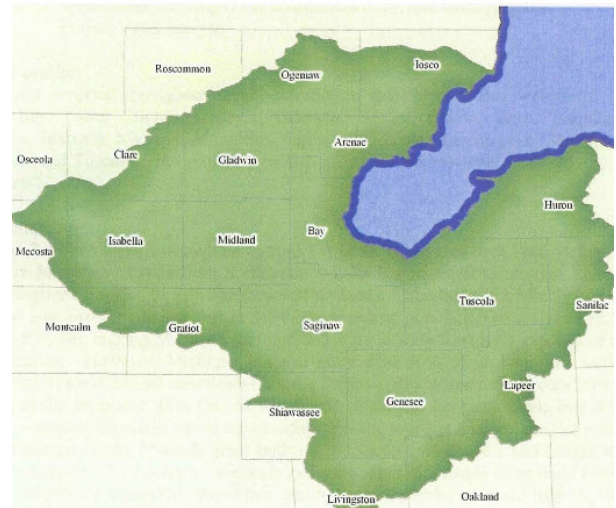
Also- the Tiger game on Sunday has received some underwriting from ITC and Discover Card. This allowed us to offer a rate of \$25 per ticket which includes lunch and the game ticket. The seats alone are normally \$43 so as you can imagine, this is quite a deal!!! If you would like to attend, please let Carolyn know or myself. This way we can make sure we have a seat. We are allowing each person to buy up to four tickets at this point in case there are others they want to bring to the game that may not have gone to the convention and we have a total of 80 seats available.

Diana Anderson
State Convention Chair

MICHIGAN



The Saginaw Bay Watershed



The Michigan Waterfowl Legacy receives boost thanks to the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative

Whether they duck hunt, sit on their porch and watch skeins of migrating waterfowl, or get their drinking water from ground water sources, all Michigan residents – whether they know it or not – have a connection to our state's rich waterfowl and wetland heritage.

The Michigan Waterfowl Legacy (MWL) is a recently launched initiative to engage those who enjoy these resources in order to strengthen support for waterfowl and wetland conservation. This month, the partnership received a \$27,500 grant from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network to support the initiative. These funds will lead to the development of a variety of promotional materials, interpretive modules, and MWL events such as trapping and waterfowl hunting workshops, birding tours, and youth events. With funding secured to implement the MWL in the Saginaw Bay, the partnership will be seeking opportunities to fund the implementation of the MWL in the Lake Erie, Lake Michigan, Northern Lower, and Upper Peninsula areas. Stay tuned and if you're in the Saginaw Bay area, look for a MWL activity near you!

RECIPE OF THE QUARTER

Grilled Salmon with a Bourbon Glaze

Compliments of Dave Steinbach (State Chairman-elect)



Ingredients:

4 - 8 ounce salmon fillets, skin removed
freshly ground black pepper
1/3 cup dark brown sugar
1/3 cup bourbon
1/4 cup soy sauce
1 teaspoon hoisin sauce
4 garlic cloves, minced
2 tablespoons fresh garlic, minced
1/3 cup orange juice (preferably freshly-squeezed)
1 lemon, juice only

Preparation and Cooking:

Season salmon with pepper.

Combine remaining ingredients.

Place salmon in a glass or plastic container or large zip-lock bag.

Pour marinade over salmon and refrigerate 4 – 8 hours, turning occasionally.

Remove salmon from marinade and discard marinade.

Pat fish down with paper towels and air-dry in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Grill fish over white hot coals until just cooked...a little rare in the center is perfect!

Dane Cramer, Regional Biologist – Michigan



April was finally able to break Old Man Winter's ferocious grip. And I was finally to get outside; professionally to look at some projects, both old and new, and personally to chase spring gobblers. Suffice it to say this piece has plenty of wetland pictures and no turkey pictures. There's a reason after all why my passions are hunting ducks and making duck habitat.

- I spent the first day of April looking at potential wetland protection projects with our partners from Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy in preparation for developing a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant proposal for southwest Michigan. The next day I met up with our partners from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's private lands office to look at potential wetland restoration and enhancement projects. One of these potential projects includes plugging the system of ditches pictured above that drain this 200-acre wetland complex in Barry County (Southeast Lake Michigan Watershed).
- Visited Fort Custer Training Facility with our engineering staff to evaluate the merits of a potential wetland enhancement project on the base (Kalamazoo County).
- Visited the Albion Flooding project just as the contractor was putting the final touches on the project. The project enhanced management capabilities on a small 10-acre wetland at Barry State Game Area by replacing a failing sheetpile structure with a new Agri-Drain watercontrol structure (before and after pictured at right; Barry County).
- Attended our Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office's open house on April 24th. In addition to opening our doors to our volunteers, major donors, and partners in conservation, we also took the opportunity to dedicate our conference room in honor of **Mr. Harold Roe** and his contributions to Ducks Unlimited as a wildlife artist.
- Managed the final meeting of the Southeast Lake Michigan Watershed initiative partnership for our current proposal effort. After emerging from the meeting, our current slate of projects for this North American Wetlands Conservation Act proposal includes over 2,200 acres of conservation with \$1 million in grant funds and just over \$2.2 million in matching funds! Many, many tireless hours at the helm will go into crafting this proposal before I push it out the door at the end of June, but hands down this is one of the most rewarding parts of my job (Southeast Lake Michigan Watershed).
- Attended the Kalamazoo River Land Conservation planning meeting in Kalamazoo. This effort is aimed at identifying wetland parcels of conservation significance for protection throughout the Kalamazoo watershed.
- Participated in a conference call with the Upper Peninsula Resource, Conservation, & Development, the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy, and the private landowners of a 640-acre property that will be protected under the partnership's Upper Peninsula Coastal Wetland Project III North American Wetland Conservation Act grant soon to be underway (Baraga County).

What kind of fuel do waterfowl need during migration? In the fall, waterfowl are focused on getting out of the way of approaching winter weather up north and generally do not make many stops. During this time, ducks consume high-energy carbohydrates like seeds and waste grain, which are plentiful on the way south. In spring, waterfowl have one thing on their minds — returning north to breed. At some point during the spring migration, ducks shift from eating mainly carbohydrates to proteins. Initially eating seeds provided by natural wetland plants and waste grain in agricultural fields, female ducks switch to eating aquatic invertebrates that provide the protein and minerals needed for egg production. Wetlands are the factories and storehouses for these invertebrates.

Jason Hill, Manager of Conservation Programs - Michigan and Wisconsin

- Worked with Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff and others to develop and submit a full proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sustain Our Great Lakes to secure funding needed to implement the St. John’s Marsh – Phase I project. Specifically, Ducks Unlimited submitted a \$998,174 proposal funding request in late April. If successful, these funds will be combined with pending funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Coastal Program Great Lakes (\$150,000) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture (\$300,000); along with committed funding from Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, St. Clair Flats Waterfowlers Association, Michigan Duck Hunters Association, and Clay Township. Ducks Unlimited will be conducting a topographic survey of the project site in June 2014 (St. Clair County).
- Attended the Heart of the Lakes Member and Partner Summit in Grand Rapids to learn more about trends in Michigan Philanthropy, the Michigan Model Conservation Easement, and the Office of the Great Lakes strategy for Michigan’s water resources. Guest speakers included Rob Collier (Council of Michigan Foundations) and Jon Allen (Office of the Great Lakes).
- Help developed and submit a Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Conference Tour proposal for consideration. If selected, Ducks Unlimited will host a tour as part of the conference in Grand Rapids in early September 2014. The tour will be held at the Kent County Conservation League and will include shooting, archery, fishing, and wild game preparation instruction for conference attendees.
- Worked with several of Ducks Unlimited’s Saginaw Bay to Lake Erie Coastal Habitat Initiative – Phase III North American Wetlands Conservation Act partners to further various multiple acquisition, restoration and enhancement projects in the Lake Erie Watershed.
- Worked with Legacy Land Conservancy to finalize North American Wetlands Conservation Act small grant documentation needs for an 86-acre easement that protected critical wetland habitats at the headwaters of the River Raisin watershed (Jackson County).
- Met with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Staff to learn more about available funding programs and DU opportunities in the Great Lakes / Atlantic region.
- Attended a Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative – Research sub-committee meeting. A follow up meeting will be held in May to help further guide DU’s role and engagement in emerging Phragmites biocontrol research in the Great Lakes.
- Worked with Ducks Unlimited engineering services and DTE Energy staff to begin developing a Ford Marsh electrical service design in order to provide power to the proposed pump to be located on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property. The wetland permit review process is ongoing. Once secured, Ducks Unlimited will bid the project and hire a construction and electrical contractor (Monroe County).
- Attended a Michigan Waterfowl Legacy Steering Committee conference call.
- Worked with Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff to host a tour of Pte. Mouillee State Game Area for Ducks Unlimited board member and Conservation Programs Committee Chairman, Bill D’Alonzo. Bill joined Ducks Unlimited regional staff to learn more about Great Lakes/ Atlantic Regional Office’s conservation programs and to attend our Open House and dedication of the Harold Roe conference room.
- Provided project updates and semi-annual reporting for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funded projects in southeast Michigan.



2014 Michigan Ducks Unlimited Calendar Raffle update

Well, we are half way through our calendar raffle for the year and over 100 winners have so far received notice that they have won a firearm.

Winners are being drawn from all corners of the state, as well as Indiana, Ohio, Texas, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and even Hawaii! Firearms from Henry, Savage, Taurus, and Browning will round out the month of July.

If you haven't won yet keep following the results on our web page <http://www.miducalendar.org> as there are still about 100 winners out there!



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Ducks Unlimited

National Convention report

On Wednesday following Memorial Day, nearly a thousand DU volunteers and supporters gathered in St. Louis Mo. for the 77th Annual Convention.

Convention Central was the Hyatt Regency in downtown St. Louis. The hotel overlooks the Mississippi River and is just a few blocks from the Gateway Arch, Busch Stadium, and other downtown attractions and historical sites.

A number of interesting site seeing tours were offered including a visit to the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. This area is home for a number of historic waterfowl hunting clubs: some more than 125 years old. In addition there were tours of historical St Louis, the Botanical Gardens, and of course, the Anheuser Busch brewery. These tours were offered Wednesday through Friday to give everyone the opportunity to participate in all of them. In addition to the tours, seminars including wildlife photography, first aid for your retriever, and tips for the traveling hunter were offered along with decoy painting for the Greenwings in attendance.

Wednesday evening, we gathered at Busch Stadium for a lavish tailgate party followed by a baseball game between the Cardinals and Yankees.

Thursday's activities were capped with "Dinner with Friends" with groups making their own arrangements at the myriad of restaurants downtown followed by a huge gathering in "Hospitality Central" and pin trading with volunteers from across North America.

On Friday, the tours continued as well as the Board of Directors meeting in the morning. In the evening, we were treated to another great dinner at the Hyatt followed by a concert with Country Music star Craig Morgan. Friday evening was again capped by Hospitality Central and more pin trading.

Saturday morning saw us gathered for the Annual General Business Session. These are always a very informative review of the past year's highlights and a preview of things to come. At noon, we broke for the President's luncheon. In the afternoon, we continued with the General Business Session highlighted by keynote speaker Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia-a life long waterfowler himself.

Saturday evening was the 77th Annual Convention Reception and Gala followed by the live auction. These auctions are a show in themselves, as they normally feature some very unusual and high ticket items. This one was no exception with quite a few of the items bringing thousands of dollars. This auction raised over \$198,000.00 for the Ducks. We always have a pool guessing the amount that will be raised without going over and the winner this year was Steve Wyckoff. The evening was completed with music and dancing with the music being provided by a very talented 15-piece band that largely revisited Motown.

It was an interesting and fun filled week with a lot of tired volunteers going home on Sunday with their DU batteries fully recharged.

Pete Albrecht
State Chairman

August is Volunteer Recruitment month

Our fall events will soon be upon us, as we approach these cooler months and the hunting seasons near us, there's no better time than now to start thinking about your events and getting more help on your committees. Every DU volunteer must be a recruiter - entrusted with the mission to recruit for our chapters. Recruiting must become standard operating procedure (part of our culture) for every committee. The continued success and future growth of Ducks Unlimited rests with our ability to recruit additional volunteers.

Set the month of August aside and promote your chapter's growth by making August your Volunteer Recruitment month. Work with your RD's & state officer to help your chapter grow & continue its success.

Why recruit?

- ✓ Brings fresh perspectives
- ✓ Brings new ideas
- ✓ Alleviates work load
- ✓ Helps get more people to the event
- ✓ Helps get more sponsors and donations
- ✓ Helps event grow
- ✓ We aint gettin' any younger!

Keys to the DU Recruiting Effort:

- ✓ Individual initial contact
- ✓ Targeting the right audience
- ✓ Capability to tell the DU story

Without continuous chapter recruitment, your chapter will begin to show signs of fatigue, stress and lack luster. No one wants to do this alone; the greatest part of what we do is making new friends and enjoying common ground and a shared passion for the resource.

Where are they?

There are multiple venues for volunteer recruitment. Host Regional or Chapter Recruitment Events, use traditional approach - 1 on 1 ask, utilize recruitment leads from event tickets and DU website - forwarded by Memphis, along with leads gained within the state. Our membership prospect lists are a wonderful resource. Be on the lookout at DU events; host a booth at local Festivals/Shows. Try hosting a Waterfowl Hunter Party this is the main reason for the creation of these events and is where and how they developed.

The bottom line is you must foster a chapter culture of continuous volunteer recruitment and make it a standard protocol for your chapter's function. Quite honestly, your 1st committee meeting's agenda should look like this:

Agenda
August/xx/2014

1. Volunteer Recruitment
2. See #1

Billy Ray Fann