



The MI Marsh Chatter



Michigan Ducks Unlimited



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1st Quarter, 2017

A Word from our Chairman

Dale Borske: 2017 - 2018 State Chairman



Well the holidays and hunting seasons are behind us now and I hope you enjoyed your time at home and afield with your friends and family. Looking forward to 2017 I would first like to

thank Dave Steinbach for leading us the past two years. During that time MI DU has had great improvements in funds raised along with volunteer and membership growth. I am hoping to follow in his footsteps and continue to help MI DU further prosper. We are very excited about the new officers and State Committee Chairs that will help us to fulfill our wetlands mission. There is more information on the officers in the newsletter.

We are holding our Leadership Meeting on Friday January 27th and Saturday January 28th for all Area, Zone and District Chairmen and co chairs. This will again be at the RAM Center at Higgins Lake. If you are one of these officers you should have received your invitation in the mail now. If you did not receive yours yet or have any questions about the event please contact me at cruiseplanner1@chartermi.net. This is a great learning experience for both new and current DU leaders. I hope you are able to attend. Space is limited at this venue so please register as soon as possible.

The calendar sale program for 2017 is about wrapped up but if you did not get yours or need another one please contact Deb Gray at the GLARO office. Phone number is 734-623-2000.

The Spring event season will shortly be underway so many of you will be planning or

finalizing your events. If you have your event information be sure to forward that to Jan Maara at jan.mcdu@yahoo.com so she can post it on our MI DU Event page. You will be surprised how many new people respond to that and will attend your next event. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

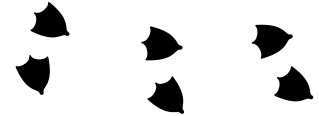
I was lucky enough to attend all of our Volunteer Appreciation Events in December and talk with many of you. It is great for our volunteers to be able to share some quality time together without having to run an event. I want to thank our RD's for putting these events on. They do a fine job and we really enjoy attending these. I hope I was able to speak to all of you and if not I hope to in the near future or at your event. I am hoping to attend as many events as possible this coming year.

And speaking of volunteers we have formed a new Volunteer Recruitment Team with David Bowers as our new State Volunteer Chairman. David has already attended quite a few events hosting a recruitment table at these. We have signed up quite a few new faces for MI DU and hope to continue this in 2017. If you would like him to attend your event or if you would like to join this group please send him a note at dtbowers53@gmail.com. We would welcome your participation.

In closing, if you have any comments or suggestions about MI DU please contact me at cruiseplanner1@chartermi.net. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas about MI DU.

Thank you again for your support of Ducks Unlimited and wetlands conservation.

Dale



Inside this issue:

MICHIGAN STATE CONVENTION	2
RECIPE OF THE QUARTER	3
MAANKIKI MARSH PROJECT	4
PUBLIC POLICY	6
NEW STATE OFFICERS	7
MIDU LICENSE PLATE FUNDS ON THE GROUND	8
GET YOUR PLATES— URGENT WITH NEW BILL SIGNED	9

2017 State Convention– Start Making Plans

Boyne Highlands

Michigan Ducks Unlimited State Convention
August 24th thru August 27th
Boyne Highlands Resort
Harbor Springs Michigan

The fun will start on Thursday the 24th with a meet and greet themed party at 5pm followed by Dinner and drinks. It promises to be a great team building and social event with raffles and fun to be had by everyone the good old D.U. way. So bring a smile and prepare yourself to get started to take on the 2017 Michigan DU state convention.

The fun will continue into Friday morning with charter fishing, golf, Zip lining, horseback riding, waterpark, hiking ...and a bunch of other activities. Go to the web site BOYNEHIGHLANDS.COM and check out all of the activities at your disposal. The evening will be topped off with a themed dinner party that will feature raffles and prizes thru out the night.

Be sure to stay tuned as to the theme of the night....the state convention committee is hard at work putting thoughts together as to the theme of the event.

The fun will continue on Saturday morning. There will be a state convention clay shoot at a local club with trophies to the winners along with recognition at the awards banquet. There will also be a golf scrambles tournament on Saturday morning with prizes to the winners, and recognition at the awards banquet. Saturday night will be the state awards banquet. Dinner and drinks and the state awards handed out, along with raffles and prizes.

As always every night will be topped off with drinks and conversation in the hospitality room....the drinks are on the house ..so come on over... and the bull _hit is free also.

The tickets will be broke down to include
All three nights Thursday, Friday and Saturday
Or just Friday and Saturday
Or just the awards Banquet on Saturday
Invitations will go out soon

So save the Date, and I hope to see you all there.

Dave Perry

734-755-8388

District Chairman SE Michigan

State Convention Chair

Michigan Ducks Unlimited





Recipe of the Quarter
Venison Tenderloin Baguette
by
Dave Steinbach

Ingredients

Marinade:

2 venison tenderloins
1/2 cup soy sauce
1/2 cup brown sugar
dash of cayenne pepper
dash of white pepper
2 cloves of garlic
1 Tbsp. grated Ginger

Sauce:

2 tbsp. Horseradish
1 tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce
1 1/2 cups of sour cream
Juice from 1/2 of a Lime
2 Tbsp. Parsley finely chopped

Red Onion thinly sliced
Yellow Bell Pepper thinly sliced
Baguette

Olive Oil
Minced Garlic

Directions:

Mix together marinade in a glass bowl.

Add tenderloins and refrigerate for 24 hours

Slice banquette and brush one side with olive oil and garlic

Toast banquette on grill or under broiler

Mix together the horseradish sauce to taste

Grill tenderloin until medium-rare and slice into thin slices

Place a teaspoon, or so of sauce on the grilled banquettes

Place a piece of tenderloin on top

Garnish with a small dollop of sauce, plus thin slices of onion & pepper

DU restores 1,200 acres at Saginaw Bay

Wildlife and outdoors enthusiasts have nearly two square miles of additional managed wetlands thanks to a major Ducks Unlimited project at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge



Ducks Unlimited staff and partners on Oct. 4 watch water flowing into part of the restoration project area.

SAGINAW, Michigan – Oct. 5, 2016 – Wildlife and outdoors enthusiasts have 1,250 additional acres of managed wetlands near Saginaw Bay thanks to a major Ducks Unlimited project completed at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

The [Maankiki Marsh project](#) at the refuge south of Saginaw was completed this summer. It converted agricultural land back into wetlands for the first time in nearly a century.

"This project epitomizes the work Ducks Unlimited can accomplish with our partners, to help make nature whole again," said David Brakhage, conservation director at Ducks Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region.

Ducks Unlimited, supporters and conservation partners gathered Oct. 4, at the refuge to celebrate the project's completion. Event participants opened newly installed flood gates to reconnect nearly two square miles of drained land back to the adjacent Shiawassee River.

"This land will be here for many years for us and future generations to enjoy," said Tom Melius, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Midwest Region director.

The effort was funded in part by a \$1.5 million National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Sustain Our Great Lakes grant via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a federal program designed to target the most significant problems in the Great Lakes ecosystem. Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network, Dow Chemical Company and Ducks Unlimited provided additional financial support.

Ducks Unlimited designed and oversaw construction which allows refuge managers to control water levels to benefit birds and fish. The Saginaw Bay area provides many ecological and social benefits, including habitat for other wetland-dependent fish and wildlife, flood control and abatement, water quality improvement and areas for outdoor recreation and education.

[Click here](#) to see a high-res photo gallery from the event.

[Click here](#) to watch a video of the live stream on the Ducks Unlimited Michigan Facebook page.

Great Lakes/Atlantic Region Contacts



Photo © Michael Furtman

The Great Lakes/Atlantic Region office (GLAR), is located in Ann Arbor, Michigan and was established in 1998 to provide comprehensive conservation solutions to help restore and protect diminishing wetlands in 21 states, from Minnesota to Missouri, Maryland north to Maine.

Historic wetland loss, conversion of lands for development, water quality problems and an expanding human population are the greatest challenges that face this region. DU is dedicated to reversing the trends of wetland habitat losses, restoring and protecting habitats, educating conservation values and making the Great Lakes/Atlantic region a better place for breeding, migrating and wintering waterfowl. DU activities in the region follow the International Conservation Plan, a comprehensive roadmap that identifies waterfowl habitat areas and priorities. In addition to abundant natural resources the region holds 45 percent of Ducks Unlimited members and accounts for 41 percent of major sponsor and 50 percent of the philanthropic dollars raised nationally.

The Great Lakes/Atlantic Region office harnesses these resources, working with partners, positively affecting waterfowl, wildlife and the quality of life for people.

Media Contact: Chris Sebastian (734) 623-2017 csebastian@ducks.org

Director of Operations: David Brakhage dbrakhage@ducks.org

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FEATHER SOCIETY



We'd be happy to help you

*get your ducks
in a row*



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.

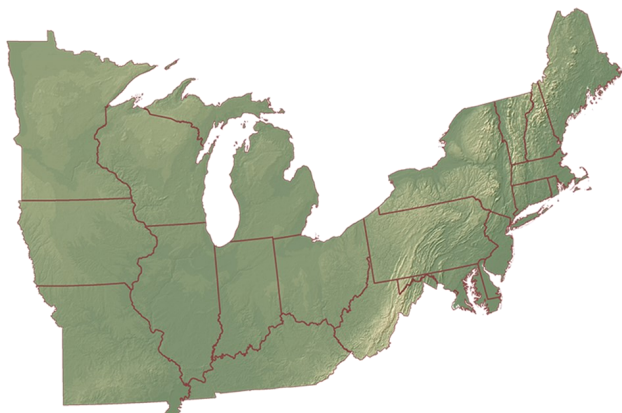
Your estate plan can also be used to support charitable causes that matter most to you, such as Ducks Unlimited's conservation mission. Legacy gifts are critical to the long-term sustainability of DU.

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



Subscribe to the Great Lakes/Atlantic Region monthly e-newsletter! The newsletter features updates on state and regional conservation, research, events, fundraising, policy and staff and volunteer profiles. [Click here](#) to view and sign up for the newsletter.



Science-based Management of Michigan's Fish and Wildlife Wins Again

by Steve Wyckoff
State Public Policy Chair

This past November, the Michigan Court of Appeals repealed the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (SFWCA), finding it unconstitutional due to a component of the law granting active duty military members free hunting and fishing licenses. The court found this provision to not be related enough to scientific fish and wildlife management to comply with the Constitution's Title-Object Clause and therefore reversed and remanded the law.

Thankfully, Michigan's sportsmen's community jumped into action and worked closely with members of the Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus and Department of Natural Resources to reintroduce a new bill that omitted free licenses for active duty military members but re-established the core objectives of the original SFWCA by affirming the Natural Resource Commission's duty to utilize principles of sound scientific management when making regulatory decisions regarding hunting and fishing, as well as affirming that Michiganders have the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife.

The bill, numbered SB 1187, was championed by Sen. Tom Casperson of Escanaba and won majority support in both chambers of the legislature, and was officially signed by Gov. Snyder on Dec. 22. Ducks Unlimited along with other prominent conservation groups in the state supported this legislation. DU thanks Gov. Snyder for, once again, supporting science-based management of Michigan's fish and wildlife resources and not the emotional appeals of anti-hunters.



Photo © David Bowers

Meet Your Elected State Officers



State Secretary—Max Lehman

Max Lehman, our new Ducks Unlimited State Secretary, started with DU as a volunteer with the Flat River Chapter, eventually becoming its Chairman. Currently, Max is a District Chairman, in addition to his State Officer duties.

Max, lives with his gorgeous wife, Jodi, in the Stanton area of central Michigan, and is the father of two grown children. He works as the Sales Manager for Big L Lumber. In his limited free time, Max enjoys most things outdoors; including hunting, as well as enjoying and improving his and Jodi's farm property.



State Treasurer — Jim Toth

I am honored to be selected and voted the MI DU State Treasurer, 2017 -2018. I pledge to you, to perform the duties of this office, for benefit of the State Committee, and all of the MI DU Chapters. I have Dale Borske as my mentor, so hopefully my transition into this office will be seamless.

I became a member of Ducks Unlimited at the first Flint Chapter Dinner in the fall of 1972. I remained at the Member status until December of 2005, when I responded to a "Join the Committee" invite from the Davison Chapter, where I also held a membership. After a successful 2006 Spring Event, I became the Area Chairman for the 2007 campaign, and remained the AC through 2015. During this time the Davison Chapter grew from a 100 guest Dinner Event to a three Event Chapter in 2015; and clocked in at the #5 Chapter in the State in total raised funds for that year. I currently remain on the Davison Chapter Committee as their Treasurer. Also, in 2012 I received the State Area Chairman of the Year Award.

In year 2009, I took on the responsibilities of District Chairman; working with Bret Plasters, for three Chapters. These responsibilities quickly morphed to five Chapters, and then six when I spearheaded the founding of the Hunters Creek Club Chapter. When Billie Ray Fann came on board as Regional Director in 2013, my responsibilities expanded to eight active Chapters.

I have somehow remained married to the beautiful "Miss Toni", my wife of forty nine years; who has been very understanding of my passion for DU, and has been my right arm and loyal assistant at DU activities.

In my previous life, I worked for General Motors for 45 years, retiring in 2010. My last 21 years at GM were spent in Supervision at Chevrolet Flint Tool & Die.

License plate sales fund Michigan wetlands project

Sales from DU license plates enable vital wetlands project near birthplace of automobile industry

Detroit, and much of southeast Michigan, has been a sprawling bustle of human activity since the Industrial Revolution and the rise of the automobile.

Population and development grew during the 20th Century, but one of the byproducts of that growth was the destruction of wetland habitat along the Detroit River. The entire river and western shore of Lake Erie, including the 6,000-acre Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, is a major migration route for waterfowl.

Since the 1800s, this region has lost 97 percent of its coastal wetlands. These historic wetlands, valuable for ducks, flood control and water quality, have been replaced with houses, factories and farm fields. Ducks Unlimited for nearly 30 years has chipped away at wetland losses, completing numerous projects in the region.

Fittingly, Ducks Unlimited is partially funding a project near Detroit with ties to the same automobile culture that shaped the region.

Ducks Unlimited is using \$30,000 from Michigan DU license plate sales to pay for the 53-acre Fix Unit Restoration project in Monroe County. Formerly used for farming, the land is part of a coastal wetland complex along the Lake Erie coast in southeast Michigan, including Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Ford Marsh and Sterling State Park.

The \$200,000 project features significant waterfowl migration benefits for several species of waterfowl and nesting habitat for mallards, wood ducks and Canada Geese. It improves habitat for hundreds of other wildlife species. The property is open to public hunting.

Michigan's Ducks Unlimited license plate program is a tremendous funding tool for DU and the conservation of wetlands. Since 2014, DU has sold or renewed more than 2,000 license plates which has generated about \$50,000 for conservation. The Fix Unit Restoration is the first opportunity to steer these dollars into restored habitat. The effort was led by the D.U. Monroe Chapter volunteers and Michigan Sens. Dale Zorn and Randy Richardville.



The project site is owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Another reminder of the scarcity of wetlands in this region, the Fix project is adjacent to the towering stacks of DTE Energy's Fermi II nuclear power plant. Ducks Unlimited this winter will finish the Fix restoration project, which includes about 30 acres of coastal emergent wetland restoration and 23 acres of lake plain prairie restoration. DU is creating berms and installing infrastructure which will allow the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service to control water levels and create ideal wetland and grassland habitat.



"We appreciate our Ducks Unlimited volunteers and members promoting DU license plate sales," said Jason Hill, Ducks Unlimited biologist and manager of DU's Great Lakes Conservation Initiative. "All those plates gave us the means to restore critical waterfowl habitat here in southeast Michigan."

In addition to license plate sales, project funding is provided by Ducks Unlimited via a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant from the Saginaw Bay to Lake Erie Coastal Habitat Initiative. This is a broad coalition that has conserved thousands of acres of wetlands from Saginaw Bay to the coast of Lake Erie



DU License Plates Must Sell!

On Dec. 1, 2016 Gov. Snyder signed HB 5447 into law, placing new stipulations on the specialty license plates in the state. Under the new law, at least 500 new Ducks Unlimited license plates **MUST** be sold each year through 2018 for our plate to remain for sale by the Secretary of State (SOS). After 2018, 500 new plates must be sold every **two years** to remain in good standing.

The law is written such that the SOS "shall" cease sales of any specialty license plate that does not meet the aforementioned sales targets.

For perspective, 1,920 new DU plates have been sold between June 2014 and September 2016. Renewals do not count toward the stipulated sales targets. It is therefore imperative that DU staff and volunteers strongly promote the DU license plate to ensure its continued availability for motorists across the state.

Visit www.ducks.org/michigan to read how license plate sales are funding a new Michigan wetlands project, and for details on how to get your own plate. If you have any questions, please contact Kyle Rorah (krorah@ducks.org) or Gildo Tori (gtori@ducks.org).

State Chairman - Dale Borske
State Secretary— Max Lehman
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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 the newsletter editor Dave Bowers. 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 Dave 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.



Photo © David Bowers

Send articles or photos (with people identified) to Dave Bowers at dtbowers53@gmail.com. I can also be reached by cell phone at 517-974-3351

Michigan: On November 10, DU volunteers and staff attended the Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus breakfast and the Caucus Advisory Council meeting. This event allowed DU to strengthen partnerships and discuss key policy issues facing the conservation community, including changes needed to remove barriers to the Michigan DNR's ability to acquire and restore wetlands throughout the state.

Steve Wyckoff, MIDU Public Policy Chair

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!

