



The MI Marsh Chatter



Michigan Ducks Unlimited



Volume 2, Issue 1

1st Quarter, 2016

A Word from our Chairman

Dave Steinbach: 2015 & 2016 State Chairman



Winter is here, at least by the calendar, With 2015 about to end, so also does my first year serving as your State Chairman. It has been a fun and rewarding year, which has seen a lot of hard work from our volunteers re-

sulting in big dividends for the ducks. Most of our goals have been met, many have been exceeded and I look forward to the challenges of 2016.

Michigan DU started the year with a great leadership conference at Higgins Lake for our volunteers. This was followed closely by a fantastic spring event season that produced some very positive numbers in fundraising. The summer slowed until the State Convention, which was one of the best in a number of years. Just as we caught our breath from the convention we were into the fall with many outstanding events, hunting adventures, and, the autumn splendor that we enjoy and sometimes take for granted. Now here we are in the winter season. I have attended a number of great holiday/volunteer appreciation events and gotten to socialize with many of you. It could not have been a better year for Michigan Ducks Unlimited and I.

The 2016 calendars are just about gone, but if you need a last minute gift you may still be able to scare one up. Thank you again for supporting this important fundraising program. It truly makes a big difference to our bottom line. Look for some exciting news about next year's calendar program, in the near future.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to our new and continuing university chapters. MSU started the year out by setting the bar high. Kali and the spartans did a great job. LSSU continues to support the ducks as well as Wayne State. New this year, were

Michigan Tech, and the U of M chapters. Shortly Western Michigan Univ., NMU, Northwood and several others will throw their hats into the ring. It is really great to attend these events and interact with these outstanding young adults. They truly do us proud!

Volunteer recruitment as always in a big target in our crosshairs. I urge all of you when it comes time to begin planning your next event, to take a friend with you. You all know the saying that "one new committee member on average brings 10 new attendees to your event".

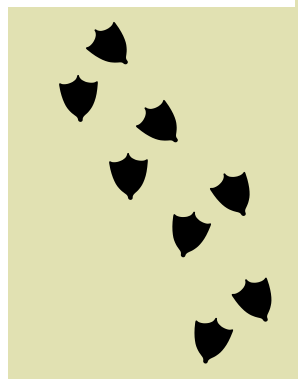
Lastly, I would like to touch on an idea I got from a volunteer who was visiting our state. He commented that with all of the great volunteers in Michigan one thing that could be improved is that we need more comradery. I gave this some thought, including looking up the definition to see if it was the same as what I thought it was. I found that he may be correct. Comradery, is a special bond and feeling within a group that has the same goals and objectives. This does not mean that this is currently a group of friends but often this is a stepping-stone to the creation of great friendships. I believe this is what John Tomke meant when he said "*I came for cause and I stayed for the people*". So Area Chairmen, I would ask you to make your chapter interactions fun and engaging, both before, during, **and after your event.**

With that I would like to say good night to 2015, and again thank all of you the volunteers of Michigan Ducks Unlimited, for your hard work and dedication to the Ducks. Merry Christmas and, Thank You for all you DU,

Dave Steinbach

Inside this issue:

NEW STATE LEGISLATION NEWS	2
MICHIGAN FARMERS AND DU ON CAPITAL HILL	3
FEATHER SOCIETY	4
NON-RESIDENT LICENSE NEWS	5
DON'T WAIT TO GET YOUR PLATES!	2, 8 9
CHAPTER NEWS	6
UPCOMING 4TH QTR EVENTS	7



New Zorn, Pavlov Legislation Protects Our Natural Resources

Submitted By Chris Sebastian

Protecting Michigan's natural resources, hunting heritage and wild game just got easier under legislation sponsored by state Sens. Dale Zorn and Phil Pavlov and signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Zorn sponsored Senate Bills 245 and 246, now Public Acts 188 and 189 of 2015. The measures toughen penalties and increase restitution for individuals convicted of the illegal killing, possessing, purchasing or selling of certain animals in Michigan.

"These new laws help to ensure wild game is protected and the long heritage of hunting in Michigan is preserved for future generations," said Zorn, R-Ida. "They also preserve the natural resources of Michigan for enjoyment by everyone."

Under Zorn's legislation, an individual convicted of illegally killing, possessing, purchasing or selling moose or elk will lose their license for 15 calendar years for a first offense and for lifetime for a second offense. If the animal were a bear or antlered white-tailed deer, the individual will lose their license for five calendar years for a first offense and for ten years for a second offense.

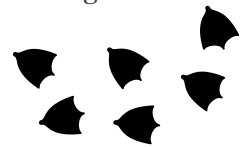


Photo caption: Sens. Phil Pavlov, R-St. Clair Township (left) and Dale Zorn, R-Ida (right) hold Senate Bills 244 (Pavlov) and 245-246 (Zorn), now Public Acts 187, 188 and 189 of 2015, after they were signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder on Wednesday. The new laws increase restitution and toughen penalties for individuals convicted of the illegal killing, possessing, purchasing or selling of certain animals in Michigan.

Pavlov, R-St. Clair Township, sponsored SB 244, now PA 187 of 2015. The law increases existing fines for these crimes. The new fines are as follows:

- Elk: \$5,000 per animal (with additional fines for antlered elk);
- Moose: \$5,000 per animal (with additional fines for antlered moose);
- Bear: \$3,500 per animal;
- Eagle: \$1,500 per animal;
- Bearded turkey: \$1,000 per animal; and
- Waterfowl: \$500 per animal.

"Our natural resources and hunting heritage must be protected," said Pavlov, vice chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. "Poaching is a despicable, illegal activity that threatens these traditions. With these laws, we have more weapons in the fight against poaching."



Don't Wait to Get Your Plates!

Don't wait to order your Michigan Ducks Unlimited License Plate. Consider printing the order form and leaving a few on each table at your event. You can order it at any time, even if you are not up for renewal. See the attached order form or click the license plate right here to get yours today! Find the form at :. https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1585_1595_9026-336981--,00.html or on page 9 of this newsletter

Jason Hill



Recipe of the Quarter

CORNED GOOSE

Ingredients:

4 -6 Goose Breasts

1 cup Morton's Tender Quick

½ cup sugar*

½ cup pickling spice

1 head garlic cloves (minced) about ¼ cup of minced from a jar.

¼ cup of apple cider vinegar

Directions:

In a non-metallic container that seals tight, mix brine and meat with enough water to cover meat.

Refrigerate for 7 days.

Shake at least once a day.

Submitted by David Steinbach

*Note 1 (I have used a mix of both white and brown sugar)

After 7 days, rinse meat to remove loose spices.

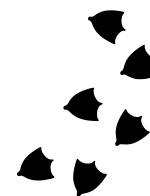
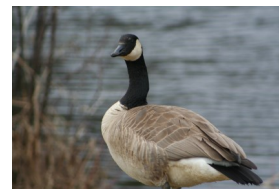
Put 4 tablespoons of pickling spice in two Bouquet Garni (Cheesecloth bags).

Put both the meat and the cloth bag into a pot of water with just a splash of apple cider vinegar.

Boil/Simmer for about 3 hours.

*Note—You will need to add water while simmering.

Allow meat to cool before slicing.



Michigan Farmers Tout Conservation Reserve Program to Washington, D.C. lawmakers

By Chris Sebastian

Bay County landowners James and DeAnn Sattelberg traveled to the nation's Capital on Dec. 2 to tell lawmakers how the Conservation Reserve Program has benefited their farm and the surrounding environment.

The Sattelbergs established Everbest Organics nearly 18 years ago in Munger in southeast Bay County, Michigan, growing certified organically grown grains and beans. Today nearly 320 acres of their 2,500 acre, fifth-generation family farm, Bay Shore Farms, is dedicated to the Conservation Reserve Program. Administered through the Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality in exchange for a yearly rental payment.

"We were raised on farms, and I recognize the feeling about feeding the world," said DeAnn Sattelberg. "But you shouldn't destroy your environment to feed the world. We are the first ones who drink the local water." The Sattelbergs don't farm the edges of their fields, creating a natural buffer zone that separates them from the local waterways which feed into Saginaw Bay. The buffer zone also keeps any surrounding chemicals away from their organic operations. "It's really important to keep the water systems free from runoff, whether from farms or livestock" Sattelberg said. The Sattelbergs and other landowners from across the country were invited by Ducks Unlimited to attend a 30th anniversary celebration of the Conservation Reserve Program in Washington. The Sattelbergs spoke with numerous Congressional representatives and staff members about the program's benefits.

Ducks Unlimited was one of 25 conservation and agriculture organizations sponsoring the 30th anniversary celebration, which thanked members of Congress and the administration for their continued support for this program.



Photo caption: From left: Gildo Tori, DU's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region director of public policy; U.S. Rep. Candice Miller; and Michigan farmers DeAnn and James Sattelberg discuss the Conservation Reserve Program during a visit to Washington D.C.



Planning now for how your affairs will be handled, whatever your stage in life, is a good idea. A few simple steps today through an estate plan can give you peace of mind tomorrow by ensuring that you and your loved ones are protected.

Your estate plan can also be used to support charitable causes that matter most to you, such as Ducks Unlimited's conservation mission. Legacy gifts are critical to the long-term sustainability of DU.

We encourage you to request a helpful planning booklet, "Planning Your Legacy, A Guide to Planning Your Will & Trust." Our program is tailored to provide all of the assistance possible to you, your family and your advisors.

For more information, contact **Sarah McCallum**, DU director of gift planning, at (734) 623-2031 or smccallum@ducks.org. You can also visit us at www.ducksgift.org

Non-Resident License Situation for Out-of-State Waterfowlers

by Steve Wyckoff and Gildo Tori

One of the greatest pleasures of hunting ducks are the people you do it with. This past season I (Steve) was fortunate to have a close friend from Iowa join me for the opening weekend. To his surprise the cost of the out of state license was almost prohibitive (\$151 non-resident base plus \$12 MI waterfowl license = \$163!), particularly with no shorter season options. He did purchase the license, but only after thinking about it over a long period. I'm sure many of you have experienced this or heard stories of others who were not happy with the non-resident license situation. The GLAR office has received a fair number of disgruntled calls over the last couple of years as well.

The Wildlife Division has heard from a lot of waterfowlers as well, and concurs that the license structure doesn't work for short term out of state duck hunters. The current license structure provides a seven day small game license at reduced cost, but waterfowl hunting is not included in this. One solution would be for non-residents waterfowl hunters to be allowed to purchase a 7-day small game license, in addition to the state waterfowl license. There may be other solutions as well that would need to be vetted with the DNR and legislature.

However, to do this takes legislative action, and therein lies the problem. Right now the license legislation is set to be reviewed every five years – and we have two years remaining. To make a correction now would mean opening up the entire license package, and there doesn't seem to be much desire within the DNR to do this because it might mean other undesirable actions could be taken in the license law.

Ducks Unlimited is staying on top of this and working for a fairer non-resident waterfowl package for our non-Michigan friends that would like to join us. We will continue the dialogue with the DNR, Legislature and Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus to find the best remedy. Let us know if you have any thoughts or ideas. We will keep you updated as this plays out.

Nayanquing Point State Game Area Youth Event



The above photos shows the opening day of duck season youth event at the Nayanquing Point State Game Area. MI DU has participated in this event along with MI DNR for ten years now. Each youth hunter is given a Greenwing Membership and a duck call or hat. Refreshments are provided for the youth and all hunters and anyone that visits this site on opening day. Pictured are DU Zone Chairman Linda Ahleman, MI DNR Site Manager Brandy Dybas-Berger, and DU State Treasurer Dale Borske. Missing from the picture is DU Zone Chairman Bill Roth.

2015 Flat River Chapter Committee Pheasant Hunt



"It's going to be wet out there," was the comment that started our 2015 Committee Pheasant Hunt. That comment was definitely an understatement, but despite the constant rain throughout the morning all the hunters had a great time and walked away with some birds.

For 20+ years, Tom Marks, of the Blodgett Creek Hunt Club has been supporting the Flat River Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. Each year he donates a youth pheasant hunt for our banquet and provides us as a Committee a reduced price on a first class pheasant hunt.

With the strangest weather I can remember for a December pheasant hunt; 55 degrees and torrential downpour, we had 13 hunters all ready to go bright and early. We definitely looked more like a bunch of duck hunters rather than upland bird hunters with our wader coats on, but a little orange over the top of the camo made us safe.

After a brief meet and greet with our guides for the day, and a quick safety meeting we were off in groups of four or five hunters. Blodgett Creek Hunt Club encompasses several different farms and has quite a bit of varying terrain. Our group drew the "West 80" farm which has everything for cover from cattail swales to grasslands, cornfields, and autumn olive and briar thickets. Pam and Tom were our guides along with four of their very best dogs, and we got down to business right away. It didn't take us too long to realize this was going to be an enjoyable day. The birds were definitely not holding tight, we had birds flushing out for no apparent reason and the runners had track shoes on. Despite this we had great shooting, birds fell, the dogs retrieved, and we didn't lose a single cripple. I cannot say that we had no escapees, some of the shooting in the cover was tough, but it was all good for some harassing over the misses.

Did I mention the RAIN? I didn't see the birds flying in two by two formation heading toward an Ark, but I knew it was wet when I had three inches of water accumulate in the pocket of my jacket when reaching for a fresh shell. By noon the rain had subsided a bit, not that it really mattered; couldn't get much wetter at that point anyway.

After our group took our thirteenth bird we headed back to the trucks and to the lodge, where a hot lunch was waiting for us. I know some of our committee come to this annual hunt just for the lunch that Tom provides us. Again, this year he didn't disappoint. We started out with chili and all the fixings, cheese, salami, and crackers for appetizers. The main dinner was;

meatloaf, pork steak in gravy, with loaded baked beans, corn, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes and gravy, and a salad for the health conscious among us. If we were still hungry, three pies and cookies awaited us as the guides cleaned and packaged our 28 pheasants for the trip home.

This annual outing for our Chapter is a great bonding and friendship event for us. We try to put as much emphasis on our team having fun together as we do on the planning of our three yearly events. This is a great way get to know one another and enjoy a day together. I'd like to thank Tom Marks and all his guides for the opportunity they give us every year

and the support that they give for the ducks, we all very much appreciate it.



Third Quarter Events

JANUARY

10th	Monroe Hunters Night Out	Pat Doran 734-735-0686
29th	Orion-Oxford Dinner	Joel McCormick 248-417-2055

FEBRUARY

11th	Flat River SNO	Max Lehman 989-620-6791
12th	GLARO 2016 Chili Cookoff	Debra Gray 734-623-2000
18th	Allendale DU Dinner	Josh Haverkamp 616-292-1069
19th	MSU DU Dinner	Kali Rush 810-399-3983
20th	Lapeer County Banquet	Steve Green 810-614-5241
27th	Sault Ultimate Sponsor Event	Dan Heuer 906-248-2191

MARCH

12th	Flat River Shoot	Max Lehman 989-620-6791
19th	Huron Valley Annual Banquet	David Miekle 810-355-1217
19th	Monroe Spring Dinner	Marshal Anderson 734-755-0374
26th	Raisin Valley Dinner	Troy Vance 517-759-8711

DU Website– A Wealth of Valuable Information!

Have you been on the DU Website lately? Did you know that you can find a wealth of information there, not only for DU Nationally, but for our State? If you look near the top of the page, you can select your state, and under the State of Michigan, you can find local events, the latest news around the state, the latest fundraising information, DU facts and State Contact information. So please be sure to go to www.ducks.org and select Michigan to find a wealth of valuable information!



Photo courtesy of David Bowers



April 14, 2015

Greetings Ducks Unlimited Supporters,

Now is the time to Show Your Colors!

As many of you know Ducks Unlimited in Michigan had a successful 2014 where we worked to pass legislation in support of the Michigan DU license plate. Currently, Ducks Unlimited is the only conservation organization who has a Michigan specialty plate.

Be proud of this special organization that has spent over \$33 million dollars on projects here in Michigan, conserving over 76 thousand acres of waterfowl related habitat. No other conservation organization has done this much for waterfowl and waterfowl habitat in Michigan.

Now you can help even more. By purchasing a plate for \$35 dollars, \$25 dollars of your license plate fee goes directly to Ducks Unlimited Michigan for use on projects only in Michigan. That's right; this money stays right here in the Great Lake State!

As the State Chairman of Ducks Unlimited, I am personally asking you to further support our efforts here and purchase your plate today. You do not have to wait until your current plate needs renewing and if you want to personalize your plate, go to the Secretary of State office near you and renew your plate. "GOMIDU" is a great example of what your plate can be!

Thank you again for all of your support and work for DU.

Dave Steinbach

Michigan DU State Chairman



Order Your Ducks Unlimited Fundraising License Plate Today!

To replace a valid license plate with a Ducks Unlimited plate, or to purchase a collector version, fill out this application. When you purchase a Ducks Unlimited plate, \$25 of the \$35 purchase fee is given to the special cause. For an additional prorated fee, your plate may be personalized. Check for the availability of a personalized plate using [Plate it Your Way](#). Personalized plates may only be ordered at a Secretary of State office. Your new plate will arrive by mail within 21 days. Note: A \$10 fee is added to your vehicle registration fee when renewing a fundraising plate. The university or special cause receives the \$10.

To Purchase by MAIL:

Complete the order form below. If paying by check or money order, make payable to **State of Michigan**. If paying by Discover, MasterCard or Visa credit card, complete the credit card section below. Mail the completed application along with payment to: **Michigan Department of State, Renewal By Mail Unit, Lansing, MI 48918.**

To Purchase by FAX:

If purchasing by fax, you must pay by credit card. Fax the completed application to: **517-322-6822, 24 hours a day/7 days a week.**



Ducks Unlimited Collector Plates

When you purchase a collector plate for \$35, the special cause or university receives \$25. Collector plates are for **display purposes only — not for vehicle registration**. Each collector plate includes the word "SAMPL," the special cause or university logo and name. Collector plates cannot be personalized. To order by mail or fax, complete this form, making sure to include your address.

SPECIAL CAUSE LICENSE PLATE ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Current Plate Number(s)	Special Cause Code	Current Plate Number(s)	Special Cause Code
_____	DKU	_____	DKU
_____	DKU	_____	DKU

<input type="text"/>	Special Cause License Plate(s) Quantity
<input type="text"/>	Collector License Plate(s) Quantity
0	X \$35 =
<input type="text"/>	TOTAL DUE

Complete this section if purchasing Collector License Plate(s) ONLY

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Credit Card Expiration Date

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State Chairman- David Steinbach
State Treasurer- Dale Borske
State Secretary- Diana Anderson

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Marsh Chatter Needs You!

Marsh Chatter is a quarterly newsletter put out by the volunteer group of Michigan Ducks Unlimited to help keep our members and volunteers up on the latest happenings around the State. To make sure we have the latest information, we need YOU! Please submit articles about events and happenings in your area to State Secretary, Diana Anderson. We will include all appropriate articles depending on space constraints.

Articles should be 175 words or less. Longer articles may be submitted but may be edited or omitted due to space constraints. Feel free to include pictures. All articles need to be in to Diana no later than the middle of the month prior to the beginning of the quarter. March for April publication, June for July publication, September for October publication and December for January publication.

Many Thanks to ITC for their 2014 and 2015 Michigan State Convention Sponsorship! Their support helps us continue the DU Mission through our volunteers!



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