



The MI Marsh Chatter



Michigan Ducks Unlimited



Volume 4, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2018

A Word from our Chairman

Dale Borske: 2017 - 2018 State Chairman



Well the holidays are over once again. Reflecting back on 2017 it was a very good year again for Ducks Unlimited both Nationwide and

here in Michigan. As we celebrated our 80th anniversary year we also are very proud of the 81,000 acres that have been conserved, protected or enhanced right here in Michigan alone! That is a remarkable number and that could not have been done without the support of our members, volunteers and donors. So we can all feel very proud of that major accomplishment. Michigan was able to raise over two million dollars again last year for wetlands conservation.

We held our annual Volunteer Appreciation parties across the state. I was able to attend all of them and visit with our great group of volunteers. These are so much fun and it is good to get together and share some times with your fellow volunteers. And we thank our RD's for all of their hard work in putting these events on for us.

We have our spring event season coming up soon and we are looking forward to some great fundraising events here in Michigan this year. I hope all of you are able to attend one or more of these

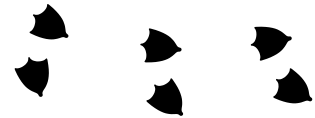
fun evenings. You can find them at ducks.org. We also have our annual Leadership Conference the last weekend of January and I hope to see all of our state officers this year. We really had a vibrant and exciting meeting last year and we are hoping to build from that again this year.

If you are a member of DU and considering joining one of our chapters to help please contact our new State Volunteer Chairman Dean Noble at (989)414-0981 or dean_noble@cable.comcast.net He will help you find a chapter in your area. We would love to have you on our team.

Save the date for our State Convention which will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge again in Traverse City this year. Dates are Friday August 24th and Saturday August 25th. We had a fantastic 80th Anniversary Celebration at last year's event and I am waiting to see what our Blue Ribbon Convention Team has planned for this year.

Our calendar program is wrapping up and sales were very good this year. I think there will be many calendar gifts under the tree this year for our family and friends. This is a fun program and generates funding for our wetlands mission.

In closing I hope to see all of you at one of our events or festivals this coming year. And we thank you for all of your support for Michigan Ducks Unlimited. Without you we would not be the largest wetlands conservation group in North America.



Inside this issue:

UPCOMING DATES	2
MALLARD BOURBON	3
RECIPE	3
WETLANDS VITAL TO MICHIGAN	4-5
NEW STATE OFFICER	6
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT	7
FEATHER SOCIETY	8
PUBLIC POLICY TEAM IN WASHINGTON DC	10-11
TOBICO MARSH AND GREAT RETRIEVERS	12
2018 SPONSOR PRINT WINNER	13
CLOSING NOTES AND MEMBER PHOTOS	14

Upcoming Dates to Remember for MIDU members and volunteers

Leadership Conference, January 26-27, RAM Center at Higgins Lake

Due to limited space this event is restricted to Area and Co-Area chairmen, Zone chairmen, District Chairmen and all past and present state officers. However if you are unable to attend we encourage you to send another member to represent your chapter.

National Convention, May 29-June 3, Indianapolis, at the JW Marriot downtown

A short drive from Michigan to Indianapolis, this will be a great event to attend. For more information and to register, go online to www.convention.ducks.org or contact your RD or one of the state officers.

State Convention, August 24-25, at the Great Wolf lodge in Traverse City

The state convention in 2017 at Boyne Highlands was a blast with a big crowd and lots of fun and memories. Everyone that attended will tell you the same. Watch for more information in the coming months about this years state convention. Save the dates and start making plans to attend!

Is DU missing in your hometown?

Watch Michigan DU continue to grow—new events, new chapters, endless possibilities. Interested in starting a chapter or helping out in one of these locations? Contact your friends, family, neighbors, and community businesses leaders to join ranks with you as a volunteer and kick off a great event in your community!

Birmingham * West Bloomfield * Charlotte * Hillsdale * Lake City * Lansing *
Leelanau County * Manistique * Marshall * Montrose * Plymouth

Contact your Regional Director or the State Chairman to start a chapter today!

Craig Curtis, SW Michigan RD, 269-806-0440
Billy Ray Fann, SE Michigan RD, 248-464-5474
Lloyd Wilson, Northern Michigan RD, 231-627-5965
Steve Kresl, Upper Peninsula RD, 715-477-2508

Dale Borske, State Chairman, 989-876-7341



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Mallard with Bourbon Butter Sauce Recipe

By Dave Steinbach

Ingredients

- 8 mallard breasts (skin on)
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon cracked black pepper
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

Instructions

Combine kosher salt, pepper and sugar and rub over duck breasts.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat and place ducks, skin 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. Slice on a 45 and arrange on plates and spoon Bourbon Butter 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 ingredients. Return to heat and simmer for 4 - 5 minutes.

Wetlands a vital resource for Michigan's wildlife, environment, citizenry



By Casey Warner
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

When thinking about Michigan's important, valuable landscapes, many of us first think of the Great Lakes, northern forests and sandy beaches. Wetlands might not immediately come to mind.

They certainly didn't for early Michigan settlers, who were less than impressed with the state's abundance of swamps and marshes – more than 10 million acres of wetlands before European settlement.

"The banks of the Detroit River are handsome, but nine-tenths of the land in the Territory is unfit for cultivation," said General Duncan McArthur, stationed at Fort Detroit, in 1814.

The 1816 Tiffin Report by Edward Tiffin, surveyor general of the United States, had equally disparaging things to say about Michigan's land and agricultural potential, including: "Michigan apparently consisted of swamps, lakes, and poor, sandy soil not worth the cost of surveying. Not more than one acre in a hundred, or perhaps a thousand, could be cultivated."

In the two centuries that followed, about half of Michigan's original wetlands have been drained and filled.

"Michigan was once considered a mosquito-infested, godforsaken swamp, and wetlands were drained to establish roads and agriculture and build communities," said Steve Shine, who coordinates wetland mitigation banking – the process of establishing new wetland areas before development or other projects impact existing wetland areas – for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. "This historic conversion of wetlands has made Michigan what it is today, but now we're focused on restoring wetlands to replace those impacted by agriculture, public works projects and development that are also important to the state."

Today, we recognize the value of wetlands, even celebrate them with observances like American Wetlands Month in May, and the need to conserve them.

"Michigan residents, whether they know it or not, have a strong connection to our state's wetlands and the waterfowl that rely on them," said Barb Avers, DNR waterfowl and wetland specialist. "Some go duck hunting every year, while others sit on their back porches and watch the annual fall waterfowl migrations. And many citizens get clear drinking water from groundwater purified by Michigan's wetlands."

In 1979, the Michigan legislature passed the state's wetlands protection statute, which recognizes the benefits and important functions and values provided by wetlands. Administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan's wetlands protection statute requires permits for construction activities in wetlands.

What exactly is a wetland?

Michigan law defines a wetland as "land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life, and is commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh."

More simply put, wetlands are areas where land and water meet.

They are characterized by the presence of water that saturates the soil or covers the land for some or all of the year, which leads to the development of plant and animal communities adapted to these conditions.

The three major types of wetlands are marshes, which have standing water from less than an inch to several feet deep and might be called flooded grasslands; swamps, dominated by woody plants and best described as flooded woodlands or shrublands; and bogs, which occur where accumulations of decaying vegetation form mats that eventually cover and then fill in old ponds or lakes.

Wetlands play a critical role in managing Michigan's water-based resources, providing flood storage, groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat, pollution treatment, erosion control and nutrient uptake.

Wetlands are a significant factor in the health and existence of Michigan's other natural resources, such as inland lakes, groundwater, fisheries, wildlife and the Great Lakes.

Wetlands are "like nature's kidneys," Avers said, in that they filter pollutants from surface runoff, trapping fertilizers, pesticides, sediments and other contaminants, helping to break some of them down into less harmful substances, improving water clarity and quality.

They also replenish surface and underground drinking water sources.

"Wetland soils help to filter pollutants and excess nutrients out of the water to create a cleaner water supply for all of us," said Holly Vaughn, DNR wildlife communications coordinator. "They also provide important flood control, acting like sponges to soak up extra rain and storm water."

Wetlands are vital to Michigan's wildlife as well. Acre for acre, they produce more wildlife and plants than any other Michigan habitat type.

"About 25 percent of mammals, 50 percent of birds, nearly all reptiles, and every amphibian in Michigan use wetlands," said Avers.

Avers added that, although wetlands make up only 5 percent of the area of the contiguous U.S., more than a third of threatened and endangered species live only in wetlands.

"Wetlands provide excellent benefits to wildlife, including important migratory stopover habitat for waterfowl and migratory songbirds too," Vaughn said.

While many wildlife species find homes in Michigan's wetlands, many people find recreation destinations there.

This includes waterfowl hunting – Michigan regularly ranks in the top three states for Canada goose harvest and hunters in the nation, and in the top 10 for average annual sales of federal duck stamps – and a variety of other outdoor pursuits.

"Michigan has exceptional wetland recreation opportunities," Vaughn said. "Among the best of them, our Wetland Wonders (the DNR's managed waterfowl areas) offer great waterfowl hunting, wildlife viewing, trapping, hiking, fishing and boating."

Those recreation opportunities lead to significant economic impact.

"Wetlands are important for the state's economy," said Avers. "Waterfowl hunting trips, which take place largely in wetland areas, generate \$22 million each year in Michigan. Fish, wildlife and recreational activities related to Michigan's coastal wetlands generate \$52 million annually."

Avers added that renowned waterfowl and coastal wetland areas like Saginaw Bay, St. Clair Flats and the Detroit River have built and supported local economies and communities with industries such as duck decoys, boats and hunting clubs.

"Great Lakes coastal wetlands are highly productive and rare ecosystems, and are widely recognized as vital to the overall Great Lakes ecosystem, providing habitat for migratory waterfowl, wading birds, sport and forage fish, amphibians and reptiles, and many other native wildlife," said Anne Garwood, DEQ Great Lakes coastal wetland ecologist. "In some parts of the state, where up to 90 percent of Michigan's coastal wetlands have been lost, the protection and restoration of coastal wetlands is especially critical."

Although now recognized for their importance to wildlife, people, the environment and the economy – and with laws in place that have helped slow their loss – wetlands still face threats.

These threats include invasive species, climate change and declining Great Lakes water levels, and demand for development on existing wetlands.

"More than 50 percent of Michigan's historic wetland base has been lost, and the rate of wetland loss in key waterfowl landscapes exceeds 90 percent," said Avers. "We need to do more to conserve Michigan's wetlands and our great waterfowl heritage."

The DNR, along with many other organizations, has undertaken efforts to conserve and restore wetlands in Michigan.

Take, for example, Michigan's [Wetland Wonders](#), the seven premier managed waterfowl hunt areas in the state, scattered across the southern Lower Peninsula.

The DNR created these areas in the 1960s to generate exceptional waterfowl hunting opportunities and still manages them today to provide habitat for waterfowl and other species of wetlands wildlife.

But Michigan's wetlands successes don't end there.

"We've been very successful across Michigan in protecting and restoring wetland habitat, primarily driven by partnerships with other organizations," said Avers. "Our best success story is the collection of North American Wetland Conservation Act grants that we've received."

The North American Wetland Conservation Act program, which began in 1989, supports on-the-ground wetland conservation efforts by providing matching grants for projects in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

In Michigan, the 50 NAWCA projects either completed or under way have conserved a total of 56,762 acres of wildlife habitat. The program's funding of more than \$18 million has stimulated partner contributions of more than \$62 million for Michigan wetlands conservation.

Recently the DNR has partnered with the [Michigan Municipal Wetland Alliance](#) on a new wetland mitigation banking program that will preserve and restore wetland habitat on public lands to offset unavoidable impacts to existing wetlands. Look for a future "Showcasing the DNR" story about this effort.

While there is still much work to do on the wetlands conservation front, Michigan has come a long way from the days of treating these vital assets as godforsaken swamps.

To learn more about Michigan wetlands, visit michigan.gov/wetlands.



*Meet your new Michigan Ducks Unlimited
State Volunteer Recruit Chair*

Dean Noble

A long time DU volunteer, Dean has led numerous events with his chapter and engages volunteers and committee members to provide continual growth. Dean and his wife are both active in DU and he will lead the volunteer recruitment efforts to greater numbers.

Contact Dean to become a volunteer today at:

8421 Peck Road, Marlette, MI 48453
989-414-0981 (H)
dean_noble@cable.comcast.com

Volunteer Recruitment

As we in Michigan Ducks Unlimited realize that our volunteer is the backbone of the organization, we also realize that if we do not continue to bring people into the fold of our organization we will not be able to continue to sustain the growth that we have enjoyed in the recent past.

New Volunteers

Make sure they are engaged in your committee. Think of a post event raffle, schedule meet and greets with your committee, encourage participation for all volunteers. They, too, will become great contributors to your events.

Committee Volunteers

Each committee member plays a role—no matter how small or large—in providing for the future of waterfowling, wetlands and clean water. Be proud of your efforts!

**You Need Ducks.
Ducks Need You.**

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!

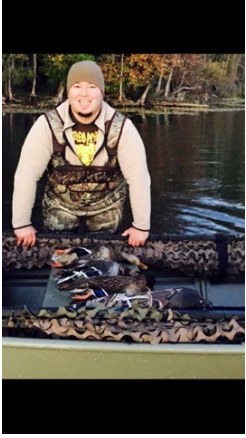
Whether its selling tickets, gathering donations, securing sponsorships, contacting government officials, or putting together one heck of a college party, DU volunteers annually generate more than \$2 million dollars and over 29,000 memberships in Michigan, the lifeblood of our mission.

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 Dean Noble at 989-414-0981

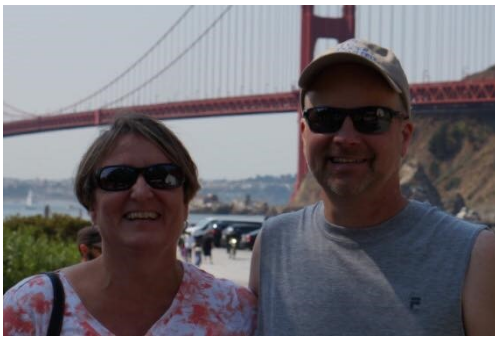
Become a DU volunteer today and leave a legacy!

Michigan Ducks Unlimited Volunteer Spotlight



Aaron Hartman, Thornapple Valley Chapter

I work for GreenStone Farm Credit Services in Hastings as a Financial Services Officer. Currently, I am the Area Chairman for the Thornapple Valley Chapter in Barry County, Michigan. I became involved with DU shortly after my daughter, Ava was born. She made me realize that I needed to make a difference in conservation efforts. It's important to me that Ava and future generations will be able to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and waterfowl hunting as I do.



Mike and Mary Bluschke, Munising Chapter

Mike owns and operates U.P. Tire & Auto Service, in Cooks, Michigan, and Mary is the Manager of Alger Title Agency located in Munising, Michigan. After attending a few banquets in Munising, we were approached by a committee member about becoming a DU volunteer. That following year, we helped with the banquet, and have been active committee members ever since. While volunteering for Ducks Unlimited we have crossed paths with individuals, many of whom have become friends, who share the same ideas and passion for conservation as we do. We have found that the people within DU, are compassionate about what they do, and they have made us feel like we are part of the DU family.



Amanda Woods, Saginaw Bay Chapter

Hi, my name is Amanda Woods, and I have been involved with Ducks Unlimited for about eight years. I started out as a volunteer at the Annual Banquets and some of the smaller events in our area. After a few years, I started to attend weekly chapter meetings, and after seven years, they asked if I would consider being a board member. I gladly accepted the Co-Chairman of the Saginaw Bay Chapter. I am very proud to have an active part in the DU Community and hope I can be a great asset to the program for years to come!!

**Join a winning team
and become a volunteer today with
Michigan Ducks Unlimited**



FEATHER SOCIETY

Feather Society -Your Michigan Ducks Unlimited Living Legacy



Make a Commitment to Future Generations JOIN THE FEATHER SOCIETY

When you joined Ducks Unlimited, you demonstrated your care and concern for wetlands and waterfowl conservation. Now, you can help DU ensure the future of these beloved resources for your children and future generations by joining the Feather Society. The members of this prestigious group of DU supporters choose to include Ducks Unlimited in their estate plans. Careful planning often allows Feather Society members to enjoy substantial tax advantages while supporting DU's vital conservation mission. Feather Society members proudly wear distinctive lapel pins or pendants. Platinum level and above members are acknowledged each year in the Ducks Unlimited Annual Report.

SIMPLEST WAYS to Fulfill your Feather Society Commitment

- Gifts Through Your Will or Trusts
- Gifts of Life Insurance or Annuities
- Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets or Real Estate

Contact us for more information on these or other gift options.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

Sarah McCallum, Director of Gift Planning
Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office
1220 Eisenhower Place
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

OR CONTACT SARAH AT:

734-623-2000
smccallum@ducks.org

ENROLLMENT:

My commitment level:

- Silver up to \$99,999
- Gold \$100,000 to \$249,999
- Emerald \$250,000 to \$499,999
- Platinum \$500,000 to \$999,999
- Diamond \$1,000,000 and above

The estimated Amount of my Gift will be \$ _____

- Gift documentation enclosed
- I have already included DU in my will or other planned gift.
- I am committing to include DU in my will or other planned gift.
- Please send me more information on:
 - Wills
 - Life Insurance
 - Retirement Plans
 - Other Options

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Spouse Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Chapter/Committee (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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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



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Public Policy Activities



Steve Wyckoff

State Public Policy Chair



Kyle Rorah

Government Affairs Representative
Great Lakes/Atlantic Region

Senator Stabenow meets with Michigan DU volunteers

The meeting focused on local and federal conservation issues, affecting Michigan and the Great Lakes



DU Michigan Chairman Dale Borske, Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow and DU Michigan Policy Chairman Steve Wyckoff on Dec. 5 in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Dec. 8, 2017 – Greenville, Mich., resident Steve Wyckoff and Au Gres resident Dale Borske met with Sen. Debbie Stabenow this week in Washington, D.C. on behalf of Ducks Unlimited. The meeting focused on local and federal conservation issues, affecting Michigan and the Great Lakes.

Each year Ducks Unlimited volunteers meet in Washington to ask for federal support for key conservation programs. This year, meetings were focused on the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and conservation provisions in the upcoming Farm Bill.

More than 45 Ducks Unlimited volunteers from 26 states came to Washington for the annual meeting. Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to conserving North America's disappearing waterfowl habitats. Since 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 14 million acres of land and has more than a million supporters across the continent.

Michigan DU leadership participates in Washington, D.C. event

Nearly 50 volunteers from 27 states including Michigan descended on Washington, D.C. for Ducks Unlimited's Volunteer Policy Workshop and Event on Dec. 4, 5 and 6.

The fly-in event was conceived by Ducks Unlimited President Rogers Hoyt Jr., to get state chairs and other senior volunteers from across the country into the nation's capital and learn about the importance of policy to conservation.

DU volunteers and staff conducted more than 100 meetings on Capitol Hill with members of Congress. Meetings focused on conservation policy issues including Farm Bill and North American Wetland Conservation Act. The meetings also provided numerous opportunities to reinforce the already -strong relationship between Ducks Unlimited and federal lawmakers.

Representing Michigan was State Chairman Dale Borske and State Policy Chairman Steve Wyckoff. Dale and Steve met with several Michigan senators and representatives, and talked about invasive species, local DU restoration projects and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Event attendees toured Ducks Unlimited's Washington office, located blocks from the Capitol, and had an afternoon of policy workshop training in the Capital. Ducks Unlimited also hosted an evening reception in the Russell Senate Office Building which drew numerous members of Congress and their staff.



MIDU State Chair Dale Borske, US Rep Kildee of Michigan, Public Policy Chair Steve Wyckoff



MIDU State Chair Dale Borske, Public Policy Chair Steve Wyckoff, and David Brakhage Director Great Lakes Atlantic Region

Michigan Legislative News

HB 4907, introduced by Rep Victory, for use of fund-raising registration plates expanded to passenger style company owned vans and trucks before the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee led by Rep Triston Cole, chair, passed the house and now to the Senate as of late December.

HB 4533, creates a new 3-day nonresident small game license and adding waterfowl to the hunt-able game list for those holding nonresident small game licenses, passed unanimously out of the house and is now to the Senate as of late December.

Natural Resource Commission passes order to allow waterfowl hunting in Tobico Marsh

Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 7 of 2017 was reviewed and accepted unanimously by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission in December. The order was an amendment to the Re-Designate Bay City State Recreation Area to Bay City State Park and provided Tobico Marsh Boundaries for waterfowl hunting. A public hearing was held in which voices both pro and con to the amendment were heard. DU staff and volunteers were involved and provided much insight on opening portions of the marsh to waterfowl hunting.

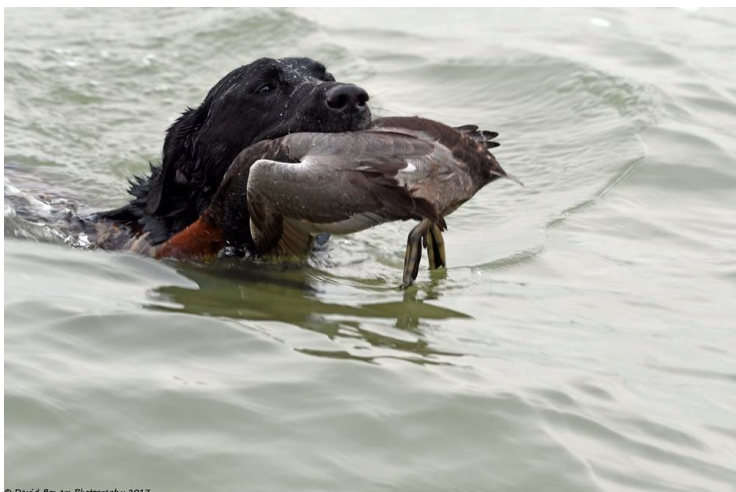
Great Retrieves from around Michigan provided by MIDU members



Aaron Hartman and lab,
photo by Aaron



Joe Schlatter lab, photo by Joe



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Jeff Godi lab, photo by Dave Bowers



Kevin Winter Lab, photo by Kevin



Michigan Ducks Unlimited State Officer Contacts

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State Secretary— Max Lehman	max_lehman@big-1-lumber.com	989-620-6791
State Treasurer— Jim Toth	jaegermeisterjt@gmail.com	810-869-5323

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



Photo by Dave Bowers



Photo by Kevin Winter



Photo by Dean Noble