



# The MI Marsh Chatter



Volume 3, Issue 3

Michigan Ducks Unlimited



3rd Quarter, 2017

## A Word from our Chairman

*Dale Borske: 2017 - 2018 State Chairman*



With the spring events just wrapping up here I am pleased to share that they went very well. I was able to attend many of them across the

state and see the enthusiasm of our volunteers and the fun that the attendees had. What a win for wetlands conservation. Michigan DU is showing an increase in both members and revenue for 2017 so we thank all the volunteers, members and donors that are making our conservation mission a success.

We are also excited to announce that the Marsh Chatter is now being sent to all of the general membership. So welcome to all our new readers. You can now keep abreast of the many happenings right here in Michigan with our great group of volunteers. And if you feel like you may want to join our ranks please contact me as we would love to have you aboard one of our many chapters. Surprisingly many of our volunteers come from all walks of life both hunters and non, male and female, young and old all being a part of our conservation efforts.

District meetings are in full swing. I have attended a couple of them and had a great time with our fellow volunteers. Please make an effort to attend the ones in your area. What a great chance to network with your fellow volunteers. Events are listed at [www.ducks.org/michigan](http://www.ducks.org/michigan)

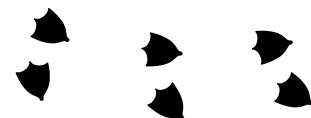
under the events tab. This is open to all volunteers and not just officers.

The 2018 Gun Raffle Calendars will be available about the time you are reading this. If your committee has not been part of this program but would like to be this year please contact your RD. Or if you are a member and would like to purchase one of these e-mail me at [cruiseplanner1@chartermi.net](mailto:cruiseplanner1@chartermi.net) for more info. Calendars are only \$50 each and we will be giving five guns away every Wednesday for the entire year with a bonus 12 Guns of Christmas drawing on Wednesday December 19th 2018. What a great gift for a friend or family member.

Our state convention will be here soon. We are holding it this year at the Boyne Highlands on August 24-26. This is one of the nicest venues in Michigan and our state convention team has been working very hard to come up with many fun activities to take part in. If you have never been to a convention before this is one you do not want to miss. For more information or to register go to <http://www.ducks.org/michigan/2017-michigan-state-convention>.

And we just returned from the National Convention in San Antonio Texas. There was a good contingent from Michigan and we had a great time together down there. I am pleased to announce that Michigan was recognized as the seventh place state in the top ten this year! This is a first for us and we want to extend our congratulations to Past State Chairman David Steinbach and the volunteers that made this happen. This is a huge accomplishment and everyone should be proud of their contribution to conservation.

In closing I hope you have a fun and safe summer with your family and friends.



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# 2017 Michigan State Convention



*Aug. 24th - Aug. 27th*  
**MICHIGAN  
STATE CONVENTION**  
*You're Invited!*



**Boyne Highlands Resort, Harbor Springs, MI**

**The 2017 Michigan Ducks Unlimited State Convention will be here soon, and you won't want to miss the fun!**

The Michigan 2017 State Convention will be here shortly and the committee is working hard to make this years event fun and exciting for everyone. It will be a homecoming for all DU members and volunteers throughout the state and a celebration of the 80th anniversary of Ducks Unlimited along with the recent milestone of 80,000 acres conserved in Michigan.

The weekend will be full of fun and exciting events and activities, culminating in the Saturday night anniversary dinner with special guest speakers and the prestigious volunteer award announcements. During the dinner, past and present leaders will be recognized for their leadership over the years taking Michigan to one of the top states in the country behind a strong volunteer team.

Make plans to attend this years event and renew acquaintances, meet new friends, and enjoy the celebration of the success of Ducks Unlimited!

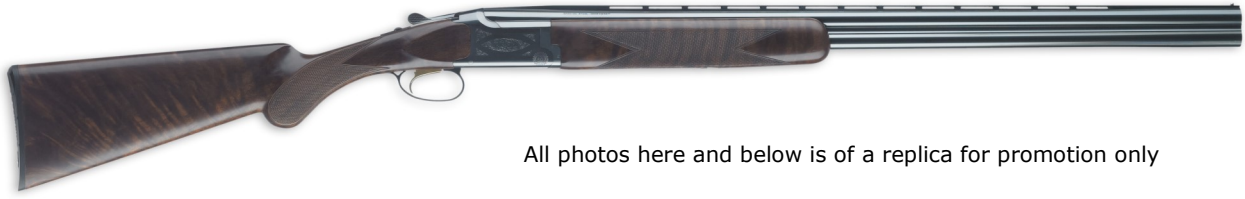
Additional information on the convention with a full description of the weekend plans, activities, and highlights is included as an addendum to this newsletter. Make plans to attend and enjoy the fun and celebration.



© David Bowers Photography 2017

**Browning Citori Gran Lightning commissioned for celebration of  
Ducks Unlimited 80th Anniversary and MIDU 80,000 acres**

Planning to have it available at State Convention



All photos here and below is of a replica for promotion only

**The Browning Citori Gran Lightning has arrived in Grand Rapids at Bachelder Gunmakers. They are working on getting the gun engraved and case color hardened. It is a 20 gauge, with a 26 inch barrel. The shotgun is going to be a one of one, and it is being specifically engraved, finished, and built for Ducks Unlimited's 80<sup>th</sup> year and 80,000 acres conserved in Michigan.**

**The number of tickets available for purchase and the costs will be announced and available at the convention but they will be limited in number. This is truly a one of one commemorative shotgun that anyone would want to own.**

**Specs:**

Gauge 20 Ga

Barrel Length: 28"

Length of Pull: 14 1/4"

Drop at Heel: 2 3/8"

Magazine Capacity: 0

Barrel Finish: Polished Blued

Wood Grade: Grade V/VI

Receiver Finish: Case Colored Hardened

Chamber Finish: Chrome Plated Chamber

Choke System: Standard Invector Flush

Stock Material: Black Walnut

Sling Swivel Studs: None

Trigger Finish: Gold Plated

Trigger Guard: Material Steel

Choke Wrench Included Dual Invector  
Wrench

Chamber Length 2 3/4" & 3"

Overall Length: 45"

Drop at Comb: 1 1/2"

Weight: 7 lbs 10 oz

Rib Width: 1/4"

Stock Finish: Satin

Chokes Included: Full, Modified, Improved  
Cylinder

Dura Touch Finish: No

Front Sight: Ivory Bead

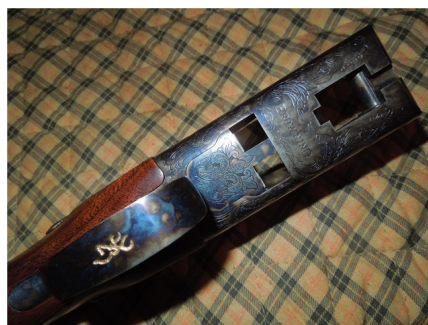
Barrel Material: Steel

Recoil Pad: Plastic Buttplate

Receiver Material: Steel

Trigger Material: Alloy

Trigger Guard Engraving: Some



## Ambitious conservation effort launched in Michigan

Project will protect, enhance or restore 4,000 acres across 22 counties



ANN ARBOR, Michigan – April 27, 2017 – Ducks Unlimited and 14 conservation partners will launch a two-year habitat conservation effort across southeast Michigan to improve wildlife habitat and water quality.

The Saginaw Bay to Lake Erie Coastal Habitat Project is a \$3 million effort to improve or protect 4,081 acres on 15 habitat projects. The focus area is on the 22 coastal zone counties associated with Saginaw Bay and western Lake Erie in Michigan, and includes Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River.

"These habitats provide critical habitat for waterfowl and many other species of wetland dependent wildlife, and are vital to water quality relied upon by millions of residents," said Jason Hill, Ducks Unlimited biologist and manager of conservation programs for DU's [Great Lakes Initiative](#).

Wetlands protect and improve water quality by filtering sediment and nutrients in rainwater runoff. These projects will help protect surface drinking water supplies used by more than 4 million people in the project area while enhancing fish populations and helping to reduce flood waters.

This is the fourth phase of The Saginaw Bay to Lake Erie Coastal Habitat Project, which began in 2005 and has conserved more than 10,000 acres. It targets Great Lakes coastal marshes and associated shoreline habitats, and interior wetlands and associated uplands.

More than 3 million waterfowl annually migrate through or breed in the Great Lakes region.

Unfortunately, Michigan has lost more than 50 percent of its historical wetlands and losses in some coastal counties along Saginaw Bay and western Lake Erie exceed 90 percent. Further troubling is the estimated 99 percent loss of Michigan's prairie habitat, with less than 1 percent of Michigan's historic lake plain wet prairie intact today.

The public benefits from permanent protection of Great Lakes coastal wetlands, inland wetlands, and associated uplands, maintaining a perpetual habitat base for wetland dependent wildlife and fisheries. These actions provide outdoor recreational opportunities on public lands, primarily increased hunting and fishing opportunities for Michigan's nearly 2 million hunters and anglers.

"Fortunately, a dedicated partnership has come together for more than a decade to consistently leverage funding for wetland conservation and management in this corridor," Hill said.

Funding comes from a \$1 million federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant and 15 supporting partners including Ducks Unlimited. Partners also include private residents, corporate partner Axalta Coating Systems, non-profit conservation organizations and government agencies such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Article by **Chris Sebastian**, Public Affairs Coordinator

Great Lakes/Atlantic Region Office

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## Public Policy Activities



**Steve Wyckoff**

State Public Policy Chair



**Kyle Rorah**

Government Affairs Representative  
Great Lakes/Atlantic Region

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### Pulling Triggers with Michigan's Lawmakers

Michigan DU volunteers and staff enjoyed an afternoon outdoors with Michigan's elected officials at the Capitol Area Sportsmen's League just outside of Lansing last month, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The lawmakers in attendance were all members of the Michigan legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, which is a group of Senators and Representatives from both sides of the aisle who work to protect and enhance Michigan's sportsmen's traditions.

The event brought together representatives from over a dozen hunting, angling, recreational shooting, and trapping organizations with Caucus members and staff from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Attendees participated in a number of activities, including trap and five stand shooting, lessons on patterning turkey guns, dog training, archery shooting, and fly fishing lessons. After the activities, attendees proceeded inside the clubhouse for a wild game dinner featuring bear, venison, and duck served by Gourmet Gone Wild.

DU has been a proud supporter of the Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus for several years and through activities like this, the organization has developed strong relationships with legislators from across the state and been able to educate them on the importance of wetland conservation and our waterfowling heritage.



(Caption: DU crew poses with Sportsmen's Caucus leaders Senator Peter MacGregor and Representative Triston Cole. Pictured left to right: Kristin Peter, DU Policy Intern; Steve Wyckoff, DU Policy Chair; Rep. Triston Cole, District 105; Dave Bowers, DU Volunteer Recruitment Chair; Gildo Tori, DU Regional Director of Public Policy; Sen. Peter MacGregor, District 28; Dale Borske, DU State Chairman; Kyle Rorah, DU Government Affairs Representative)

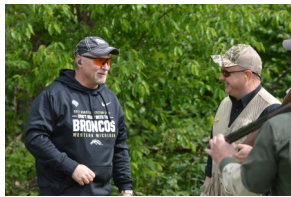
# News, events, and happenings from around the state

## District Meetings are huge success



Lloyd Wilson District Meeting  
Tuscola County Conservation Club, Plainwell  
Packed lodge, great steaks, lots of shooting,  
plenty of fun along with great meeting

Craig Curtis District Meeting  
Gun River Trap and Skeet Club, Plainwell  
Lots of attendees, great food and plenty of fun  
along with great chapter discussions



Lapeer Banquet  
Packed house, large group of volunteers working hard, successful evening with an excited crowd in attendance



## Ducks Unlimited key partner with DNR sponsoring Pure Michigan hunts



Jim Toth and Dale Borske represented Michigan Ducks Unlimited at the Pure Michigan Hunt program in Lansing. We awarded each of the winners a DU 12 GA shotgun. We are proud to partner with the Michigan DNR to help them raise funding for outdoor programs and to showcase the opportunity for hunting here in Michigan. Pictured are MI State Treasurer Jim Toth, Jerry Peak from Crystal, Michelle Ketchum from Sparta, Richard Ferris from Almont and MI State Chairman Dale Borske. Michigan Ducks Unlimited has been a sponsor of the Pure Michigan Hunt since its inception.

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### Legislative Update

DU is currently monitoring the progress of House Bill 4533, introduced by Rep. Curt Vanderwall of Ludington, which would allow nonresident hunters possessing a 7-day small game hunting license to purchase a waterfowl license. Currently, visitors to Michigan wishing to hunt waterfowl must buy a \$151 base non-resident hunting license before they are eligible to purchase a waterfowl license necessary to pursue ducks and geese. When combined with the waterfowl license fee, it costs visitors over \$100 more to hunt waterfowl here than the average cost to duck hunt as a non-resident in any of the other Midwestern states. This is a potential financial barrier to friends and family traveling to Michigan who wish to experience our state's high quality waterfowl hunting. The bill would also create a new 3-day non-resident small game license that would also qualify a visitor to purchase their waterfowl license should they only have the opportunity to hunt for a few days. HB 4533 currently sits in the House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee where it awaits a vote.

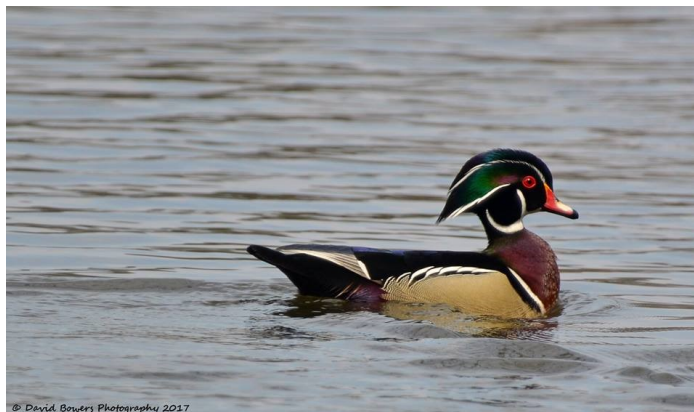


Photo © David Bowers

## Ice Mountain sponsorship of the Ducks Unlimited 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Michigan State Convention August 24<sup>th</sup> thru August 27<sup>th</sup>. 2017

*Statement from Greg Fox, Senior Natural Resource Manager, Ice Mountain Natural Spring Water*



Nestle Waters North America and Ice Mountain® brand Spring Water are proud to be able to participate in the Ducks Unlimited 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary Michigan State Convention. Since 1937 Ducks Unlimited has conserved over 13 million acres, and this year marks a Michigan milestone of 80,000 acres of habitat conserved. We share this commitment to natural resource conservation as demonstrated through our support of local environmental initiatives

2017 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year of Ice Mountain operating in Michigan. Throughout that time we have operated in a way that manages Michigan's natural resources for long-term sustainability. That has been, and will always be, our top priority. Like Ducks Unlimited we take our responsibility to Michigan and its natural resources seriously. That is why we develop and manage the water sources upon which our business depends based on science and long-term monitoring. Our priority is to operate responsibly and sustainably today and well into the future.

At Ice Mountain it is our commitment to work to improve the watersheds in which we operate. That's why in 2002 Nestle Waters created the Ice Mountain Environmental Stewardship Fund at the Fremont Area Community Foundation and initially seeded it with \$500,000.00. The charter of the fund is, "to support the waters and water-dependent natural resources of the Muskegon River Watershed by supporting conservation, enhancement, and restoration projects that will result in improvements to the physical, chemical and/or biological integrity of the watershed." Since that time the Ice Mountain Environmental Stewardship Fund has enabled over 30 stewardship projects in the Muskegon River Watershed ranging from a few thousand dollars to \$50,000.00. Our employees and local watershed partners also participate in countless other types of projects from highway cleanups to the Muskegon River Cleanup day near Evart Michigan. We are proud to contribute to these projects.

In addition to being an environmental steward, we also play a prominent role as a Michigan business helping grow the local economy. We currently employ approximately 270 full-time employees at our plant in Stanwood with a payroll of over \$19 million a year. Our plant also depends on many Michigan based vendors to help us deliver our high-quality, healthy product to customers in the Great Lakes region. In addition to employment, we have invested more than \$267 million in Michigan since 2002. We currently pay over \$1.3 million dollars in taxes to the state and surrounding communities each year.

We are proud to be a long-standing member of the Michigan community, and like Ducks Unlimited, we want to help protect and nurture the state's wonderful natural resources for generations to come.

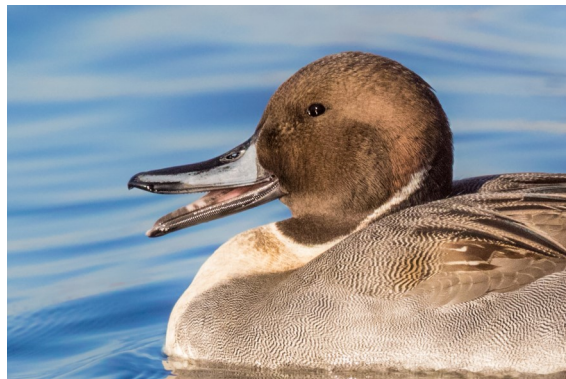


Photo © Laurie Dirks.com

**Stoneco announces sponsorship of  
Michigan Ducks Unlimited 2017 State Convention**



**Cadillac Green Asphalt partners with  
Michigan Ducks Unlimited as sponsor of 2017 State Convention**



**Many thanks to ITC for their continued support of sponsoring the  
Michigan Ducks Unlimited State Convention—4 years in a row!**



## Calling all Ladies DU Women of Influence New National Program

### Greetings Ladies of DU!

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new DU initiative, **Women of Influence**. Our goal is to explore opportunities for more women to become actively engaged in DU, and opportunities for those women who are already actively engaged to be even more influential within our organization. Our belief is that there are no limitations to what women can accomplish, particularly if we work together to support and encourage one another.

To that end, we are beginning a listening campaign to identify the different roles women currently play within DU, and to better understand women's interest in greater levels of involvement and influence. We envision developing an online forum or other such mechanism for women to discuss the role they have or would like to play in DU, and the level of influence they would like to have in our organization. We hope to have this initiative established sometime in early summer. **We would like to invite you to participate in this initiative by joining the growing network of women, both volunteers and staff, who want to participate in this network.** Joining is easy. Simply send an email to [duwomen@ducks.ca](mailto:duwomen@ducks.ca), and we will add your name to our distribution list.

We realize this is a small first step, but we believe that reaching out and starting an inclusive dialog will generate enthusiasm for future action to support women leaders in our organization. Please feel free to share this invitation with other DU volunteers and staff who might be interested in being part of the network.

Thank you in advance for your support with this initiative. We welcome your feedback and hope all of you will join the future dialog as it unfolds. We believe *any* woman can be a Woman of Influence; sometimes she simply needs to be invited to participate. Imagine what we can do collaboratively.

Please contact Jan or Peggy if you have any questions about this initiative.

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303/627-4525

Jan Young  
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Very ably assisted by Ashley Lewis, DU Canada

Ashley Lewis  
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204-467-3252

**Michigan DU Volunteer**  
**Michelle Noble**



## Nestle Purina invites DU to be part of Sustainable Brands Conference

The Nestle Purina Corporation recently hosted a **good foods pavilion** at the sustainable Brands Conference at Cobo Hall in Detroit. They invited Ducks Unlimited to be a part of an activation hub booth near the Nestle space and to talk about DU's water and grassland sustainability programs.

Chris Sebastian, DU Public Affairs Coordinator, presented a talk on Healthy Wetlands = healthy communities, showing how DU is attracting new corporate partnerships to do good work for people and wildlife

During the evening sessions, Greg Kernohan, Director, Conservation Programs for DU, gave a presentation to a large audience about DU's grassland sustainability program.

DU staff and volunteers manned the activation hub booth for the four days of the conference answering questions and delivering the DU message to attendees.

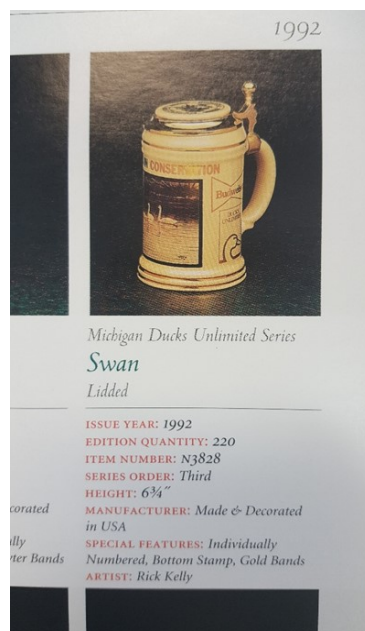


DU staff Chris Sebastian (r) and Greg Kernohan (l) talking with attendees at the Nestle booth about healthy water and healthy grasslands as a sustainable brand.

A special thanks to Jane Lazgin, Director Corporate Communications, Corporate Office for working with DU and being a tremendous partner during the conference.

Member, Michael Sweet of WI is a collector of steins and has been collecting the DU Steins made in conjunction with Budweiser that have been at National Conventions.

There were a series of steins for each state there are 3 Michigan DU steins that he is trying to locate. All have Gold trim around the lid and gold bands around the body of the steins. There are 5 in this set.



The 1st shows a picture of a Mallard landing with the Wings extended. The issue year was 1990.

The 2nd is Michigan DU and is the Loon. Has the same characteristics as the 1st in the series. issue year was 1991.

The 3rd is Michigan DU and is the Swan. It has the same characteristics as the previous 2. Issue year was 1993.

The artist was Rick Kelly for all 3.

Mr. Sweet can be reached at 608-279-2187 or by email at [mlsweet17@yahoo.com](mailto:mlsweet17@yahoo.com) if you have these and would be willing to sell them, or know someone who does.

## Winter SNO Advisory

Article by Max Lehman, Flat River Committee and State Secretary

On Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, the Flat River Chapter experienced a SNO Storm. I know it's a corny pun but I don't know of a better way to put it. Our Committee, under the leadership of its new Chairman, Jared Roberts, had a great night with our annual SNO event. Eight years ago, we were looking for a third event to hold in addition to our regular Banquet and Shoot events. We decided upon trying a **Sportsman's Night Out**, and after a few years of adjusting and modifying the event we have come to our current format.

This year was our best SNO event yet; hosting 239 guests (sold out) on a Thursday night, with a Net/Net income of \$16,915 and 55% efficiency. This was accomplished without any Sponsors or Underwriting. If any of you are looking to grow your Chapter's revenue and expand your membership this is a great event to accomplish those goals. We hold this event within three months of our other two and do not steal or detract from either of them, if anything, we have garnered more participation in our other events as a result of this one.

The format is simple and easy to put together. We hold the event on a weeknight and it goes quick, did I mention the whole event took less than two and half hours. We focus on hunting and fishing items with very little art and home décor; very little. Almost all the items are ones that the guests can take out into the field tomorrow. All our prizes are what I call meaningful items, in that there are no trinkets and small items, nothing that a guest would generally just go out and buy without thinking about it, like hats and DVD's. Our merchandise items run about \$75 on average, with Ice Shanties and Augers, nice Knives, Exploding Targets... things people desire. Did I mention the guns; we gave away 24 guns that night, yeah that sold some tickets... Our big money maker is the Bucket Raffle with 18 guns and 18 merchandise items. We also had a highly profitable raffle in which we gave all three guns of the year away in one game; almost tripling our money on them.

For food, again, we keep it simple: all you can eat beer and brats. Ticket cost is \$35 per guest with no table packages or anything optional. We do it this way to keep things simple and to appeal to the person who just wants to come out and have a Night Out. Also, without asking for any underwriting, sponsorships, or going after our local corporations for support, that leaves the door open for us for their support and underwriting of our other events.

One last point; we have found that with this format our attendees have very little to virtually no overlap to our other events, we are reaching a completely new group of members. You can hold this event at the same time of the year as your other events, it doesn't need to be 6 months away, as it won't interfere.

If you want to grow and breathe some new life into your Chapter, consider a SNO event. With a little extra effort, you can really help MI DU and the Ducks.



Photo © Laurie Dirkx.com

## Ducks Unlimited and Partners Hosts Conservation Tour of Maple River State Game Area

Located right off U.S. Route 127 just north of Lansing is the Maple River State Game Area, one of our State's valuable public hunting areas. Whether you enjoy hunting for waterfowl, deer, pheasants, or just enjoy wildlife photography, this property has it all thanks to the tremendous habitat conservation efforts of Ducks Unlimited (DU) and our partners. The wetland restoration completed at this site by DU and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is worth showcasing and so on April 1, DU hosted the second annual Maple River Migration Tour. Members of the public walked the dikes alongside elected officials and waterfowl experts from the DNR and DU, while observing numerous species of waterfowl present that day. The sun shined and the birds were there in full spring plumage. DU and the DNR have conserved nearly 800 acres at this vital migration rest stop since 2011. This wonderful event was made possible because of the support from local DU volunteers and DNR staff.



#### Michigan Ducks Unlimited State Officer Contacts

State Chairman - Dale Borske  
State Secretary— Max Lehman  
State Treasurer— Jim Toth

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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.



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

Photo © David Bowers

Stoneco Truck Rolling Billboard with DU logo

