



The MI Marsh Chatter



Michigan Ducks Unlimited Newsletter

1st Quarter, April - June 2021

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

A Word from our Chairman

Tracy Oberleiter: 2021 - 2022 State Chairman



Greetings Ducks Unlimited members, volunteers and supporters! It's been awhile since Ducks Unlimited has been able to publish a newsletter with updates and information on how we are progressing with our vision of establishing wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. Our newsletter was delayed due to software updates in the National

Ducks Unlimited computer system as well as DU staff working from home because of the COVID 19 with restricted access to the system. Hopefully that is behind us now and we can move forward with providing you with updated information about activities taking place here in Michigan and across North America with your Ducks Unlimited organization.

In this issue:

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It is my privilege to serve as your new State Chairman as of January 1, 2021 through 2022. As a 35 year volunteer with DU from the Monroe Chapter, I have served as an Area Chairman, Treasurer and Major Donor Coordinator for the Monroe Chapter and Major Donor Chairman and Treasurer for the State. Your leadership team contact information is also provided in our newsletter. Please feel free to contact any of us should you have any questions or suggestions. I'm looking forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead of me in serving as the Michigan State Chairman.

As we continue to maneuver through the difficulties that the COVID pandemic has presented us with, many challenges remain. Since March 2020, we have been unable to hold in person banquets and events except for rare exceptions with smaller attendance. Thankfully, your Ducks Unlimited leadership quickly pivoted our organization from in person event fundraising to a new concept called virtual fundraising. Yes raising money for the ducks by virtual communication through a system called Zoom and online auctions. Within a month of COVID restrictions being issued on social gatherings, our Michigan Regional Directors designed sweepstakes, raffles and auctions, all offered virtually across Michigan providing our supporters the opportunity to continue their financial support of Ducks Unlimited. Our state convention which was planned for this past January in Traverse City was successfully broadcast virtually through Zoom to our Ducks Unlimited members providing the opportunity to learn more about the activities of your Michigan Ducks Unlimited organization. Many more virtual events are in the works while we also make plans to bring back to our communities in person banquets and events as CDC and state guidelines allow.

In spite of these challenges, check out the progress we continue to make in developing over 1100 acres here in Michigan in the information included in this newsletter. Our staff and volunteers have been hard at work this past year.

Save the date for our State Leadership Conference for Ducks Unlimited senior leaders, staff and chapter chairmen. It will be held in person at the Michigan DNR Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center at Higgins Lake on Saturday, July 24th and Sunday, July 25th. At this conference we share best practices to improve our community fundraising events and provide conservation progress updates.

Everyone is invited to attend the next Ducks Unlimited National Convention to be held in New Orleans on September 8th thru 12th. For more information and to register go online at convention.ducks.org

In closing I want to thank all of our members, volunteers and supporters for your continued personal and financial contributions to Ducks Unlimited and our conservation initiatives. We could not do this without you!



Ducks Unlimited National Convention



**Join us in New Orleans, September 8-12, 2021, for
DU's 84th Annual Convention!**

More information to come.

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Huntsman Hunt Club Ducks Unlimited Chapter

The Huntsman Hunt Club is a private shooting preserve located in Dryden sponsors their own Michigan Ducks Unlimited Chapter. Each year in the spring and fall they host banquets for their members and the benefit of Ducks Unlimited. Pictured here is their spring banquet hosted in March.



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Ducks Unlimited Improves 1,000 Acres in MI

DU, partners completed 14 projects, conserved 1,104 acres in 2020.



Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe County

DETROIT – March 31, 2021 – Ducks Unlimited (DU) and numerous partners protected, enhanced or restored 1,014 acres of wetland and grassland habitat on 14 Michigan project sites in 2020, greatly improving water quality and wildlife habitat.

Highlights from 2020 include:

- **Saginaw County** – Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are in the planning phases of reconnecting large portions of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge floodplain to the Shiawassee River. The enhancement project will improve 1,000 acres of wetland habitat, crucial for local wildlife and flood prevention.
- **Monroe County** – The 4,000-acre Pointe Mouillee State Game Area along southwest Lake Erie is one of the most productive waterfowl use and fish spawning grounds in the Midwest. Ducks Unlimited and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources restored the state game area's Cripple Point Unit by rehabilitating a half-mile of dilapidated dikes and installing water-level infrastructure.
- **Southwest Michigan** – Ducks Unlimited has received a \$1 million NAWCA grant to restore, enhance and protect 2,500 acres in the Southeastern Lake Michigan Watershed. Six river systems flow into southeastern Lake Michigan: the Grand, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Pere-Marquette, St. Joseph and White. The environments formed by these rivers provide vital habitat for breeding and migrating waterfowl, other migratory bird species, and several of the region's species of special concern.
- **Southeast Michigan** – DU and its partners are addressing the loss of wetlands in the Western Lake Erie Basin of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Before 1850, the basin was an expansive wetland complex more than 300,000 acres in size known as the Great Black Swamp. Today, only about 5% remains. The partnership addresses the loss of fish and wildlife habitat and poor water quality in Lake Erie by restoring or enhancing 300 acres of wetlands in the basin, implemented through private land programs.

Click here for the [full story](#) and a complete report of 2020 activities and a look into what's planned for the future, see the [Michigan's Conservation Report](#).

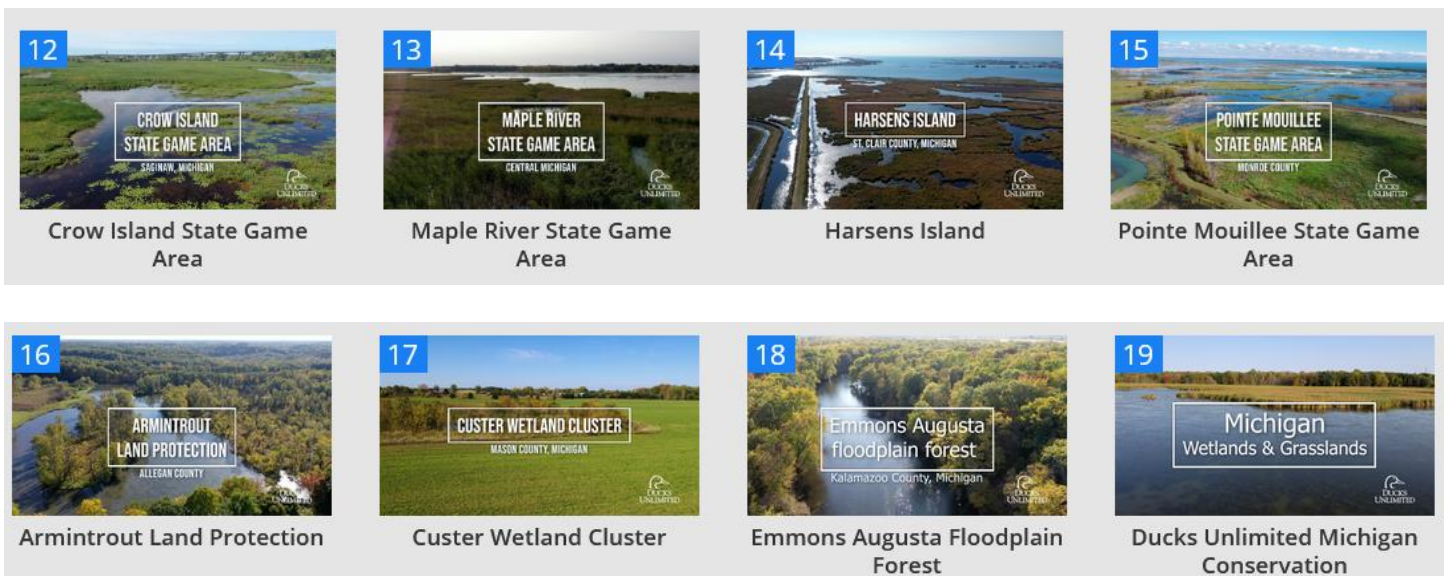
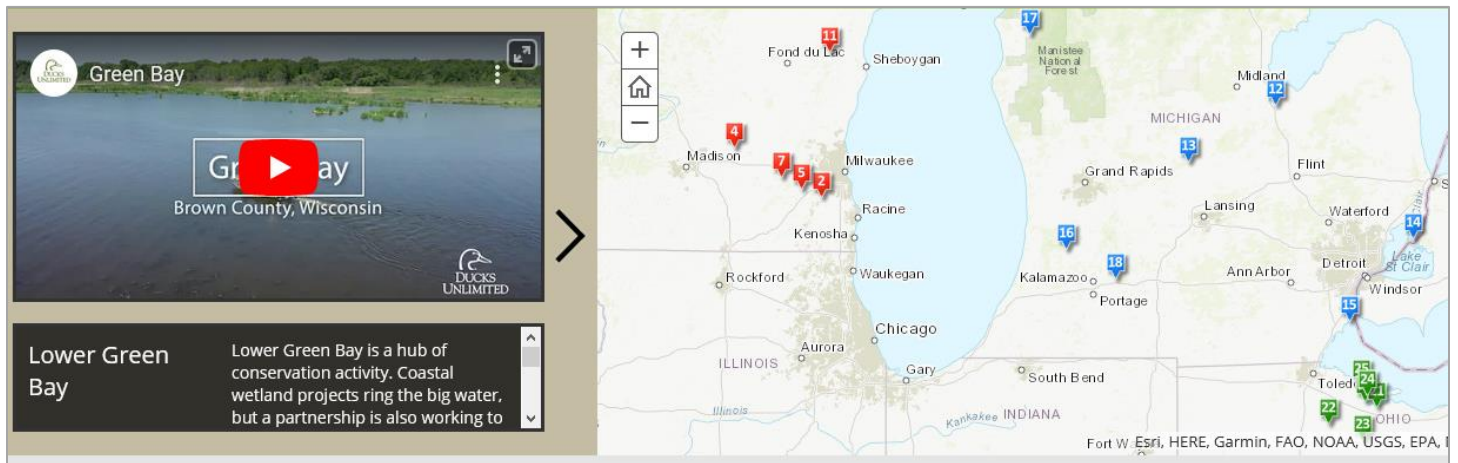
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DU Projects Interactive Aerial Tour

The best way to see Ducks Unlimited conservation is from a duck's point of view.

Tour 25 DU projects from the sky.

Fly across DU's Great Lakes Initiative [through this interactive map](#) and watch nearly 25 short aerial videos narrated by DU biologists. Learn how our work is improving both water quality and wildlife habitat. More than 30 million people get their drinking water from the lakes, and the freshwater is a major economic driver.

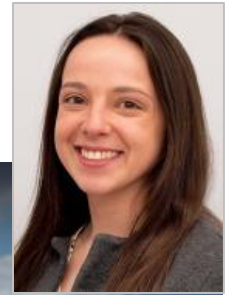


Since 2012, more than 45,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands have been conserved through the [Great Lakes Initiative](#). Ducks Unlimited's Great Lakes Initiative restores, enhances and protects wetlands that help make up the country's largest source of freshwater. Home to over 35 million people, the Great Lakes waterways are a natural resource vital to our ecologic and economic sustainability. These wetlands and associated uplands provide feeding and resting areas for migrating waterfowl, and habitat for waterfowl species that breed throughout the region. However, about 60 percent of historic wetlands have been lost in the Great Lakes area, and continued loss is estimated at one percent annually.

More videos will be added throughout the year. And starting in 2021 will be similar aerial tours of DU's [Big Rivers Initiative](#) and the north Atlantic Coast of DU's [Completing the Cycle Initiative](#).

Sturgeon Sloughs Marsh Project

Contributed by Kali Rush



Construction is complete at Sturgeon River Sloughs Wildlife Area in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Located adjacent to thousands of acres in the Copper Country State Forest, the 7,750-acre Sturgeon River Sloughs State Wildlife Area is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources primarily for seasonal use by migrating waterfowl and recreational hunting opportunities. The area is also used by a wide variety of other facultative and obligate wetland species during migration as well as the breeding season. The area receives frequent use by other recreationalists for activities including bird and wildlife watching, non-waterfowl hunting, fishing, educational training, and subsistence gathering.

Extensive bird survey information exists for this area. Seasonally, large numbers of Canada geese, mallards, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, American wigeon, gadwall, northern pintails, greater scaup, lesser scaup, ring-necked ducks, canvasbacks, and redheads can be found on the area. Breeding abundance and usage is somewhat less than that observed during migration, but nevertheless pied-billed grebes, American bitterns (SSC), American woodcock, black terns (SSC), wood thrushes, golden-winged warblers, and Canada warblers all have confirmed breeding records on the area. The area also has known occurrences of many other state-listed species including but not limited to short-eared owls (SE), long-eared owls (ST), merlins (ST), common loons (ST), bald eagles (SSC), least bitterns (ST), black-crowned night herons (SSC), and Wilson's phalarope (SSC). And for the first time, trumpeter swans (ST) hatched and fledged a clutch of 4 cygnets in 2013.

A bastion of the wildlife and recreational use that the area receives is a result of the series of 8 centralized wetland units managed specifically for these purposes. The diversity of wetland types within these units varies among areas of open water, emergent, hemi-marsh, scrub-shrub, and forested wetlands and make up the core 850 acres of the wildlife area in the centralized 8 units. An additional 100 acres are managed with sheet water for a variety of upland conditions including open land hayfield, herbaceous nesting cover, small grain plantings, and hardwood forest for cavity nesting habitat.

Recipe Page

Honey Lemon Fried Walleye

By
Dave Steinbach

4 servings

- 2 lbs of walleye fillets
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup Panko bread crumbs
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 Large eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 Tbsp. Honey
- 2 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/2 cup Canola oil



Beat eggs with the honey, milk and lemon juice in one bowl.

Mix flour, bread crumbs, salt, pepper, and garlic powder in a second bowl.

Dip walleye in the egg mix and then coat with the flour mix.

Heat 1/4 inch of Canola oil at medium high.

Fry fish for about 3 minutes per side, until golden brown.

Game Poppers

By
Paul Mushung



Quantities Vary

- Game meat (venison, duck, pheasant, etc.) cut into strips
- 1 bottle Italian salad dressing
- jalapeno pepper slices
- 10 slices bacon, cut in half
- toothpicks, soaked in water

Place the meat in a bowl & cover with Italian dressing. Refrigerate overnight.

Preheat the grill for medium heat. Drain the marinade from the meat. Discard the marinade.

Place a slice of jalapeno on top of a piece of meat, then wrap with a slice of bacon. Secure with a soaked toothpick. Repeat with remaining meat.

Grill the poppers for 15 to 20 minutes, turning occasionally to brown the bacon.

Serve and enjoy!

Have a recipe to share?

**Please send it to Jan Marra at
jan.mcd�@yahoo.com**

DUCK SOUP

By Jan Marra



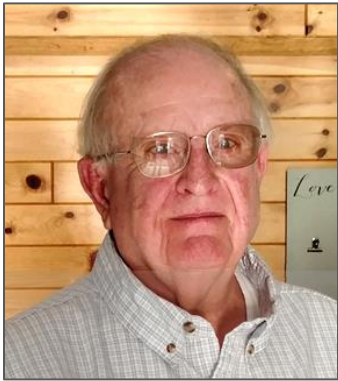
- 1 lb. ground duck (or hamburger)
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 cans (14 1/2 oz.) tomatoes
- 2 cans consommé
- 2 soup cans water
- 3 carrots, sliced
- 3 sticks celery, sliced
- 1 bay leaf
- Italian seasoning
- Salt & pepper
- 2/3 cup rice



Brown the meat & onion. Drain. Put into pot and add the rest of ingredients.

Simmer about 1 hour. Served with Parmesan cheese.

People to Know



Don Rushlow – Contributed by Jan Marra

Monroe chapter's SBA Chairman, Outdoor Events Chairman, & Raffle and Dinner Ticket Salesman Extraordinaire, Don Rushlow is the go-to guy that the Monroe Ducks Unlimited Chapter can depend on to get the job done.

Don has been with the Monroe chapter for close to twenty years. He's rarely in the spotlight, but always working hard in the background, from setting up to tearing down, and giving his all. Don has single-handedly run the SBA sales for Monroe and its success is due entirely to his hard work. At nearly every local gun/knife show, Don is there, selling DU raffle tickets, Michigan DU calendars and/or event dinner tickets. Always the team player, Don never forgets to thank, encourage and congratulate other Monroe Ducks Unlimited committee members.

Don and his wife Marty live in Monroe, Michigan near Lake Erie. He has two grown children, Kelly and Michael. Don's grandson, Jake is also active in the Monroe Ducks Unlimited Chapter.

Having grown up in the Pte. Mouillee area, Don has enjoyed hunting and fishing for as long as he can remember. He's an avid duck hunter, and friends relate that duck hunting often became more important than school. Don was also active in competitive shooting, and competitive roller skating!

Don is now retired from ABB Robotics where he was a manufacturing manager, but his activities with family, friends and Ducks Unlimited keep him busy full-time.

Do you know someone that should be recognized?

Please send their story and a picture to Jan Marra at jan.mcd�@yahoo.com

New DU Staff Member



Timm Appleton

Michigan conservation staff welcomed a new engineer, Timm Appleton, to the Michigan and Ohio Engineering team. Timm is a licensed engineer and will work alongside engineers, engineering technicians, and Conservation Managers to help deliver wetland conservation projects. He wanted to work for Ducks Unlimited to take part in creating and preserving wetland habitat, work with great people, and to learn new things.

Timm lives in Milford, Michigan. When he's away from work he enjoys deer hunting, hiking, bicycling and camping. His wife Kelly is a Speech Therapist in the Brighton Area Schools, and he has two children, Mitchell and Madeline (Maddie) who are currently college students. Mitchell is a senior at the University of Michigan

in Ann Arbor, MI and Maddie is a junior and student athlete at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York, where she plays volleyball.

Timm has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University located in Houghton, MI and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Wayne State University located in Detroit, MI. He recently left Nederveld, Inc., a private consulting engineering/surveying company, where he worked in site plan preparation and consulting on private commercial, industrial and residential land development projects. Earlier in his career he served as an engineering consultant to municipal clients which involved data gathering and design for utility infrastructure improvements.

Be part of the next Marsh Chatter!

You don't have to be a professional, just share your loves!

Hi Everyone,

As the new Marsh Chatter Editor, I wanted to take a minute to say how honored I am to have been given this opportunity to serve Michigan Ducks Unlimited, and to thank everyone who helped me with this newsletter. I especially want to thank David Bowers, the former editor. He's been there to help and guide me every step of the way as I get my footing.

I would like to ask for your help too. I want to include as much as possible from the marsh-grass roots of Ducks Unlimited; YOU. Your work, your achievements, and your fun times too. We all want the wonderful results that the Ducks Unlimited organization makes possible, but lets not forget the folks whose fundraising, and conservation efforts lay the ground work of possibilities. Go to www.ducks.org and to www.ducks.org/michigan to read how your hard work made those possibilities become reality.

For the newsletter I'm looking for:

- Pictures: Events, Committee Activities & DU friends
- Pictures: Working dogs at their best, wildlife, stunning scenery and of course, ducks!
- Nominate someone for the "People to Know" spot.
- Recipes: Fish and Game
- Fun Stories: Hunting, fishing and DU!

Please send them to me at jan.mcdu@yahoo.com

Thank you in advance!

Jan Marra

March Chatter Editor



Photo courtesy of David Bowers