



# The MI Marsh Chatter



Michigan Ducks Unlimited Quarterly Newsletter

## Fourth Quarter Events

### October

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Monroe Sponsors	Tracy Oberleiter	tracy.oberleiter@mbandt.com
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Down River	Scott Wilkie	734-231-1931
4 <sup>th</sup>	Cedarville	Nathan Harrison	nathanharrison2010@yahoo.com
4 <sup>th</sup>	The Flats (Harsens Is)	Toni Knudsen	tonigoldens@comcast.net
8 <sup>th</sup>	White River	Brad Shafer	shafer_brad@hotmail.com
8 <sup>th</sup>	Greater Kalamazoo S.	Tom Comer	kalamazoodu@gmail.com
8 <sup>th</sup>	Oakland Co.	Billie Ray Fann	bfann@ducks.org
8 <sup>th</sup>	Rockford	Josh Haverkamp	haverka7@gmail.com
9 <sup>th</sup>	Fenton Area	Wes Nolde	810-625-0276
9 <sup>th</sup>	Ogemaw Co.	Linda Ahleman	linahlem@aol.com
15 <sup>th</sup>	East Jordan	Mark Lercel	mark@ejplastics.com
18 <sup>th</sup>	Three Rivers	Rich Hiscock	rhk974aol.com
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Otsego CO. SNO	Rick Nash	nashes348@yahoo.com
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Clare County	Lloyd Wilson	lwilson@ducks.org
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sebewaing	Jeff Kroll	the_krolls@sbcglobal.net
30 <sup>th</sup>	N. Oakland BPS mo.	Chuck Myers	chuck7230@hotmail.com

### November

1 <sup>st</sup>	Marshall dinner	Mark Kenworthy	thisisme@gmail.com
6 <sup>th</sup>	Cheboygan	Steve Crusoe	crusoes@cnbismybank.com
		or Jason Kelly	Jason.Kelly@rehmann.com
6 <sup>th</sup>	West Oakland Co.	Billie Ray Fann	bfann@ducks.org
7 <sup>th</sup>	Women for Wetlands	Laurie Dewitt	lauriedewitt09@gmail.com
7 <sup>th</sup>	E. UP Mega event	Dan Heuer	duckman@jamadots.com
7 <sup>th</sup>	The Huntsman	Gaylord Jowett	gaylordjowett@gmail.com
13 <sup>th</sup>	West Branch Ladies	Linda Ahleman	linahlem@aol.com

### December

3 <sup>rd</sup>	SE MI Fenton Xmas	Billy Ray Fann	bfann@ducks.org
4 <sup>th</sup>	SE MI Detroit Xmas	Billy Ray Fann	bfann@ducks.org
5 <sup>th</sup>	Houghton Lake	Tena Tremper	jimtremper@hotmail.com

## OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2014

In this issue:



**DU MI has it's own License Plate!**  
After years of work our DU License plate is now available at a Secretary of State office near you!

Full story on page 3



**Gov. Snyder and MI DU**  
Governor Rick Snyder joined the MI DNR and Michigan DU to celebrate the completion of the Maple River SGA project.

Full story on page 9



**New DOD for Michigan DU**  
Please welcome our newest Director of Development to Michigan Ducks Unlimited, Todd Fox.

Full story on page 3



**Grouse Marsala**  
Dale has a great recipe for anyone lucky enough to get a couple Thunder Chickens.

Full Recipe on page 4



**Scientific Fish & Wildlife passes**  
In late August the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act became LAW! This is a great thing for all of the Michigan Sportspeople.

Full Story on page 6



## A Word from our Chairman

*Pete Albrecht: 2012-2014 State Chairman*



As I write this, I once again wonder what happened to summer. October is right around the corner, duck season is almost here, and we are in the middle of the fall fund raising season.

Michigan DU is having a great year in 2014. Our most important numbers to consider are volunteers and dollars raised. The all-important volunteer numbers are 2449 in 2014 as opposed to 2317 at this same time in 2013. This is an increase of 5.6% over last year. The increase in volunteer numbers is reflected in our fund raising efforts as we saw our total state income grow by \$100,00.00 to \$1.4 million or 7.1% over the same period in 2013. The event based income is up 10.7% or \$129,000.00 over 2013. This is a great illustration of the importance of volunteer recruitment. **As a volunteer organization, we can never stop looking for new folks to join our ranks.**

Two highlights of the summer were the annual state convention at Sterling Heights and the ribbon cutting at the Maple River State Game Area.

The convention was held at the Sterling Inn and Water Park. For the Friday evening and Saturday activities we were joined by our DU National President, George Dunklin from Stuttgart Arkansas. The Friday evening theme was “Duck Camp” with everybody coming in camo duds. Following very informative break-out sessions Saturday morning, everyone was turned loose to participate in the numerous afternoon activities of their choice. Saturday evening was the annual Awards Banquet at which we recognized the hard work of our chapters and volunteers. President Dunklin joined me in recognizing and presenting these much deserved awards. (These may be seen elsewhere in this issue.

The Maple River ribbon cutting was jointly hosted by Michigan DNR and Ducks Unlimited. As many of you know, Maple River State Game Area is the largest one in the lower peninsula and was badly in need of restoration. DU & our many partners spent some \$500,000 over several years to rebuild dikes & install two new pumps. Governor Snyder was on hand to do the ribbon cutting. Also attending were DNR director Keith Creagh and Wildlife Chief Russ Mason along with many DNR staff. DU was well represented by folks from our staff in Ann Arbor; David Brakhage, Jason Hill, Gildo Tori, and Dane Cramer and **RD Craig Curtis**. Volunteers included Dale Borske and myself in addition to many volunteers representing a number of area chapters. Mother Nature assisted with **beautiful weather and waterfowl flyovers** at appropriate times.

Looking forward for all Area, Zone, and District Chairs: The annual Leadership Conference at Higgins Lake is scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Please mark your calendar. Details will be forthcoming.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, I will be handing the reins to Dave Steinbach. It has been an honor to serve as your State Chairman and the nearly two years has flown by. I would like to thank all of you for your support of Ducks Unlimited, as well as myself as State Chair, and ask that you extend that same support to Dave **in the future**.

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

*Pete Albrecht*



## DU welcomes new staff

### Todd Fox joins our conservation family



Ducks Unlimited Director of Development Todd Fox recently began work in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana to further DU's wetland restoration and conservation efforts in those states. Fox will be responsible for engaging donors in DU's conservation mission through the Great Lakes Initiative, a program dedicated to the protection, enhancement and restoration of such landmark habitats such as western Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay and Green Bay coastal wetlands among others.

"Todd will be a real asset in the region," said Todd Bishop, managing director of development for DU's Great Lakes and Atlantic region. "His love of the resource and enthusiasm for conservation will help him communicate Ducks Unlimited's goals to other stakeholders who are eager to support our conservation mission.

Fox has deep roots in the Great Lakes. He and his wife of 21 years, Julie, along with their girls Olivia and Emily live on their family farm in Wayland, Michigan. The homestead dates to 1837 when their ancestors settled from Ohio. After an interest in shooting and firearms he started hunting at age 16 in the West Michigan area. Fox enjoys hunting with his family and spending time afield attempting to harvest ducks, deer, turkey, grouse, pheasants and small game.

Contact Todd Fox at (616) 446-8721 or [tfox@ducks.org](mailto:tfox@ducks.org)

## DUCKS UNLIMITED MICHIGAN LICENSE PLATE AVAILABLE NOW

### LANSING, Mich

Sept 22, 2014

From Ishpeming to Temperance, Bad Ax to Manistee; the Ducks Unlimited fundraising license plate is available now at Michigan Secretary of State Offices. Proceeds from the sale will support conservation and outreach activities highlighting the importance of wetlands in the state.

"This is the culmination of years of work by Ducks Unlimited volunteers," said Pete Albrecht, chair of Michigan Ducks Unlimited. "We were also fortunate that Senator Richardville and Representative Zorn championed the plate; that there was unanimous support from the entire House and Senate, and we appreciate Governor Snyder's signature. All that's left is to get people buying the plate."

Wetlands restoration, protection and enhancement benefit waterfowl and wildlife, as well as the millions of Michigan citizens who use them for clean drinking water and recreation. These activities stimulate the state's economy, as businesses and contractors support DU's efforts across the state.

Ducks Unlimited leverages funds to obtain additional federal and state dollars, such as those available through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and uses them to enhance and restore wetlands across the state. In addition to government sources, DU receives support from corporate and private sponsors, and typically leverages every dollar at least four times, maximizing the returns for the Great Lakes state.

**Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 13 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.**

For more information on our work, visit [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org). Connect with us on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/DucksUnlimited](https://www.facebook.com/DucksUnlimited), follow our tweets at [twitter.com/DucksUnlimited](https://twitter.com/DucksUnlimited) and watch DU videos at [youtube.com/DucksUnlimitedInc](https://www.youtube.com/DucksUnlimitedInc).

# Recipe of the Quarter

RECIPE OF THE QUARTER

## Grouse Marsala

*Compliments of Dale Borske (State Treasurer)*



### **Ingredients:**

Breasts from 2 Grouse, cut in half and pounded for tenderness  
1 cup flour  
Butter  
Sliced Mushrooms  
Marsala Wine (get the Marsala wine not cooking wine)  
Minced Garlic  
1 Tbsp. Dried or fresh:      Parsley  
   Rosemary  
   Basil  
Minced Onion  
a can or jar of Beef Gravy

### **Preparation and Cooking:**

Melt butter and saute mushrooms over medium heat until browned then set aside.

Dredge partridge lightly in flour and brown 4 to 5 minutes per side in olive oil in the skillet.

Return mushrooms to the skillet and stir in marsala wine (3/4 cup) add parsley, rosemary, and garlic and basil, onion and beef gravy let simmer.

Put entire contents in a baking dish and pour additional 1/4 cup of marsala wine on top and bake at 350 degrees for a half an hour

## Jason Hill, Manager of Conservation Programs – Michigan & Wisconsin



*Most of you may be aware but if not, I am happy to announce that the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act passed 65- 46 on 8-27-14 after long debate. See the press release below for more information. A huge, thank you, to all who assisted in this effort!*

### **Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act now law, renders anti-hunting referendums moot**

Construction is now complete at the 74-acre Bad Creek Unit of the 4,000-acre Pointe Mouillee State Game Area located along southwest Lake Erie. Kudos to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Zach Cooley and Joe Robison), Ducks Unlimited engineering services staff (Warren Weirich and Gregg Bachman), and Dragline Works (Dennis Marshal and his crew) for successfully completing this important waterfowl habitat project. Next time you are at Pointe Mouillee, check it out! Also look for a full article on this project in the Flyways section of an upcoming issue of the Ducks Unlimited Magazine (Monroe County).

Attended the Detroit River Cooperative Weed Management Area partnership conference call.

Toured the 90-acre Sterling State Park fish passage and wetland habitat project with Michigan Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff. Ducks Unlimited recently received over \$127,000 of funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Fish Passage and Coastal Programs to implement this project. We will be initiating a topographic survey this fall/winter to kick off the project (Monroe County).

Continued coordination for Ducks Unlimited's Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Conference tour in Grand Rapids on September 10, 2014. The tour was scheduled to be held at the Kent County Conservation League and included shooting, archery, fishing, and wild game preparation instruction for conference attendees. Our own David Steinbach - State Chairman Elect graciously volunteered to teach attendees how to prepare game and if you've had anything that he's prepared, you know it's a for sure crowd pleaser. Unfortunately, the field trip had to be cancelled on account of the severe storms that swept across Michigan that day. In a more fortunate twist of events, Conference organizers were able to pull together a day-of brewery tour in the Grand Rapids area, so not all was lost.

Solicited bids and hired two contractors (electrical and excavation) to complete the 175-acre Ford Marsh restoration project. Funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Ducks Unlimited this project will include the installation of a pump and two water control structures to allow U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff to effectively manage water levels in the Lake Erie coastal wetland. This historic marsh is owned and managed as part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (Monroe County).

Attended several Ducks Unlimited meetings including: Dale Hall all-staff meeting; Information/Technology meeting with Govan Horner; President Dunklin's visit to the Great Lakes/ Atlantic Regional Office; Great Lakes/ Atlantic Region Bio- Engineering meeting; Engineering meeting with Mannik and Smith Group.

Received a formal funding agreement (over \$560,000) for Ducks Unlimited's regional proposal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. Supported by both the Michigan and Ohio Departments of Natural Resources, this multi-state project aims to restore at least 285 acres of emergent wetlands and 125 acres of native warm season grasses on both public and private lands. Project partners include Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ottawa County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Southwest Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair watersheds).

Attended multiple meetings, conference calls and site visits to help coordinate permit modifications and the completion of Phase I of the Erie Marsh Preserve restoration project. Phase I is expected to be officially completed by the end of September 2014 (Monroe County).

Attended and participated in the Michigan State Convention in Sterling Heights. A good time was had by all!

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## Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act becomes LAW!

### Team DU, pat yourself on the back!

The Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act passed by legislators this past August due largely in part to volunteers, members, and staff whose efforts in signature collection, calls to legislators, and even visits to Lansing ensured that only sound science will be used to manage our game species here in Michigan. Supported by the signatures of nearly 300,000 registered voters, the Michigan House of Representatives passed the Act by a vote of 65 to 43 on August 27<sup>th</sup> after passing in the Senate two weeks earlier by a vote of 23 to 10.

“We are very thankful to the legislators who voted for sound science, the voters who signed the petition, the organizations who supported it, and the tireless volunteers who collected the signatures of almost 300,000 registered Michigan voters,” said Dan Eichinger, Executive Director for Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC). “This is an important step to protecting the rights to hunt, fish and trap in Michigan from radical animal rights organizations.”

The Act, now law, will allow the Natural Resources Commission to name game species and issue fisheries management decisions using sound science, create a \$1 million rapid response fund to prevent Asian carp, and provide free hunting and fishing licenses for active military members. “We thought it was important to listen to the will of the 300,000 registered voters who brought this initiative to us,” said Representative Bumstead (R-Newaygo). “This is about more than wolves. It’s about protecting the rights of our constituents to hunt and fish by managing our fish and wildlife with sound science.”

As a leader in wetland conservation, DU values the use of scientific principles as a foundation for our programs. The passing of this act will further ensure that science and facts rather than emotion and empathy are used to manage our game species, including waterfowl, into the future. “The Michigan conservation community recognizes that the only way to manage our wildlife is through sound science,” said Steve Wyckoff, State Public Policy Chairman. “When we come together as a united group, with a sound game plan, we can defeat well financed adversaries. Congratulations all.” Upwards of 20 clubs throughout Michigan, including DU, MUCC, the Michigan chapters of Safari Club International, and many others, joined forces to ensure the Act pass, showing just how important the management of our game species and our hunting tradition is to Michigan citizens.

Thanks once again to all of the DU members, volunteers and staff who worked so hard to make the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act a reality!



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## Dane Cramer, Regional Biologist - Michigan

*Team DU is made up of volunteers and staff, grassroots and development, biologists and engineers, and it takes all of us working together to achieve our goals & realize our vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies.*

Completed end of fiscal year budgeting, invoicing, and other close-out activities. My title may very well be Regional Biologist, but there are times that I need to wear an accounting hat. In FY14, the Michigan program was delivered on budget and exceeded its acre goals. And the same is true for the rest of the Great Lakes/ Atlantic Region and we all deserve a pat on the back for that!

Attended the 2014 Michigan State Convention in Sterling Heights. Maybe it's my newly found role as co-chair for our GLARO chapter, but I learned a lot this year. Jason, our chapter's other co-chair, and I took a lot of notes during the breakout sessions about different games to incorporate into our event, approaches to maximize efficiency, and may or may not have sampled some of the breakfast cocktails assembled by Dave and Shannon Steinbach. Good time all around!

Had the opportunity to meet with the Regional Forester for Region 9 of the U.S. Forest Service at Huron-Manistee National Forest near Oscoda during her tour of national forests and highlight the extensive list of partnership opportunities between our respective organizations. Conveniently, the U.S. Forest Service's 20-state Region 9 overlaps entirely with Ducks Unlimited's 21-state Great Lakes/ Atlantic Region and where their national forests overlap with our priority areas, we have developed very successful partnerships with even more potential for wetland conservation projects moving forward (Great Lakes/ Atlantic Region).

Traveled across the Upper Peninsula in early July to review two projects that Ducks Unlimited will be partnering with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on in the upcoming years. These projects, located at Munuscong and Sturgeon River Sloughs State Wildlife Management Areas, will enhance large blocks of wetland habitat at key public areas. Following our site visits, we joined the Upper Peninsula Coastal Initiative's partnership for a kick-off meeting for the grant that this and other work will be funded under the auspices of Chippewa and Baraga/Houghton Counties, Upper Peninsula region.

Completed the submission of a standard North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant proposal that I worked on throughout much of May and June. The proposal, submitted by Ducks Unlimited on behalf of the Southeast Lake Michigan Coastal Habitat Partnership, put forth requested \$1 million of North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant funds matched by approximately \$2.1 million in partner funds to protect, restore, and enhance 1,910 acres of wetlands across the 28-county project area in southwest Michigan.

Began working with Jason and Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff to plan the upcoming Maple River Ribbon Cutting event to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> (Griiot and Clinton Counties).

Spent two days touring potential future projects in the Saginaw Bay region with my Ducks Unlimited engineering counterpart and Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff. The purpose of the trip was to help the Michigan Department of Natural Resources develop wetland management solutions for the various state-owned areas in the region. Our trip took us from Shiawassee River to Crow Island to Fish Point to Nayanquing Point with discussions ranging from maintenance issues to new construction to significantly improve the productivity of wetlands in this important region of the state (Saginaw Bay region).

Worked with our engineering staff to approve a contractor change order for our recently completed Crow Island - East Marsh pump replacement project at Crow Island State Game Area (Saginaw County).

Participated in a regional bio/engineering meeting along with my biologist and engineering colleagues to develop new and innovative ways to deliver conservation projects in future fiscal years.

Completed various due diligence tasks such as Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments and home inspection report and began negotiating a donation agreement for a tradeland donation (Newaygo County).

Although Ducks Unlimited's conservation work is built on our traditional fund raising activities through grassroots events and the generous support of our major donors, planned gifts and gifts of land or real estate also generate a significant amount of revenue that is used to support our conservation mission while providing you with a charitable tax deduction. If you would like more information about these types of gifts, please contact our Director of Gift Planning, Sarah McCallum at [smccallum@ducks.org](mailto:smccallum@ducks.org), or Director of Development, Todd Fox at [tfox@ducks.org](mailto:tfox@ducks.org).

## A Press releases can really help your event

### Does your event need a kick-start?

Some of you might be aware of this little trick, but if you have a local newspaper, you can do a press release for your event and gain free advertising.

Insert your info into the below sample print to reflect your event info on DU letterhead and then send to your local news media. This generally works pretty well.

This also works will to promote a volunteer recruitment meeting.

Below is a sample format:

### Ducks Unlimited Sets Date For Annual Fund-Raiser

*Anytown USA*, Michigan, Mo DD, 2014 - The *Anytown* Chapter of Ducks Unlimited will host its annual Ducks Unlimited Sportsman's Banquet on *XXXday month day, 2014* beginning at *X:00 pm*.

"We are looking forward to a great crowd at this year's Event," said Ducks Unlimited Chapter Chairman *Your name* of *Your Town*. "Everyone is welcome to participate in the event, which will feature live and silent auctions, games and raffles. Attendees can win various items such as guns, wildlife and sporting art as well as goods and services donated by area businesses. Proceeds from the event will go to support DU's wetlands and waterfowl habitat conservation efforts in Michigan, the U.S., Canada, and Mexico."

Ducks Unlimited was formed to provide for the life cycle needs of North America's migratory waterfowl by protecting, restoring, enhancing, and managing important wetlands and associated uplands. DU is the world's largest private sector waterfowl, wetlands, and wildlife conservation organization, with one million supporters and members in the U.S. Since its inception in 1937, DU has raised nearly \$4 billion and conserved over 13 million acres of habitat throughout North America.

For more information, contact *Your Name* at *your number* or see our Michigan Ducks Unlimited Website at: [www.ducks.org/michigan](http://www.ducks.org/michigan).

*Billy Ray Fann*



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## Gov. Snyder celebrates successful conservation project with Michigan DU at Maple River State Game Area



Gov. Rick Snyder and Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh – together with Pete Albrecht, Michigan Ducks Unlimited state chairman, and Dave Brakhage, Ducks Unlimited director of the Great Lakes/ Atlantic Region – today celebrated the completion of important wetland and waterfowl habitat restoration projects at Maple River State Game Area, north of St. Johns.

The event showcased a powerful partnership that included the state of Michigan, the federal government and conservation organizations such as Ducks Unlimited. The groups worked together to restore wildlife habitat in an area that will benefit natural resources throughout mid-Michigan.

“Natural resources are central to our identity as Michiganders and key to our future as a state,” said Gov. Rick Snyder. “This restoration project is a great example of what can happen when government and nonprofit organizations work together for the benefit of Michigan citizens.”

Maple River State Game Area is a 9,000-acre managed complex of wetlands, bottomland hardwood forest, native grasslands, and agricultural uplands that provide habitat for a wide variety of migratory birds and other wildlife. It is the largest contiguous wetland complex in mid-Michigan.

Michigan is home to some of the best waterfowl habitat in the country. The state’s waterfowl hunters spend nearly \$23 million a year during hunting trips. More than \$500,000 has been invested in the Maple River State Game Area’s wetlands in the last four years, highlighting the commitment of the DNR and partners to this important area.

“Michigan DNR has great experience in managing large areas of habitat and we know how pivotal wetlands are to Michigan’s wildlife and environmental health,” said DNR Director Keith Creagh. “We look forward to working with our partners on other projects such as this to benefit – and improve – Michigan’s world-class natural resources.”

For many years the dikes and water-control structures at Maple River had been eroded and damaged by annual flood events, wave action from high water, beaver dams, and muskrat and woodchuck burrowing. Those challenges made management of the impoundments very difficult. The inability to manage the wetland units led to degraded wetlands and dwindling waterfowl use. That, in turn, meant declining numbers of users of the area, particularly waterfowl hunters.

In 2010, the DNR made the restoration of the Maple River wetland a priority. Staff has been working ever since to increase user satisfaction, enhance wetland habitat, increase waterfowl use throughout migrations and improve hunter access.

Positive results are already visible. The wetlands are healthy and productive and are supporting larger numbers of ducks and the waterfowl hunting use of the area appears to be increasing.

“I am very pleased that waterfowlers in this part of the state will enjoy an enhanced experience in this restored wetland complex,” said Ducks Unlimited’s Albrecht. “These areas and restorations add up, and so do the hunters. Fishing, hunting and trapping are a \$4.7 billion business in Michigan.”

This habitat not only attracts waterfowl hunters, but also other visitors who support the regional economy. Natural resources and recreation opportunities are integral to Michigan’s identity. Thousands of spring and fall migrating waterfowl and waterbirds use the area each year, as do thousands of hunters, anglers, hikers and wildlife watchers.