



The MI Marsh Chatter



A Word from our Chairman

Dave Steinbach: 2015 & 2016 State Chairman



2015 is here and I would like to start with a little reflection of 2014. Under the Leadership of Pete Albrecht, Michigan Ducks Unlimited continued to improve and across the board our numbers were outstanding. Pete's leadership leaves me with some very large shoes to fill. I as well as Pete would like to thank all of the volunteers again for your persistent dedication to our waterfowl and wetlands.

As all new State Chairmen, I start my term with high hopes and a list of things I would like to get accomplished over the next two years. Building on the foundation formed by you the volunteers and our past leaders I don't see how we will not be able to complete these items.

Youth and Education has now become a key target for Ducks Unlimited, here as well as nation wide. I am looking for a volunteer who would like to step up to leading this charge. No longer called the Green-wing Chair this position now will also include High School as well as Higher Education chapters and events. If you have ideas in this area please let me know and we can begin forging ahead with this new direction.

Senior Volunteers are going to be one of my main focuses. Our Zone and District Chairs are some of the best in the country, but currently we have about two thirds as many as we had 10 years ago. These highly committed volunteers truly make the tasks of fund raising easier, all up and down our ranks. They can reduce some of the constant burden on our RD staff, as well as offer experienced advice to new, up and coming Area Chairmen. These positions do carry a certain level of responsibility, which includes attending and participating in our two State Committee meetings as well as some local District meetings. This is where information is distributed and new ideas are circulated, giving strength to all of our fundraising.

Lastly I want to stress FUN in all we do. Remember we are all volunteers and we are doing what we do on our own free time. Make it fun for others, and if you are not having fun, let someone know. As I like to say. If I want hate and discontent, I will just go to work more!

Again, Thank You for all you DU,

Dave Steinbach

JANUARY-MARCH 2015

In this issue:



Convention season

The State and National Conventions are not far off. Start making your plans to attend today!

[Full story on page 5](#)



MSU Chapter Hunt

Several MSU University chapter members got to go on their first Duck Hunt this fall, and even shot a banded bird!

[Full story on page 3](#)



Volunteer Recruitment

A few pointers on increasing the size of your committee from RD Billy Ray Fann!

[Full story on page 6](#)



Braised Venison Shanks

Wondering what to do with the leg shanks from your deer? Try this recipe and you won't throw them away again!

[Full Recipe on page 4](#)



LSSU Chapter Cleanup

Current and past members of the Lake Superior State Univ. chapter help to clean up local State Forest land.

[Full Story on page 2](#)

LSSU Ducks Unlimited Chapter helps clean up local State Forest



Members of Lake Superior State University's student chapter of Ducks Unlimited were just in time to beat the snow when they worked recently with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in removing more trash from an area of Lake Superior State Forest near Kinross. This is the fourth year that the club has held the forest clean-up in an area of the forest that is popular with target shooters but also attracts people who use the area for illegal dumping. At times, the students have filled a 30-yard dumpster and DNR pick-up truck with trash dumped in the area, including tires, household trash, metal, scrap wood, televisions, furniture and more. Most of the items picked up in this year's effort were smaller, but they still filled the better part of a dumpster.

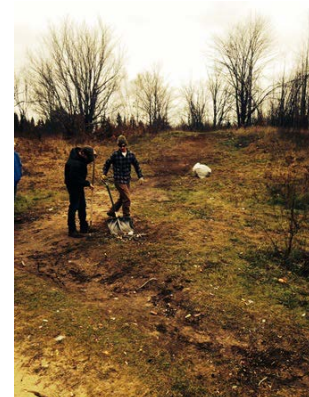
Pictured here with a portion of the trash they collected are chapter secretary Sam Griffin, North Branch; Chad Cook, Sault Ste. Marie; Ryan Buchler, Oak Forest, Ill.; Logan Archibald, Fowlerville; alumnus Jason Burkhart, Rockland, Wisc.; Nick Dion, Essexville; and Patrick James, Cincinnati, Ohio. All are fisheries and wildlife management majors except for Cook, who is majoring in parks and recreation management, and Burkhart, who graduated recently with a geology degree.

LSSU's Ducks Unlimited chapter is one of the few active student chapters in the state. Formed in 2007, it helps raise funds for DU, which is one of the oldest conservation groups in the country. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the group's banquet this March. For banquet details contact Jake Crawford at 231-564-1730.

BEFORE



AFTER



MSU committee go on 1st Duck Hunt

MSU Student DU Chapter Chairperson Kali Rush (left) and Chapter Member Hailey Yondo (right) on their first ever duck hunt (any hunt for that matter). They enjoyed the restored habitat at Nelson Farms in Clinton County Michigan. They had just completed their hunter safety course Tuesday evening with Instructor Dr. Mike Everett and were ready to go Thursday morning on a very foggy, still day. The birds were squealing audibly from 200 yards as we hiked toward the marsh in the dark, and the day just got better.

Note the jewelry on Hailey's drake wood duck! She is the only person I know whose first duck was a banded bird (already called in the number and learned it was banded in Roscommon County September 2014). The bird led pup Casey and I on a merry chase of more than 100 yards with Casey's nose winning in the end. What a great day!

Dr. Chuck Nelson
Associate Professor, & Chapter Advisor



First Quarter Events

January

10 th	Vol. celebration	Craig Curtis	ccurtis@ducks.org
10 th	Monroe Hunters	Tracy Oberleiter	tracy.oberleiter@mbandt.com
25 th	S. Kent Euchre	Blair Bissel	bbissell@pypertool.com
29 th	Orion-Oxford	Joel McCormick	248-417-2055
30 th - 31 st	LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (don't miss it!)		
		Dave Steinbach	steinbac@umich.edu

February

5 th	The Huntsman	Gaylord Jowet	231-417-0963
6 th	GLARO Dinner	Jason Hill	jhill@ducks.org
12 th	Flat River SNO	Max Lehman	max_lehman@big-l-lumber.com
13 th	Davison/Flint	Jim Toth	810-869-5323
14 th	E. UP Sponsors	Dan Heuer	duckman@jamadots.com
15 th	Sag. Bay Euchre	Perry Pelton	989-846-6425
17 th	Greater Kalamazoo	Tom Comer	kalmazoodu@gmail.com
21 st	Huron Shores	Bill Kidder	bkidderintawas@msn.com
21 nd	Cass City	Mike Bauerschmidt	mike@galaxyom.com
21 nd	Lapeer	Steve Green	
20 th	Huron Shores	Bill Kidder	bkidderintawas@msn.com
27 th	Cass River	Brian Thomson	bthomson@execmortgageofmi.com
28 th	Gun River	Brian Pursley	blpursley19@hotmail.com

March

6 th	Bay Co.	Brian Kunz	woodman21@chartermi.net
7 th	S. Kent Co.	Joe Zupancic	ausable_joe@yahoo.com
7 th	S. Wayne Co.	Kristen Hawkins	734-341-5358
12 th	Cheboygan DHP	Tom Scheske	231-627-4519
12 th	Paw Paw	Matty Kubiak	mattku@jeld-wen.com
13 th	Tuscola Co.	Mike Bauerschmidt	mike@galaxyom.com
15 th	Eaton County	Dave Martin	macman511@juno.com
19 th	Lac De Ste Claire	Rex Marshal	RexMarshall44@yahoo.com
20 th	Lake St. Claire	Gary Stahl	810-343-2438
21 st	Mid Shiawassee	Bill Pearsall	989-798-6569
21 st	Sanford	Dan Merillat	dahk76@gmail.com
21 st	LSSU	Jake Crawford	231-564-1730
24 th	Huron Valley		
27 th	Saginaw Bay	Larry Emans	Leroy_1998@hotmail.com
27 th	Chesaning	Cindy Zietz-Lemaire	zlcritterbabe@hotmail.com
28 th	Monroe	Tracy Oberleiter	tracy.oberleiter@mbandt.com
28 th	Raisin Valley	Troy Vance	tvance@hva.org
TBA	Hunters Creek	John Walker	248-514-0496

April

11 th	Midland Spon.	Dr. James Freye	canvasbackone@aol.com
12 th	Chain-O-Lakes	Linda Hoogerhyde	marykay@torchlake.com
12 th	AuSable Valley	Paul Thompson	pdthompson@fs.fed.us

Recipe of the Quarter

KGCIIG OI IUG QNSILIGI

Braised Venison Shanks

Compliments of State Chair Dave Steinbach

Ingredients:

6 Venison shanks	
½ cup olive oil	2 celery stalks, chopped
2 carrots, chopped	1 large onion, chopped
½ cup tomato paste	2 cups dry red wine
¾ cup dry white wine	several sprigs fresh thyme
2 bay leaves	All of the cloves from one head garlic
¼ cup apple cider vinegar	1 cup demi-glace
2 cups Beef Stock	salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preparation and Cooking:

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.

Season the Venison shanks with salt and pepper.

Heat oil in a large heavy pot over medium heat. Sear venison shanks, until brown all over.

Remove from pot, & set aside.

Add celery, carrot, & onion, and cook until soft & beginning to brown.

Add tomato paste, & cook about 3 minutes more.

Stir in the red & white wine, thyme, bay leaf, garlic & vinegar. Bring to a boil.

Cook for about 5 minutes, then add demi-glace and Beef stocks.

Add venison shanks & return to a boil.

Cover & transfer to oven. Cook for 1 hour.

Uncover & cook until meat is tender, turning shanks every half hour, about 2 ½ hours.

Remove shanks from braising liquid, strain & discard the solids.

Skim any fat that rises to the surface & use the liquid as a sauce.

Serve with mushroom risotto.



You can never start too early with Volunteer Recruitment

Now is a great time to begin focus on volunteer recruitment efforts. Whether your event is this spring or if it is in the fall, it's never too early to begin this planning process.

Volunteer recruitment is the key to success and makes hosting DU events much less stressful, more fun and a heck of a lot easier. Committee strength is also a great way to expand your network of friends or waterfowl hunting buddies. Chapters should have recruitment events as part of their banquet planning protocol.

The typical DU banquet planning process takes 9 weeks of concentrated meeting focus before the event. I recommend planning a recruitment meeting (specifically set for this purpose) at the 8 to 15 weeks out from the DU banquet event date point in time.

Volunteer Recruiting utilizes 3 basic recruitment methods:

- **Blanket Recruitment** – as this phrase suggests a broad dissemination of information including mass mailings and emails, posters, word of mouth, social media and other verbal and written forms of media.
- **Concentric Circles** – Basically this is recruitment in your circles of friends, co-workers and other daily contacts. This area is where your success is most likely.
- **Targeted** – this involves recruiting individuals with a special skill or talent. This requires a planned approach and high success rates can be achieved with this method. A great example is recruiting a Social Media Chairman or a person that's diverse in the use of Facebook.

Use of any three of the methods singly or in combination can be done. Developing your needs and a plan is crucial in decision factors for creating a recipe that will fulfill a chapter's specific need. Your Regional Director and your District Chairman can assist you with the development of a plan for your needs. Your Regional Director can also assist you with mass mailings both hard copy and emails.

Here are some tips for pre-meeting efforts:

Pre-Meeting Recruiting Tips

1. Committee must take ownership
2. Select Targets and follow through (see above)
3. Open Invitation to join the cause (news article, posters, postcards)
4. Hold the event somewhere comfortable and fun
5. Assign each prospect a mentor from the committee
- 6.

Follow through on recruitment leads or potential candidates!

Follow Through Tips

1. Letter of acknowledgement
2. Follow-up phone call to prospect (prequalify and invitation)
3. Meet in person before the meeting (even if its 15 minutes before the meeting)
4. Mentor from the committee

Timing and focus of this meeting are critical to your success and once this meeting has taken place.... it aint over....the real work begins. The candidates must be qualified and then a structured follow up process must take place.

Post recruitment meeting tips

1. Close the deal and put him/her to work!
2. Immediate meaningful assignment
3. Encourage attendance at following meetings
4. Assign escort for next meeting(s)
5. Put him next to a star

Billy Ray Fann



Fish Point Lodge on Saginaw Bay

Waterfowl Hunting Outfitters since 1986

-Guided Hunts

-Open water blind rentals

-Lodging and RV sites

www.fishpointlodge.com

Phone 989-674-2631




Save the Date
2015 Michigan Ducks Unlimited State Convention

Please join us August 6th-8th at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse

City for the 2015 Michigan Ducks Unlimited State Convention!

- ◆ We have some great things in store for you at this years convention– Starting with a Duck Waddle Dinner at local restaurants in Downtown Traverse City, Charter Fishing, A Wine Tasting Tour on Friday Afternoon, a themed Dinner Friday night, Breakout Informational Meetings Saturday morning and our Annual Awards Dinner Saturday Night.
- ◆ Additional information will be available beginning in Mid-February but hold those dates now– you will want to be sure to join the fun!

Rooms at the Convention Rate of \$139 a night are limited and will revert to normal rates once gone so it is important to make your reservations early! Rate is for up to 4 people per room. Additional charges of \$30 per person may apply for guests over 4. Reservations can be made at Great Wolf Lodge, 1-866-954-9653 and identify yourself as a member of group #1408DUCKS.

If you are interested in assisting with the State Convention please contact Diana Anderson at 734-755-2020.



DUCKS UNLIMITED

Ducks Unlimited National Convention

Mark your calendars now for our 78th National Convention in Milwaukee!

Join us May 27-31, 2015 at the Hilton City Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for our 78th convention!

Fall News from our Conservation Programs

Began drafting agreements for the 90-acre Sterling State Park fish passage and wetland habitat project. Ducks Unlimited recently received over \$127,000 of funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Fish Passage and Coastal Programs to implement this project. A topographic survey will be initiated by Ducks Unlimited engineering staff this winter to kick off the project (Monroe County).

Construction and reporting to The Nature Conservancy is now complete for the Erie Marsh Preserve - Phase I restoration project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We will be meeting with The Nature Conservancy in the near future to discuss next steps to begin the implementation of Phase II of the project (Monroe County).

Met with the Natural Resources Conservation Services staff in Michigan to discuss an opportunity to collaborate on engineering for Wetlands Reserve Enhancement projects across the state.

Attended the final session & successfully completed the Great Lakes Leadership Academy course. Joined the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in a joint effort to orchestrate a ribbon cutting for the recently completed Maple River State Game Area projects. Pictured at left is our own State Chairman, Mr. Pete Albrecht, with Governor Rick Snyder at the event (Gratiot and Clinton Counties).

Continued contracting work for the 175-acre Ford Marsh restoration project. Funded by 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 as part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge (Monroe Co.).

Joined the Ducks Unlimited Monroe Chapter at the Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival.

Worked with The Nature Conservancy and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide Ducks Unlimited cost share on two Regional Conservation Partnership Program proposals under the new Farm Bill for the Saginaw Bay and Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin watersheds.

Ducks Unlimited received a formal funding agreement for over \$560,000 through the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. Supported by both the Michigan and Ohio Department 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. Multiple potential Michigan projects were identified for implementation in the Western Lake Erie watershed.

Joined Ducks Unlimited regional biologists and managers from across our Great Lakes/Atlantic Region at the first annual biologist coordination meeting in Port Clinton, Ohio.

Joined Gildo Tori, Steve Wyckoff, and Dane at the Ducks Unlimited hosted Legislative Sportsman Caucus Breakfast in Lansing.

Joined Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff on a site tour of St. Johns Marsh for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to help determine if future project implementation is feasible. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for December (St. Clair County).

Submitted a final report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the successful completion of the Anchor Bay-St. Clair Flats Phragmites Control and Education Project. Funded by Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, this report finalized the control of over 2,600 acres of Phragmites on public and private lands across the St. Clair Flats (St. Clair County).

Dane Cramer, Michigan Regional Biologist



DUCKS UNLIMITED WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Todd Fox joins conservation team

ANN ARBOR, Mich. –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. The Great Lakes Initiative is a meaningful initiative to this area of the country. It not only supports important breeding, migrating and even wintering habitat areas throughout North America where many Great Lakes ducks originate, but local wetland conservation as well.”

“I am really pleased to be joining the Ducks Unlimited team,” said Fox.

“I am genuinely looking forward to building relationships with dedicated supporters on behalf of Ducks Unlimited.”

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 developing an interest in shooting and firearms he started hunting at age 16 in West Michigan. Fox enjoys hunting with his family and spending time afield attempting to harvest ducks, deer, turkey, grouse, pheasants and small game.



Director of Development
Todd Fox

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

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. Connect with us on our Facebook page at facebook.com/DucksUnlimited, follow our tweets at twitter.com/DucksUnlimited and watch DU videos at youtube.com/DucksUnlimitedInc.