



The MI Marsh Chatter



Michigan Ducks Unlimited



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A Word from our Chairman

Dale Borske: 2017 - 2018 State Chairman



Fall is fast approaching and soon we will be enjoying the beauty of Michigan's outdoors. Watching migrating birds should give each of you a special

feeling knowing that your contributions as either a member, volunteer or donor is keeping this time-honored tradition alive. And if you are a hunter I wish you the best this season and hope you can find time to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

I was just at the Capital in Lansing yesterday with our public policy team here in Michigan. MUCC and its partners put on a Great Lakes Day for the legislators. Public Policy is one of our overlooked but very critical parts of wetlands conservation. No matter how much money you raise or how good your intentions it can be taken away with a stroke of the legislative pen. We are very fortunate to have Gildo Tori and Kyle Rorah from GLARO staff along with Steve Wyckoff our Public Policy Chairman and David Bowers to represent us. We have a great working relationship with our representatives here in Michigan and with that team I am sure it will hold well in the future.

We celebrated our 80th anniversary as Michigan Ducks Unlimited at our State Convention in Boyne City the last weekend of August. I cannot tell you how nice of a time was had by all the attendees. And we had a special guest our President

of Ducks Unlimited Rogers Hoyt in attendance. Rogers hails from Uvalde Texas and he was pleased with the event and commented on how beautiful Michigan is. He wants to return to visit and do a grouse hunt in the near future. If you have never attended our State Convention please put it on your to do list. We have so much fun and it is relaxing and a fantastic way to meet and mingle with your fellow volunteers.

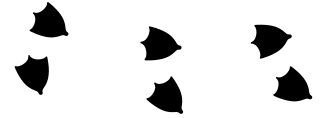
I was also invited to quite a few banquets across the state this spring and it was refreshing to meet new volunteers and to see many old friends I have made with MI DU. And I went to a couple of outdoor shows and DU had booths at them and others that I missed. So good to see our members getting the duck logo out to the public. We cannot thank you enough for your efforts. If you have ever been to one of these outdoor shows and seen Jack Watters booth you will not forget it. If you are a member reading this edition and would like to join us in putting on one of these events contact me at cruiseplanner1@chartermi.net. You may make some new friends and further wetlands conservation. We would love to have you aboard.

Fall event season is upon us and I hope you can attend one of our events across the state. Soon we will be having our Volunteer Christmas parties. Your RD and Area Chairman will contact you with the dates as they are posted. Usually in the first or second week of December. I plan on attending each of them so I hope to see you there.

If you have any comments or suggestions for Michigan DU, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Dale



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2017 Michigan State Convention



2017 State Convention a huge success at Boyne Highlands

Plans already underway for 2018 with new committee members added to team

Details to be released by end of year with lots of new ideas and costs coming



Message from State Convention Chair

By Dave Perry

Fun was had by all who attended the 2017 Michigan Ducks Unlimited state convention held at Boyne Highlands in late August.



It all started out on Thursday night with a taco bar in the hospitality room and a trolley ride into Petoskey for a Duck Waddle pub crawl. Lots of laughs and good times were shared back at the hospitality room after the duck waddle....enough said....whatever happens at a duck waddle party stays at the duck waddle party....but there were a lot of pictures takenooohh man, and the dreaded judges!

Friday night was a homecoming party with a pig roast and a live 70's rock and roll band up on stage. Fun was had by all and many stories were shared....and they were still talking about the duck waddle! There were games and raffles going on all over the room to give the evening a nice DU twist.

Saturday was the main reason for the state convention. As we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of Michigan Ducks Unlimited, we had many guest speakers and many awards handed out to the volunteers in honor of their hard work that has made Michigan one of the top states in the nation. Special awards were given out to all of the past state chairmen, because of their leadership and commitment to MIDU even today. All past Russ Bengal winners were given a very special award followed by the announcement of this year's recipient, Tracy Oberleiter. These are MIDU's hall of fame volunteers who continue to lead and serve at events all across the state, region, and country!



*Photos from the 2017 Michigan Ducks Unlimited State Convention
At Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs*

Thursday night Duck Waddle and Taco Party

Photos by Beth Perry and Becky Piper



Friday night Homecoming Pig Roast, Band, and DU fun

Photos by Lauren Furtah



Saturday Chapter Awards Luncheon

Photos by Lauren Furtah



Congratulations

Saturday Major Donor Reception—Event Sponsors

Photos by Lauren Furtah



Saturday Major Donor Reception—Major Donors

Photos by Lauren Furtah



Saturday Banquet — Special Guests

State Rep. Lee Chatfield, Sen. Wayne Schmidt, Rep Triston Cole

Photos by Lauren Furtah



Saturday Banquet—Speakers
 Congressman Jack Bergman, Governor Rick Snyder

Photos by Lauren Furtah



Saturday Banquet—Past State Chairs, Russ Bengal Recipients
 Larry Arbogast Award, State Chairman Awards

Photos by Lauren Furtah



Saturday Banquet—Russ Bengal Award Recipient for 2016
 Tracy Oberleiter

Photos by Lauren Furtah



Public Policy Activities



Steve Wyckoff

State Public Policy Chair



Kyle Rorah

Government Affairs Representative
Great Lakes/Atlantic Region

DU Integral part of Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus

The pursuit of feathers, fins and fur in Michigan generates over \$4 billion a year in economic revenue. This revenue supports over 70,000 jobs statewide. These facts are not lost on a group of outdoor minded legislators called the Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus (MLSC). The caucus is led by four co-chairs: Sen. Pete McGregor (R-Rockford), Sen. David Knezek (D-Dearborn Heights), Rep. Triston Cole (R-Mancelona) and Rep. Phil Phelps (D-Flushing). The caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral group of legislators who support hunting, fishing, trapping and recreational shooting throughout Michigan.

This network of pro-sportsmen legislators serves as a conduit for conservation for groups like Michigan Ducks Unlimited. DU stands ready to evaluate pending legislation on the effect that legislative would and could have on wetlands and our hunting heritage. Ducks Unlimited provides information using sound science that helps guide legislators when making important decisions.

Michigan Ducks Unlimited serves on the advisory council that helps further inform legislators on issues important to the state's natural resources and outdoor recreation economy.

Please take a moment out of your busy schedules to find out who your State Representative and State Senator are, if you haven't already, and contact them. Let them know that you are involved with Ducks Unlimited and make yourself known to them. DU will need your help down the road when critical issues in the conservation world come up, and by your contacts with your legislators we can make a difference.

Steve Wyckoff serves as the Public Policy Chairman for Michigan Ducks Unlimited and Kyle Rorah is the treasurer of the Advisory Council.

"Michigan's hunters and anglers support all species of wildlife through the purchase of their annual hunting and fishing licenses, the revenue from which goes directly towards habitat improvement, wildlife research, and improved recreational access on public lands," said Caucus Co-Chair Senator David Knezek (D-Dearborn Heights). "These outdoor activities and the professional management of Michigan's natural resources are not partisan issues and it must remain that way."

"It's great to be able to work with an organization like DU that is focused like a laser on Conservation. Hunters do so much for Wildlife and so does DU," said caucus Co-Chair Rep. Triston Cole (R-Mancelona). "Also DU's support and work with the Michigan Sportsman's Caucus is awesome! The educational opportunities and building relationships with Legislators is invaluable."

Co-chair Rep. Phil Phelps (D-Flushing) describes, "The Sportsmen's Caucus keeps the experienced members grounded in their outdoor heritage by putting them in close contact with conservation groups from around the state. While less experienced members could try something new, often not too far from their homes. Most importantly, the caucus provides conservation groups and their member's direct access to the legislative process.

"Michigan's natural resources have offered endless recreational opportunities for our citizens," said Sen. Peter MacGregor, R-Rockford. "With hunting and fishing rights continually under attack, it is important to maintain a highly engaged and informed Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus to protect our state's rich outdoor heritage for generations into the future. Michigan's large, diverse and active Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus keeps members informed not only on issues related to hunting and fishing, but also on the importance of resource conservation."



FEATHER SOCIETY

Feather Society -Your Michigan Ducks Unlimited Living Legacy

If all goes well, you'll go through three stages of life:

First, the **"learning"** years—youthful, vibrant times in school (your educational phase);

Second, the **"earning"** years—that first job, building a career;

Third, the **"yearning"** years—that stage of life where you may wish you could step back into the "learning" years, but you can't.

The "yearning" years are really your retirement years. Hopefully you've made a difference for family, friends and countless others during your lifetime. No matter what stage of life you are in, it's time for you to develop a **"living legacy"** within **"your"** estate to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those you love forever. As you are doing so, consider joining the Feather Society and make a difference for wetlands so future generations can enjoy them **"forever"**.

Three simple facts about the Feather Society:

The Feather Society is a documented pledge that you will leave a portion of your estate to DU at the time of your passing.

Your gift will go into an endowment fund. Interest from the fund is used to preserve and protect wetland areas. Commitments to date total over \$350 million. DU utilizes 3-5% of the fund annually to preserve the wetlands we love.

There are more than 400 Feather Society members in Michigan.

Is this the right time for me to join the Feather Society? You are the only one that can make that call. Without a doubt, it's time for you to leave a "living legacy" for those you love. Then, if there's a little extra, leave a legacy for wetlands and wildlife.

What are the most common ways to join the Feather Society? There are many options but most members choose to leave a portion of their life insurance policy to the ducks. Others may choose to leave a percentage of their IRA or 401k to the ducks.

Why join now? As a Feather Society member you have planned for the future of your family while also taking steps to preserve the environment they will inherit. At the same time, you are showing support for your local chapter and Michigan DU. You will also receive a pin or pendant. Wear it proudly! As you do so, you'll be furthering the mission of DU by positively influencing those around you. Visit www.ducks.org for more info or Sarah McCallum in the GLARO office

Thanks to our corporate partners and sponsors of Michigan Ducks Unlimited at the state convention and throughout the year



STONECO



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Szechuan Snow Goose

Recipe by
Dave Steinbach

Szechuan Snow Goose

- 2 SNOW GEESE, skinned and boned, 1/4 inch thick strips
- 2 eggs
- 4 tablespoons corn starch
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 4 cloves garlic , chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup chicken stock
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons fresh ginger root, minced
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 2 tablespoons hoisin sauce
- 2 tablespoons sherry or rice wine
- 1 tablespoon hot peppers, diced
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon chili peppers, dried and crushed

Blend egg, salt and cornstarch into thin batter.

Coat meat with mixture.

Cook in deep fryer.

Remove, drain and set aside.

Heat oil in a large skillet, add garlic, onion, ginger, hot and chili peppers and saute over high heat for 2-3 minutes or until onion just starts to brown.

Add chicken stock, soy sauce, ketchup, hoisin sauce, sherry or rice wine, red wine vinegar and sugar and stir over medium-high heat until sauce thickens.

Add the cooked goose and cook over low heat for an additional 5 minutes.



Photos by Maddie Saylor
Duck hunting season
opener in North Dakota
with her lab Gunner





MICHIGAN DUCKS UNLIMITED
29,000+ MEMBERS
OVER 81,000 ACRES CONSERVED
\$38 MILLION SPENT ON PROJECTS IN MI



But we still need your help!
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



DUCKS UNLIMITED

Visit MI.DUCKS.ORG for more information, or contact
 David Bowers, MI DU Volunteer Chairman (517) 974-3351
 Dale Borske, MI DU State Chairman (989) 876-7341
cruiseplanner1@chartermi.net

You Need Ducks.
 Ducks Need You.

Volunteer

As the heart and soul of Ducks Unlimited, dedicated volunteers all across Michigan manage and coordinate more than 200 local fundraising events, energize college campuses, raise political awareness and showcase wildlife art!

Whether its selling tickets, gathering donations, securing sponsorships, contacting government officials, or putting together one heck of a college party, DU volunteers annually generate more than \$2 million dollars and over 29,000 memberships in Michigan, the lifeblood of our mission.

Join the Michigan Volunteer DU team and become a leader in wetland conservation.

For more information contact State Chairman Dale Borske at 989-876-7341 or State Volunteer Chairman Dave Bowers at 517-974-3351

Become a DU volunteer today and leave a legacy!

The deadline is fast approaching to get your 2018 Michigan Ducks Unlimited calendar and have a chance to win a gun with one of the 5 names drawn each week. There is also the 12 Days of Christmas special gun drawing that will be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2018.

Contact your area chairman or Deb Gray at the GLARO office to purchase your calendar or for more information.

All proceeds stay in Michigan for wetland habitat.



MICHIGAN Ducks Unlimited
2018 CALENDAR RAFFLE

267 Gun Giveaway
 5 guns will be raffled every Wednesday **PLUS** a bonus Twelve Guns of Christmas drawing Wednesday Dec. 19.
 Your purchase of a \$50 calendar means you are entered in each weekly drawing.

Must be 18 years of age to enter. Michigan Lottery License number C2869

Contact Deb Gray (734) 623-2000 for more information and to enter • www.miducalendar.org

Michigan DU volunteers and staff attend Great Lakes Restoration Day at the capital to meet with legislators on the importance of conservation, wetlands, and Great Lakes initiatives. Gildo Tori, DU Director of Public Policy delivers key speech to attendees (excerpts below).



Great Lakes Restoration Days
Michigan State Capitol
By Gildo Tori, DU Director of Public Policy

[Greeting Call.]

That is the sound of the hen mallard when she wants everyone to gather around and join together. My name is Gildo Tori, and on behalf of Ducks Unlimited I want to thank you for attending today's Great Lakes Rally.

The Great Lakes are critical for Michigan's hunter, anglers and recreationalists. No one knows that better than you. But today we wanted to use this day to ensure our elected officials know and understand that, and who better to tell them the story than you.

The Great Lakes are a vital part of all of our lives, whether Democrat or Republican. And the efforts of the last 13 years reflect that the bipartisan nature of the Great Lakes. President George Bush started things off by declaring the Great Lakes a National Treasure in 2004, and charged us with developing a regional Great Lakes Restoration Plan. Once that restoration plan was completed, newly elected President Obama and the Congress appropriated funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Since those early days, the GLRI has received strong bipartisan support in our US Congress, which has resulted in more than a billion dollars being dedicated towards cleaning up toxics, fighting invasive species, improving nearshore areas, informing and monitoring, and most important to us here, conserving fish and wildlife habitat, increasing and improving public access.

In fact the GLRI has funded approximately 400 projects in Michigan alone, protecting, restoring and improving tens of thousands of acres of habitat throughout our state. There have been coastal wetlands protected, hundreds of miles of streams reconnected, lands conserved and restored back to wildlife habitat, invasive plants managed and removed, and public hunting and fishing access sites added and improved. Show the map!

DU working with our many partners, has received funding for 64 projects that have conserved more than 18,000 acres of wetlands – the majority open to hunting, fishing and trapping.

We need to tell the great story of the GLRI – and we need to tell that to our MI lawmakers so they can continue to support the DNR, other state agencies, and NGOs who are working to improve our Great Lakes, provide more fish and wildlife habitat, and most importantly, support hunters, anglers and outdoor recreationalists who support a vibrant MI tourism and recreation economy.

In fact, Hunters and Anglers, all 1.9 million of us Michiganders, spend nearly \$5 billion on our recreational pursuits; that is more than the combined receipts of corn, soybeans and dairy products in MI! As hunters and anglers, we have clout, we impact the economy and we love our Great Lakes!

Like Momma Duck says, we are stronger when we come together to work and communicate the importance of Michigan's Great Lakes and the fish, wildlife and people they support.

As you meet with your legislator, be sure to ask them to support the Great Lakes and all the groups that work to make them healthier and more productive for wildlife and people.

Representing Ducks Unlimited: Dave Bowers, Chris Sebastian, Tony Piper, Kyle Rorah, Steve Wyckoff, Gildo Tori, Kristin Peters, Dale Borske



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*Get your DU License Plate today
& support DU projects in Michigan.*

*Click on this license plate image for a
link to the Secretary of State site and
order online.*

It only takes a few minutes!



Ctrl+click to follow link

MIDU Regional Director receives top honor at National leadership conference



Southwest Michigan Regional Director Craig Curtis was named a recipient of one of the top awards a regional director can receive during the recent leadership conference in Memphis at DU headquarters.

The Sustained Growth award is given to the top tier of RD's that meet all of their goals for a minimum of three years in a row. Craig, a longtime volunteer before joining the DU ranks as a regional director, has achieved this award for the last six years in a row. His accomplishments now stand a nine years running which is a remarkable feat.

While Craig will quickly state that it is all about the volunteers, he works hard and many long hours to make sure his region and Michigan Ducks Unlimited is continuously growing and putting Michigan in the top ten states in the country.

Congratulations Craig from all of the Michigan DU volunteers and members for all that you do for the ducks!



Photos © David Bowers 2017

2018 Sponsor Print Winner Announced



The 2018 Michigan DU Sponsor Print contest was decided by popular vote at the State Convention in August. We had 7 terrific paintings to choose from, with two paintings running neck and neck right up to the final count.

We are proud to announce that Mark Thone of Shakopee, MN won with his image, "Snack at The Mack". The Red Breasted Mergansers will be our 2018 Print and State pin. This is the first time in the ten years that I have managed the contest that the Mighty Mac will be on our pin.

We are grateful to Dow for under writing this project every year. Many states have had to drop their print program for lack of funding.

Tickets still available for MIDU 80th Anniversary shotgun

There is still a limited number of tickets left for the 80th anniversary shotgun commissioned for Michigan Ducks Unlimited in honor of 80 years and 80,000 acres conserved in the state. The shotgun, a Browning Citori Gran Lightning 20 gauge, is a one of one gun manufactured by Browning and color hardened by **Bachelder Gunmakers of Grand Rapids**. The beautiful engraving was done by Mr. Tim Gall and includes Victorian/Acanthus scroll, DU logos, Bulino cattails with 24 carot gold and .999 pure platinum inlays.

Tickets are 1 for \$50 or 3 for \$100 and those remaining are on a first come first served basis. There were only 200 tickets available for this custom shotgun so they are very limited. The drawing for the winner will be December 7th at 7:00 pm at Paint Creek Golf Course, 2375 Stanton Road, Lake Orion, Michigan. The winner will be contacted immediately. For tickets or other information, contact Dave Perry at 734-755-8388.

Raffle license number #R43960; winner need not be present to win. Winner responsible for all applicable permits and taxes. Prize must be claimed within 30 days of notification. The winner must pass a nics background check and failure to pass the check will result in forfeiture. A new winner will then be drawn from the remainder of the sold tickets.





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 I can also be reached by cell phone at 517-974-3351



Volunteers Dean and Michelle Noble with Regional Director Lloyd Wilson at the DU museum in Memphis

For more photos on the convention and other articles go to the Michigan Ducks Unlimited Facebook page at

**[https://www.facebook.com/
MichiganDucksUnlimited/](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganDucksUnlimited/)**



State Convention parting shot, fun on the pub crawl in Petoskey—not sure about these amigos!!!!