



The MI Marsh Chatter



Volume 2, Issue 4

4th Quarter, 2016

A Word from our Chairman

Dave Steinbach: 2015 & 2016 State Chairman



WOO HOO - Fall is here!

I would be lying if I said this was not my favorite time of year. Living on a lake I wake to the music of the geese honking as they warm up for their morning flights. There are wood ducks and mallards on every pond as I drive to work along with groups of Sandhill Cranes stalking the wheat and hay fields. And hopefully the air will soon have that crisp coolness that heralds this time of year.

After a brief summer lull in activity the Michigan Ducks Unlimited engine is back humming along. The fall is not our peak season, but it is very important, none the less. Events are being held across the state so make sure you go to the MI DU web page and find an event to go and have some fun at. Attend someone else's event a find some new ideas for your own.

August 27th kicked off the fall events for me with a Waterfowl Symposium hosted by MI DU, the DNR, the US Fish and Wildlife service, and several other groups. The event was held at the Frank-enmuth Conservation Club, and featured sporting dog demonstrations, waterfowl calling, decoy carving and informational talks by our biologists as well as the DNR. The rain came down as it should on waterfowl hunters, but everyone there seemed to be having a great time. Hats off to Dale Borske for dreaming this event up and for the coordination of the many different groups that helped.

A couple of weeks ago I was honored to represent you at the dedication event for

the Koster Tract near Grand Rapids. Just across the Grand River from Grand Valley State University, this mile long stretch of the lower Grand River really highlights what we stand for. 119 acres of prime wetlands were secured and protected from development is now part of the Ottawa County parks, and will be the home to many types of waterfowl and wildlife. Support from the Greater Grand Rapids chapter of DU was a key element to this project.

One week after the Koster Tract dedication I was invited to see the Greater Grand Rapids beast in action. With 300 attendees the committee had about 30 corporate tables, several of which went for \$5,500 per table, and they should be close to netting \$100,000 for the ducks. Congratulations to Drew and the rest of the committee for a job well done.

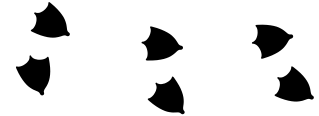
On a sad note we lost one of our long time volunteers this month, with the passing of Terry Chrivia. Terry was instrumental in forging our current State DU bylaws as well as a long time volunteer. He will be greatly missed.

With that I end my last newsletter article as your State Chairman. January first I will had over the reins to Dale and I know he will enjoy the support you all have shown to me. It really has been a fast whirlwind term, representing all of you, and I hope you had as much fun over the past 2 years as I have. Everywhere I have gotten to be in attendance during my term, you the volunteers have been very hospitable and a lot of fun to spend time with. Truly all I can say is Thank You, Thank You, Thank you.

Large flocks, low clouds, and cool breeze at your back, to all!

Thank You again for all you DU,

Dave Steinbach

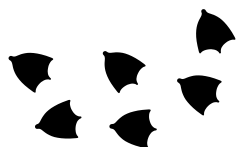


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2016 State Convention – Something for Everyone!

Submitted By Diana Anderson



The 2016 Michigan DU State Convention was held at the beautiful Garland's Resort August 11-14. The weekend started on Thursday, where attendees enjoyed a steak dinner and then broke into teams and participated in a rousing game of Bar Olympics. It was challenging (not really), took skill (maybe somewhat) and total FUN (absolutely!!). Players tested their talent as they rotated through



several games, such as cheese ball shot put, beach ball rugby and balance ball. A great time was had by all and I can say that it was equally fun watching as it was playing.

On Friday, there was golfing, shopping, relaxing or trout pond fishing tournament activities to pick from. The evening activities rounded out with a live band playing 50's music and a good old fashioned Sock Hop!

Saturday, many of the attendees had a great deal of fun shooting sporting clays or many could also be found in downtown Gaylord looking for treasures. The evening festivities started with a cocktail hour and a great conservation message along with some tidbits about major donors.

State Awards were handed out and the prestigious Russ Bengel award was given to outgoing Chair, David Steinbach. And what would a DU event be without an Auction? A live and silent auction rounded out the evening.

On Sunday, the State Committee meeting was held, where the new State Chair, Dale Borske, was announced, along with new State Treasurer, Jim Toth and new State Secretary, Max Lehman.

So with that last bit of news, I wanted to take a little bit of space in the newsletter to say my good byes and express my gratitude. As many of you know, I accepted a promotion in my "day" job and moved to Ohio earlier this



year. Over the last several years, I have been the State Convention Chair and the last two, your State Secretary, where parts of my duties were to publish

this quarterly newsletter. I have so enjoyed my time, made some amazing and lifelong friendships, and learned so much! I want to encourage all of you reading this to consider raising your hand to become more involved in DU with the State. I

guarantee, if you do, not only will you not regret your decision, you will get more than you give. Volunteering for DU has truly been one of the best decisions I have ever made. Take care my friends and if you ever make it to central Ohio- look me up!

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Recipe of the Quarter

Mallard with Bourbon Butter Sauce

Ingredients

4 mallards, split in half 1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon brown sugar 3 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon cracked black pepper

Instructions

Combine kosher salt, pepper and sugar and rub over ducks.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat and place ducks, breast side down, in skillet.

Cook until browned, flip over and continue cooking until medium-rare, about another 4 minutes.

For medium-rare, internal temperature at the breast is about 130 – 135 degrees. Arrange on plates and spoon sauce over.

Bourbon Butter Sauce

1/4 cup butter

1/4 cup onion, minced

2 garlic cloves, minced

2 teaspoons fresh rosemary leaves, minced

3 tablespoons bourbon

2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

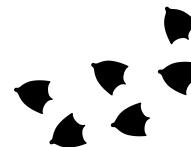
pinch brown sugar

dash Tabasco

Melt butter in a medium skillet over medium heat.

Add onion, garlic and rosemary and cook until onions are translucent.

Remove pan from heat and away from any flames. Stir in remaining



Advertise Your Event On www.Ducks.org/Michigan by Jan Marra

Having your event posted on the Ducks.org/Michigan website is a great way to make sure your event gets lots of exposure.

Here are a few pointers for your web advertisement to help you get the most of this great service:

1 – Remember the basics. Put the important information (Who, What, When, and Where) right up at the top of your ad where it can be found easily.

2 – Make it fun! Describe the event and the activities. Do your best to make people want to come to your event.

3 – Avoid long letters. Keep your web ad to the design of a flyer. Writing a letter to your sponsors and past attendees is fine for a mailing, but not for the web.

4 – Put up your flyer! I can put your event flyer on the web for you. Send me your flyer in picture format (jpeg or png), or as a pdf. The width is limited to 500 pixels however, so you may have to modify your flyer. If you send me the flyer in a Microsoft Word format, then I can modify it for you.

5 – No flyer? No Problem! I can make one for you. Please send me the event information in Microsoft Word format and I'll put your web ad together for you.

6 – Sell your event tickets online! DU will handle the transactions for you. The first person listed as your contact on the web ad will receive an email for each transaction, so you always know your seating availability.

7 – I'll post your pictures! Send me up to six pictures of the highlights of your event and I'll post them in the Michigan DU Photo Gallery.

A few things more...

I need the primary contact person's name, email address, and phone number for each event.

Be sure to give me the full address of the event location, for the map/directions feature.

Please be clear what a buyer receives in a package deal.

Let me know if the annual DU membership is included with each ticket sold.

Send me any pictures in jpeg or png format.

Questions? Contact me at jan.mcdu@yahoo.com or call me at (734) 735-4392.

Thanks, and have a fun and successful event!

Ducks Unlimited awarded federal grant to improve 380 acres of wetlands in Michigan, Ohio

Projects to improve habitat for waterfowl, wildlife and recreation

Fast Facts:

- DU projects in Michigan, Ohio receive \$599,177 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Award is part of Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act
- Projects in Michigan's St. John's Marsh, Ohio's Toussaint Wildlife Area will improve habitat for waterfowl, wildlife and recreation.

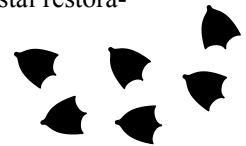


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ANN ARBOR, Michigan – July 29, 2016 – Ducks Unlimited was awarded \$559,177 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance 380 acres at coastal wetlands in Michigan and Ohio important to waterfowl, recreation and wildlife.

The projects will improve Michigan's St. John's Marsh and Ohio's Toussaint Wildlife Area. The funding is part of \$1.58 million awarded under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act grant program to restore sustainable populations of fish and wildlife resources, and their habitats, in the Great Lakes Basin. Eight projects were funded.

"Ducks Unlimited relies on the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act as an invaluable resource to protect and restore wetlands," said David Brakhage, Ducks Unlimited Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Director. "The coastal restoration projects at St. John's Marsh in Michigan and Toussaint Wildlife Area in Ohio are examples of conservation benefiting not only waterfowl and wildlife habitat but also recreational opportunities for people."



The \$599,177 will be split between the Michigan and Ohio projects. Both projects are scheduled to complete within two years.

be com-

St. John's Marsh – Located in St. Clair County, Michigan, St. John's Marsh is part of one of the largest, most productive and biologically diverse freshwater deltas in the United States. Owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, it's a tremendous waterfowl and recreational area, but is choked with invasive phragmites vegetation. This project will enhance 295 acres of wetlands by improving waterway connections between the marsh and Lake St. Clair. These improvements will allow the Michigan DNR to manage water levels in the marsh to help control phragmites while providing better habitat for fish and wildlife. Construction will begin late 2016 or early 2017 and is part of a larger effort between Ducks Unlimited and the DNR to eventually restore and enhance 627 acres at St. John's Marsh. Also providing funding for this project is DU partner Axalta Coating Systems.

Toussaint Wildlife Area – A popular public use area owned by the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Toussaint is managed to provide coastal wetland habitat for wildlife and outdoor recreation. Toussaint was formerly a waterfowl hunt club. This project will enhance 85 acres of coastal wetlands by reconnecting the area to the Toussaint River and improving outdated infrastructure. The upgrades will improve seasonal fish access and habitat for waterfowl. This is part of a 125-acre restoration program which received \$3 million in funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Since 1998, the restoration act has provided more than \$24.4 million dollars in federal funding to 157 research and restoration projects. When combined with required matching funds, this equals to more than \$36.1 million worth of benefits to Great Lakes fish, wildlife and the habitats they depend on. More than 100 organizations have contributed more than \$11.7 million in matching non-federal partner support.

The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act is a powerful tool to help support research and conservation in the Great Lakes Basin. It is supported in part by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which provided \$1.22 million in 2016 funding.

Ducks Unlimited commemorates Grand River shorefront protection

Fast Facts:

- *Ducks Unlimited commemorated protection of one-mile stretch of land along Grand River on Thursday, Sept. 8, at Ottawa County Park.*
- *Ducks Unlimited, Ottawa County Parks acquired land in 2011.*
- *Protected land is vital for waterfowl, wildlife habitat and public recreation.*

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan – Sept. 20, 2016 – Ducks Unlimited commemorated the protection of nearly a mile of land along the lower Grand River during a celebration Thursday, Sept. 8, at Ottawa County Park in Allendale Township.

Ducks Unlimited partnered with Ottawa County Parks in 2011 to purchase a 119-acre tract of land containing a mix of emergent, forested and open-water wetlands. Located near the rapidly expanding western edge of Grand Rapids, this tract was in immediate danger of urban development.



“Open lands are disappearing quickly,” said Dan Schulz, volunteer with the Greater Grand Rapids Ducks University chapter. “Only if we act now will we be able to secure land, forever for the future.”

The protected land benefits migrating waterfowl and other bird species and improves water conditions by reducing sedimentation along this section of the Grand River. The land was purchased as part of a \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant administered by Ducks Unlimited.

The protected land also offers the surrounding community a public park for nature watching, dog walking and recreating.

To date, Ottawa County Parks has permanently protected 2,168 acres among 14 parks and open-space lands in the Grand River Greenway Plan’s protection corridor along the Grand River.

During the ceremony, Ducks Unlimited dedicated the land to longtime Ducks Unlimited supporter David D. Hunting Jr. and celebrated the success of its Greater Grand Rapids Chapter.

The event featured brief presentations from Ducks Unlimited and chapter partners.

“On behalf of all volunteers and supporters here in Michigan, I’m proud to stand on the results of DU’s conservation efforts,” said David Steinbach, Ducks Unlimited Michigan chairman.



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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



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From Around the State!

Duck House Raffle- Max Lehman



A game that we play at our Spring Fundraisers is a Duck House Raffle. This can be a fun and quick raffle that doesn't have to cost the Chapter big money. It started on our Chapter's 30th Anniversary when we sold 30 Duck Houses for \$30. The

Raffle has progressed and evolved to fit our needs at individual events, with last year's shoot selling 40 Duck Houses. The Game is simple sell Duck houses for \$30 each or whatever value you think your guests will support, and have a raffle ticket for a gun tied to each house. We usually don't have too big of a gun on these as the houses almost sell themselves, often times we use one of our free incentive guns. Our target is, at the very least, to double our money on the gun if not triple it or to make pure profit on an incentive gun.

As far as the houses are concerned with a little asking many local lumberyards will donate the lumber and screws. Luckily we have a good connection to our hometown lumber dealer (insert shameless promotion for Big L Lumber) so that this is no problem. The second part of the house construction is usually easier than getting free lumber. With tight budgets at local schools, many high school shop classes are looking for projects for their students that they don't have to spend money on. With a quick call to the shop teacher the construction is taken care of. This also can get some more awareness of DU by involving the students in the project.



The Duck House Raffle is a great quick game for a Spring Event. It usually sells out quick so your guests can go and spend their time on other games once it's over. As well Spring is a great time to bring awareness to Wood Ducks and the importance of Conservation, and the duck houses are ready just in time to put them up. We brand our Duck Houses with the DU logo and many of them can be seen around local marshes from back yard pot-holes to several on local golf courses. Next time you are looking at some different games to keep your fundraisers fresh, consider a Duck House Raffle.

A Note From State Art Chair Kathy Krupa

The 2017 Sponsor Print was chosen at the State convention in Lewiston this August. By a popular vote, the painting by Paul Makhuchal, titled "Tranquil Swimmers" was chosen and is currently in the printing process. Watch for deliveries arriving in November. In the last three years Paul has won 5 State duck stamps, 2 DU Sponsor Print contests, and DU Artist of the year for Idaho.



The original painting by, Chris Wozniak that was our 2016 print, was also auctioned off at the State Convention.

The species selection for the next contest is Northern Shoveler or Red Breasted Merganser. Please let your artist friends know. I would be happy to add more artists to our contact list. They may contact information is KathyKru2@aol.com.

Thank you to Dow for sponsoring our print program. Many States struggle to have a State print and Dow has allowed us to have one of the best programs in the country.

DU at Nayanquing Point State Game Area



DU table at NayanquingPoint state game area on opening day. Youth are invited to sign up for a greenwing membership and they are each given a hat or call from Michigan DU. Refreshments were provided for all hunters using the site compliments of H &H Bakery Au Gres and MI DU. Pictured are Darrell Borske Volunteer Cass River Chapter, Kaleb Michael Cass River Chapter Greenwing, Linda Ahleman Zone Chairman North MI DU, and Brandy Dybas-Berger DNR Site Manager Nayanquing Pt. State Game Area. Good weather was had and 27 parties participated in the youth hunt. Over three hundred hunters and guests visited the site on opening day. Second picture is a successful youth hunter with a bag limit.



Please visit the DU Website to find information on your local chapter events! www.ducks.org

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!

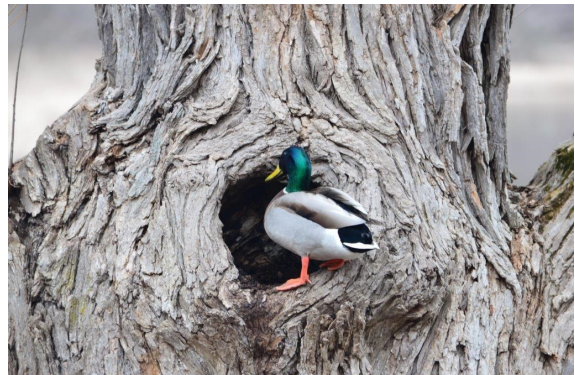


Photo courtesy of David Bowers



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.

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Please **SIGN** your name x _____

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State Chairman- David Steinbach	steinbac@umich.edu	734-475-0119
State Treasurer		
and State Chair Elect-Dale Borske	cruiseplanner1@chartermi.net	989-876-7341
State Secretary- Diana Anderson	djmf1994@gmail.com	734-755-2020



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, 2015 and 2016 Michigan State Convention Sponsorship! Their support helps us continue the DU Mission through our volunteers!



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