



The MI Marsh Chatter



Michigan Ducks Unlimited Newsletter

3rd Quarter - Fall 2022

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

It's been a very busy Spring and Summer for your Michigan Ducks Unlimited organization. Many of our chapters across the state are planning their upcoming events and discovering how new Bingo events can pay big dividends for our organization. Many of our leadership and chapter representatives attended training to enhance our fundraising opportunities and conservation mission.

This past May Michigan representatives attended the Ducks Unlimited Region 3 (Michigan, Wisconsin & Minnesota) Leadership Conference at Wisconsin Dells and came home with some great ideas that were exchanged between the states. Soon after, in July, Michigan sponsored our Leadership Day in Mt. Pleasant. We had over 60 attendees from chapters across the state and again exchanged best practices in fundraising and chapter operations.



From the left: Chuck Smith, Ducks Unlimited President, Tracy Oberleiter, Michigan Ducks Unlimited State Chairman & Adam Putnam, CEO of Ducks Unlimited Inc.

In this issue:

- **A Word From Our Chairman** – pgs. 1 & 2
- **Save the date for the State Convention** – pg. 2
- **Conservation Corner** – pgs. 3 & 4
 - ♦ **Congressman Meijer Staff Tour** – pgs. 3
 - ♦ **Senator Jon Bumstead Goes Birding** – pg. 4
- **National Convention** – pgs. 5 & 6
- **Leadership Conference** – pgs. 7 & 8
 - ♦ **Art Contest** – pg. 7
 - ♦ **Russ Bengel Honorees** – pg. 8
- **Pte. Mouillee Dedication** – pgs. 9 & 10
- **Duck & Goose Calling Contest** – pgs. 11 & 12
- **CWAC Fall Report** – pg. 12
- **What's Quack'n** – pgs. 13 & 14
- **Your Early Season Hunts** – pgs. 14 & 15
- **DUCKO! Game** – pg. 16
- **Recipes** – pgs. 17
- **People to Know** – pg. 18
- **"Changing Colors of the Oak" by David Bowers** – pg. 18

Also in July, our Ducks Unlimited National Organization hosted the 85th National Convention in New Orleans to celebrate our North American, Canadian and Mexico achievements. During the convention, Michigan was recognized on stage seven different times for our fundraising, Major Donor and attendance accomplishments at our banquets and fundraising events. Proud moments to represent our great state for myself and our Major Donor State Chairman, Dave Steinbach.

On September 18th the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area Major Donor Dedication was held with almost 150 attending. Annually Michigan Ducks Unlimited showcases different locations in our state our wetland projects that are made possible by the generosity of our Major Donors. At the Pte. Mouillee Dedication we honored 122 Major Donors that collectively have donated over time more than \$5,000,000 to our Ducks Unlimited conservation mission.

We have certainly accomplished a great deal in 2022 but have much more yet to do. Please save the date to join us at our next State Convention at the Grand Traverse Hotel and Spa in Traverse City on January 27th & 28th, 2023. We are making great plans for another fun Friday night party, more training and our recognition banquet Saturday night. It's a great opportunity to meet fellow Ducks Unlimited members from across the state.

Thanks for all the support that you, our Michigan Ducks Unlimited members, provide and good luck this hunting season. Please send your hunting success pictures along with a description to Jan Marra at jan.mcd�@yahoo.com and she will publish in our Winter Marsh Chatter publication.

Thank you for your support! As the holidays approach, we are thankful for you and your families, and everything you do for the ducks and conservation! Enjoy the holidays with your families!

Tracy Oberleiter, Your Michigan Ducks Unlimited State Chairman



Save the Date!



January 27th & 28th 2023

**Join us for a great time at the 2023 Michigan State Convention!
Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, Traverse City, Michigan**

**Registration information coming soon to
ducks.org/Michigan/events.**



- * Parties *
- * Awards *
- * Friends *
- * Training *
- * Recognition *



Dave Perry, State Convention Chair

Conservation Corner

Congressman Meijer Staff Tour of Bakale Tract

By Dave Bowers



Kali Rush and Dan Schulz sharing their DU story with legislative aid James Zendstra.

Rep Meijer came down ill the morning of the tour but his environmental staffer reached out to me and asked if it was still alright to hold the tour so he could participate and take the message back to the Congressman.



Dave Bowers

Dan Schulz, Greater Grand Rapids volunteer and a member of the MI DU policy team, Kali Rush, regional biologist, and I met with the staff member, James Zendstra at the Bakale Tract along the Grand River in west Michigan. Joining us were our partners from the Department of Natural Resources, Nik Kalejs, wildlife biologist, Melissa Vandervelde, Unit Supervisor, and Greg Hochstetler, wildlife technician. They were brilliant and really helped to show off the area. Hats off to them!

This was a very nice tour as Dan shared his volunteer story with James and Nik, from the DNR, talked about the early days of the Bakale project and what it has meant to him over the years. Kali shared her story and I threw in a few tidbits now and then. James was more than impressed by the passion he witnessed from the stories everyone shared about being a member of DU or their love and passion for wetland conservation. He also

shared his passion for hunting, the outdoors, and his family heritage with deer hunting at their Michigan cabin.

To top it off, a large number of wood ducks were seen along with songbirds and an egret. The highlight was seeing where the Bass River emptied into the Grand River and everyone was able to share the value of wetlands, wetland habitat, and a healthy marsh. James was impressed and awe-struck to say the least!

James is extremely interested in conservation and Ducks Unlimited, as is the Congressman. He planned to share what he saw last Friday with the office back in DC and with many of his friends. He was amazed, but turned it into a passion that we can build a strong future with him as a partner. Good news for DU!



Kali Rush and James Zendstra pose next to the DU dedication sign at the Bakale tract.

Michigan State Senator Jon Bumstead Goes Birding with Audubon Great Lakes in Western Michigan

Article from the Audubon Great Lakes Website; sent to the Marsh Chatter by David Bowers, MI DU State Policy Chair.



From left: Dave Bowers, State Policy Chair for Michigan Ducks Unlimited; Brian Vigue, Policy Director of Freshwater for Audubon Great Lakes; Sen. Jon Bumstead; and Erin Rowan, Conservation Manager for Audubon Great Lakes. Photo: Audubon Great Lakes.

MICHIGAN (June 13, 2022) – Communities throughout the Eastern Lake Michigan region have lost up to 90 percent of their historic wetlands, natural areas that birds and other wildlife rely on to thrive. Last week, Michigan State Senator Jon Bumstead (R-MI-34) went birdwatching with Audubon Great Lakes at Muskegon State Park in North Muskegon, Michigan to learn about Audubon Great Lakes' work to restore wetlands across the region, and to discuss bipartisan conservation solutions to protect Michigan's natural areas, wildlife, and people.

"Thank you to Audubon Great Lakes for inviting me to go bird watching," said Sen. Bumstead. "Protecting Michigan's great natural resources creates jobs,

boosts tourism and supports our regional economy – a win-win for wildlife and Michiganders everywhere. I applaud Audubon Great Lakes conservation work to protect our great state's local wildlife, while supporting our growing economy."

During the walk Audubon Great Lakes representatives shared the importance of protecting wetland habitat within the Eastern Lake Michigan region. Since 2018, Audubon Great Lakes has directly restored 2,000 acres of wetlands across the region, and has helped guide partners in the restoration of an additional 8,000 acres.

The area is critically important during spring migration, as birds look for quality habitat to rest during their long journeys. In June, most species in the region have already begun nesting, including many marsh birds.

Audubon representatives thanked Sen. Bumstead for championing Senate Bill 565, which includes \$450 million in funding to support state and local parks across Michigan, and discussed the importance of conservation funding, which makes of Audubon Great Lakes' vision plan to protect and restore wildlife habitat across the Great Lakes region possible.

"Audubon Great Lakes thanks Sen. Bumstead for joining us on a bird walk to learn about our work to restore the region's wetlands for the benefit of birds and communities in Eastern Lake Michigan," said Brian Vigue, Policy Director of Freshwater for Audubon Great Lakes. "We applaud Sen. Bumstead for championing conservation legislation like Senate Bill 565, and we look forward to continuing to work with his office on common-sense policy solutions that will protect Michigan's birds and people."

To read the full article, go to:

[https://gl.audubon.org/news/michigan-state-senator-jon-bumstead-goes-birding-audubon-great-lakes-western-michigan?ms=policy-adv-email-ea-x-](https://gl.audubon.org/news/michigan-state-senator-jon-bumstead-goes-birding-audubon-great-lakes-western-michigan?ms=policy-adv-email-ea-x-engagement)

[engagement 20220908 advisory&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement 20220908 advisory](https://gl.audubon.org/news/michigan-state-senator-jon-bumstead-goes-birding-audubon-great-lakes-western-michigan?ms=policy-adv-email-ea-x-engagement)



Sen. Jon Bumstead (R-MI-34) looks through binoculars while birding with Audubon Great Lakes and partners. From left: Scott Faulkner, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly; Erin Rowan, Conservation Manager for Audubon Great Lakes; Curtis Dykstra, Park Naturalist for Ottawa County Parks and Recreation; Sen. Jon Bumstead. Photo: Audubon Great Lakes.

National Convention 2022

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2022

By Tracy Oberleiter



The 85th Ducks Unlimited National Convention is now part of our Ducks Unlimited history and will long be remembered by all of us here in Michigan who attended. First and foremost, the convention in New Orleans was well orchestrated by our Ducks Unlimited organization in giving recognition to the volunteers and staff of Ducks Unlimited Inc, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Ducks Unlimited de Mexico that made this past year the outstanding success that it was. DU



Jim Toth received his retiring Michigan State Chairman watch at the Ducks Unlimited National Convention.

exceeded every financial goal we had and are on track to continue this trend going forward. As always an abundance of information was shared on the successes of our conservation and related programs. To witness this reinforces the reason we all do what we do for this organization, Ducks Unlimited CEO Adam Putnam kept reminding us that "THERE IS NO DU WITHOUT YOU", a message we all heard several times throughout the convention. He said it in such a way that you know that he meant it!

Now for the recognitions that our Great State of Michigan received.

TOP 10 STATES:

Michigan #1 – Most new Feather Society Members Recruited (Thanks to Dave Steinbach)

Michigan #3 – Event Attendance Growth-Actual

Michigan #3 – Event Attendance % Growth

Michigan #4 – Event Income % Growth

Michigan #5 – Event Income Growth

Michigan #6 – Event Attendance

Michigan #10 – Event Income

Michigan was also recognized as one of the states to receive the **Presidential Merit of Honor** for Exceeding All Major Donor Goals including New Life Sponsors & Upgrades & New Feather Society Members.(Thanks to Dave Steinbach)



Dave & Shannon Steinbach also was recognized on stage for completing their **\$50,000 Heritage Sponsorship** Level. Congratulations Dave & Shannon.

Dave Steinbach was also elected to the Ducks Unlimited National Board of Directors as our new Region 3 Regional Vice President "RVP". Congratulations Dave!

I could go on and on but that's enough for now. Oh one last thing...all the Michigan volunteers attending the National Convention came home with the same souvenir...COVID. Everyone is recovering and expected to be fine. - Tracy



Beautiful Evening at the Convention!
Sue Bowers, Tracy & Marsha Oberleiter, & Shannon Steinbach



Leadership Conference



Leadership Day 2022

By Tracy Oberleiter, State Chairman

I'm pleased to report that we had a very successful and well attended Leadership Day this past Saturday in Mount Pleasant. We had participants traveling from all over the state including the UP and DU Regional Director Josh Hall and Volunteer Tab Casper Region 5 RVP from Indiana joining us.

Also attending were past state chairs, Steve Wyckoff, Dale Borske and Jim Toth. It's always a pleasure to have our past state chairs visit us.



We covered a great deal of information ranging from Feather Society and Gift Planning by Sara McCallum and Conservation Updates from Kali Rush, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention suggestions from Michael Trombley and how BINGO can add BIG DOLLARS to your chapters contributions to Ducks Unlimited by Josh Hall and Tab Casper from Indiana. We also had a very informative update by David Bowers, our Public Policy Chair and a special visit by State Representative Roger Hauck.



Craig Curtis with his award.

Craig Curtis Sr. Region Director of SE Michigan was presented with the Leadership Team "Service Way Beyond the Call of Duty Award" for his outstanding contributions to Michigan Ducks Unlimited the last couple of years.

Sponsor Print Art Contest

Tim Bliss, our State Art Chair also explained to us that one of the reasons why our Michigan delegation meets every summer in person at our Leadership conference is to vote and select the winning artist of our annual Sponsor Print Art Contest. This year it will be for 2023 Sponsor Print. The winner's artwork is then featured in our 2023 Sponsor Print that is generously sponsored by the Dow Chemical Foundation. We also voted on and selected the art subjects that the artist will be submitting artwork on for the 2024 competition.

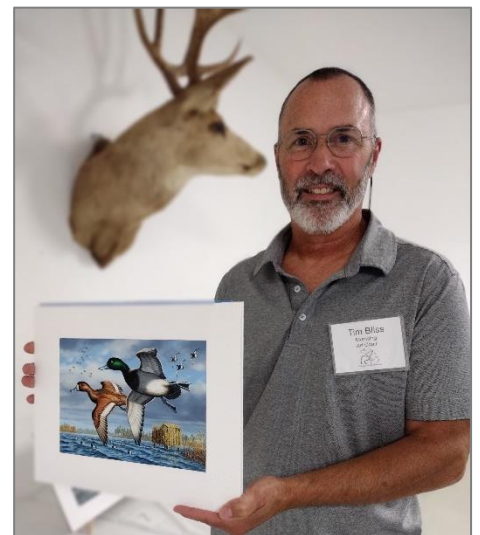
The judging for the 2023 Sponsor Print was conducted and here are the final results.

1st Place: Guy Crittenden of Virginia. His painting "Winter Warriors" featuring Greater Scaup took top honors.

2nd Place: Christine Clayton of Ohio. Her painting "Sunrise" also featuring Greater Scaup was only one vote behind Guy's entry.

3rd Place: Tied between Courtney Moore of Maine and Gunner Hilliard of New Jersey. Both artists featured Long-tailed Ducks as their subjects.

4th Place: Tied between Valerie Rogers of British Columbia chose Long-tailed Ducks and John Conner of Michigan chose Greater Scaup for their artwork.



Tim Bliss, State Art Chair, with the winning print.

It was voted on and decided that for 2024 the Sponsor Print subjects will be a Redhead or a retriever in a waterfowl hunting scene.

We finished up with a complimentary Steak Dinner cooked and served by our very own Ken Top. After the business portion of our program many went out and enjoyed a round of sporting clays and open hospitality coolers. More to come about who the top shooters of the day were.

Other noteworthy winners of the day were:

- Max Lehman won the S & W Shield Plus 9 MM Pre-event gun raffle
- The Monroe Chapter won the Chapter Attendance Incentive Franchi 3.5" Affinity Shotgun to be used as a fundraiser at their event
- Paul Mushing won the Franchi 3.5" Affinity Shotgun sponsored by Big L Lumber
- Winning \$50 each in the Sporting Clays Shoot was:
 - Big Bore-12 Ga. Tab Casper shooting a 47
 - Small Bore-20 Ga. Craig Curtis shooting a 44
 - Ladies-20 Ga. Janelle Lehman shooting a 27
- Small Bore Honorable Mention-Max Lehman with a 410 Ga. shooting an impressive 34
- It is duly noted that our friends from Indiana were top guns turning in scores of 47 (Tab) and 46 (Josh)

If you did not get a chance to join us at this year's Leadership Day please join us next year.



Russ Bengel Award Winners Honored at Leadership

Congratulations to our recent Russ Bengel Award Winners-The Russ Bengel Award has been given out by Michigan Ducks Unlimited dating back to 1976 and is the highest recognition award that Michigan Ducks Unlimited gives out to a volunteer in our organization. What is so unique about this award is that each year nominations are received for possible candidates and a voting by their peers is made to determine the winner. Congratulations to Dan Schultz our 2021 Russ Bengel Award winner and Blair Bissell our 2020 Russ Bengel Award winner. Both participated in our July Michigan Leadership Day.



RUSS BENGEL AWARD WINNERS!
Blair Bissell (left) and Dan Schultz (right)

Pte. Mouillee Dedication



Pointe Mouillee State Game Area Dedication – September 18, 2022

by Kali Rush



L to R: Charlie DeVries, Dick Micka, Gary Kirsh, Tracy Oberleiter, Dick Whitwam, & Dave Perry

Ducks Unlimited held a successful dedication event at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area on Sunday, September 18th to celebrate our major donors' commitment to DU and our mission of wetlands conservation. DU project dedications, groundbreakings and other stewardship activities are important events in each state. These events celebrate our successes and acknowledge the important contributions of volunteers, donors, members, partners, and staff that make up the DU Team. The ongoing realization of our mission – to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats for the benefit of North America's waterfowl, other wildlife, and people – depends on devoted conservationists.

Your Michigan Ducks Unlimited team celebrated hosting nearly 150 attendees at the dedication event. The event featured several speakers, including DU volunteers, Dave Perry, Dave

Steinbach, and Tracy Oberleiter, DU staff members, Jason Hill, Kali Rush, and Charlie DeVries, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff, Joe Robison. The day concluded with a project tour guided by Michigan DNR staff around the Banana Dike to showcase the diverse coastal wetlands at Pointe Mouillee and discuss our conservation programs and efforts in Michigan.





Ducks Unlimited engineers and biologists have partnered on several wetland enhancement and restoration projects at the 4,040-acre Pointe Mouillee State Game Area (PMSGA), located 30 miles southwest of Detroit at the confluence of the Detroit and Huron rivers on the western shore of Lake Erie. PMSGA is one of the largest freshwater wetland restoration projects undertaken in North America.

Historically owned and managed by the "Big 8" Hunt Club, this area encompasses what was once a broad estuary dominated by shallow water and emergent coastal wetlands. Natural

barrier islands and sand spits trapped sediments fed into the estuary from a number of streams and rivers while protecting the area from wave action on Lake Erie, particularly during winter storms. The coastal wetlands behind these islands were almost all lost by the 1960s due to a combination of sustained high lake levels and a reduction in sediment deposition due to damming, channelization, and armoring of the Huron and Detroit rivers. Nearly all 32 miles of the American side of the Detroit River are now either developed, or steel walled or rip-rapped, which has resulted in the destruction of more than 90% of the coastal wetlands once associated with the river. Similar wetland impacts have occurred along the coast of western Lake Erie, including at PMSGA. Due to its location at the mouth of the Detroit River on Lake Erie, PMSGA is one of the most productive areas for waterfowl use, shorebird and raptor migration, and fish spawning grounds in the Midwest. Realizing the importance of this area several decades ago, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) made a long-term commitment to restore and manage wetland habitat for waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife at PMSGA. Some of the historic estuary wetlands can still found, however, they tend to be restricted to the now existing wetland management units. The dike system found at PMSGA was developed to address this highly altered coastal wetland ecosystem and now allows for optimal wetland habitat management to benefit fish and wildlife, and people, while also reducing wave action and trapping sediment and nutrients.

If you are interested in becoming a major donor, please contact your Michigan Leadership team.





Duck & Goose Calling at Pte. Mouillee

Duck and Goose Calling Contest by Dave Perry

Michigan Ducks Unlimited had the pleasure of hosting the duck and goose calling contest held at the 2022 Pt Mouillee Waterfowl Festival. The contest drew a huge crowd of spectators and participates as it always does. The Monroe Ducks Unlimited Chapter had the pleasure of having the contest in their display on the huge stage. The Monroe chapter would like to thank all the patrons that stopped by their display, they met a lot of new friends and made a big footprint for Michigan Ducks Unlimited at the festival. The calling contest had some tough competition and a couple of the winners won the contest by less than 5 points. We had callers from all over come to compete, some were from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. Fun was had by all and the Monroe Ducks Unlimited look forward to hosting it again next year.





CWAC Report Fall 2022



Citizens Waterfowl Advisory Report, 4th Qtr. 2022

By Dale Borske

Greetings Michigan DU waterfowlers.

As you are reading this our season is underway in portions of the state. I have heard reports that the goose hunting has been slow in most of the state but there have been pockets of good hunting. Scouting and having a good location secured are critical to success. The teal season has been pretty good with quite a few limits reported in the areas that are suitable habitat for them. I would like to ask you for any input as we go forward with our meeting in January as there probably will not be another newsletter before then. Send me your thoughts, suggestions and your hunting report this season so I can share them with the board. Email me at cruiseplanner1@chartermi.net and make the subject CWAC so it gets through my junk mail. Good luck to all of you this fall and enjoy your time in the outdoors of Michigan.





What's Quack'n



Cadillac Event - June 24th - Kevin Stoltz

The crowd came ready to have a good time at the Cadillac dinner held this June at a new location, The Barn Hall in Manton, Michigan. The previous chairman resigned back in January so the first step with a recruitment/happy hour. Three new committee members joined up and Scott De Young, the chairman from over 5 years ago, stepped up as Chapter Chairman.

The crowd came ready to have a good time! Scott and his committee of all new members, kept the action going with games running in the pavilion: wheel game, dice, and pluck-a-geese. Both auctions went well and the crowd spent LOTS of money on gun blitzes/quickies. The Ducky Dollys went through \$2k in raffle packets in the first 30 minutes of doors opening!

We didn't quite hit our ticket goal of 150, but we did end up with 11 sponsor packages purchased and a total of 128 attendees. Overall results: 128 attendees, Total Revenue: \$28,123, Total Net/Net income: \$21,702 on a projection of \$13,000!



District Meeting - June 25th – By Craig Curtis

Great day with some of my volunteers at a District meeting. Thank you to all that attended the gathering. Special thank you to Michigan DU's State Chair elect Max Lehman and Janelle Lehman for hosting this event. We talked DUCKS, had a great lunch, and wrapped it up with some firepower!





Early Duck & Goose Hunts

Early Goose Hunt – Tracy Oberleiter



State Chairman, Tracy Oberleiter had an enjoyable opening morning duck and goose hunt on private property in Ida on October 15th. Not much flying but was able to get the only pair of geese that came in.

Early Duck & Goose Hunt – Dave Steinbach

The Saturday opener for ducks and geese in southern Michigan was a great one. The weather was crisp and partly cloudy which had the birds on the move. 6 hunters and we ended up with 13 ducks and 29 geese. Just doing our part to manage the local goose population.



DU members in the photo are the 3 standing in the middle (L to R), Joe Tiberi (past Western Washtenaw Co. AC), Dave Steinbach (Region 3 RVP), Shaun Bach (current Western Washtenaw Co. AC), and kneeling committee member Sean Steinbach. Joe's son Carter was taking the group photo for us.





DUCKO!







Ducko is a fun, bingo style game I created to help teach Greenwings duck identification. For the project I used pictures and information from the DU website. The game was launched at the Region 3 Leadership Conference in Wisconsin in May, and also was played at the National Convention, & it's now available free on the Michigan Ducks Unlimited website.

The game consists of:

- ♦ **Game Sheets** – Each Sheet is unique! The duck pictures are randomized on each game sheet so that no two sheets are alike. Each player gets one or two sheets. There's 100 unique 11" X 17" sheets on the link.
- ♦ **Duck I. D. Cards** – Full color picture of an individual duck on the front and that duck's information on the back. There's 66 cards, each with a different duck (male, female and species) on the link. Size: 8 ½" X 11".
- ♦ **Marker chips** – I recommend reusable chips so the players can keep their Game Sheets as a DU poster.

The game can be easily modified for more advanced players too. Just write the duck ID name on ping-pong balls or small pieces of paper, and draw!

You can find the links to the game on the ducks.org/michigan home page, under Michigan Resources. Just download, print, & have fun while teaching the Greenwings duck identification. – Jan Marra, Ducko creator & Marsh Chatter Editor

 Harlequin Duck (male)	 Redhead (female)	 Ring-necked Duck (female)	 Scaup (female)	 American Black Duck
 Surf Scoter (male)	 Red-breasted Merganser (female)	 Wood Duck (female)	 Stellers Eider (male)	 Common Merganser (male)
 Northern Shoveler (female)	 King Eider (male)	 DUCKO!  FREE SPACE		
 Cinnamon Teal (male)	 Blue-winged Teal (male)			
 Black-bellied Whistling Duck	 Bufflehead (female)	 Emperor Goose	 Fulvous Whistling Duck	 Canvasback (female)

Game Sheet



Jan Marra



Mallard (male)

Card front

Mallard (male)

Description

The mallard is one of the most recognized of all ducks and is the ancestor of several domestic breeds. Its wide range has given rise to several distinct populations.

The male mallard's white neck-ring separates the green head from the chestnut-brown chest, contrasts with the gray sides, brownish back, black rump and black upper- and under-tail coverts. The speculum is violet-blue bordered by black and white, and the outer tail feathers are white. The bill is yellow to yellowish-green and the legs and feet are coral-red.

The female mallard is a mottled brownish color and has a violet speculum bordered by black and white. The crown of the head is dark brown with a dark brown stripe running through the eye. The remainder of the head is lighter brown than the upper body. The bill is orange spotted with brown, and the legs and feet are orange.

Average length: M 24.7", F 23"

Average weight: M 2.7 lbs., F 2.4 lbs.

Food habits

Mallards dabble to feed on seeds, rootlets and tubers of aquatic plants off swamp and river bottoms.

Card back

Recipes

Slow Cooker Goose Breast

from

Rob & Debbie Sieb



Marinate the goose breast overnight with some Worcester Sauce and seasoned salt.

In the morning, put in the slow-cooker:

- ♦ Goose breast
- ♦ One envelope of dry ranch dressing
- ♦ One envelope of onion soup mix
- ♦ Potatoes and carrots
- ♦ One cup of water.
- ♦ Season to taste

Cook on low for 8 to 10 hours.



Have a recipe to share?
Please send it to Jan Marra at
jan.mcd�@yahoo.com

Grilled Venison Backstrap

from

Dale Borske

- ♦ 1/4 Cup of Canola or Olive oil
- ♦ 1/4 teaspoon minced garlic
- ♦ 1/4 teaspoon salt
- ♦ 2 Tablespoons lemon juice
- ♦ 1 teaspoon black pepper



Combine oil, garlic salt and lemon juice. Place backstrap in a gallon ziplock bag and pour marinade over it. Seal and refrigerate overnight or at least a few hours before cooking.

Heat grill to medium high. Remove backstrap from bag and season with the black pepper. Cook on the grill to desired tenderness. Medium rare about 138 degrees gives good results. Use a good temp probe when cooking meats. Rest only a couple minutes, slice and serve.

Venison with Bourbon Butter Sauce

From Scott Leysath's website, "The Sporting Chef"

This brown butter sauce recipe is great for any dark meat wild game.

Ingredients

- ♦ 2 venison steaks
- ♦ Hi Mountain Seasoning Venison Rub
- ♦ Olive Oil

Bourbon Butter Sauce:

- ♦ 1/4 cup butter separated
- ♦ 1/4 cup onion minced
- ♦ 2 garlic cloves minced
- ♦ 3 tbsps. bourbon
- ♦ 2 tsp fresh rosemary minced
- ♦ 2 tsp Dijon mustard
- ♦ 2 tsp Worcestershire sauce

Instructions

Cooking the Venison:

- ♦ Get a cast iron skillet hot with a little olive oil.
- ♦ Add the Hi Mountain Seasoning Venison Rub liberally to both sides.
- ♦ Add your venison steaks and sear on both sides until just done. I like my steaks medium rare - to rare. That's about 130-135 internal temp. Place the venison steaks off the to the side to rest. Keep the pan for your butter sauce.



Making the Sauce:

- ♦ Using the same pan as what you cooked your venison in, add half the butter to melt over medium heat.
- ♦ Add onion to sweat for 3-4 minutes, then add garlic and rosemary and cook until onions are translucent.
- ♦ Add mustard and Worcestershire sauce and stir.
- ♦ Remove pan from heat and away from any flames. Add the bourbon. Return to heat and simmer for 4 – 5 minutes. Add the remainder of the butter.
- ♦ Plate the venison and then pour the sauce over top.

Notes:

OK, this recipe comes with a warning. Pay attention. Anytime you add alcohol to a hot pan, there's gonna be fire. While I know that making fire is a fun, it's also dangerous. Just to be extra safe, cook this one outdoors.

People to Know

Charlie DeVries – New Michigan and N. Ohio Director of Development

Hello! I am honored to serve as your new Director of Development for Michigan & Northern Ohio in the Great Lakes Atlantic Region.

I want to hear from you about your passion for Ducks Unlimited and your history with us. Hearing these stories is always inspiring—DU has the best volunteers on the planet. Please contact me at cdevries@ducks.org. I would be happy to meet you in person the next time I am in your area.

Here is a little bit about my background:

I have been blessed to be a leader in government and community affairs my entire career. I started out clipping newspapers as an intern for a member of congress and left as a Projects Director. I went on to lobby on behalf of a public university in Lansing, and then served as senior director for a trade association with 1,000 member companies. I spent nine years with the nation's largest independent electricity transmission company. In this role I managed local government affairs, landowner rights-of-way concerns and sustainability efforts in Michigan, Iowa, Kansas and Oklahoma. During my time there, I partnered with the Michigan State Ducks Unlimited Committee in support of their many statewide events.

Sarah and I reside in Bloomfield Twp, MI. With two young children at home, I am excited to regain time in the outdoors and would love to camp, hunt or fly fish with you.

Thank you for all that you do to support Ducks Unlimited. I look forward to meeting you soon.

All the best,
Charlie DeVries



Be Part Of The Next Marsh Chatter

Hi Everyone,

You can be part of the next Marsh Chatter. Please send me stories about your -

- Events, and Committee Activities.
- Pictures: Hunting, Fishing, Greenwings, and working dogs.
- Nominate someone for the "People to Know" spot.
- Recipes: Fish and Game
- **REMEMBER!** The next Marsh Chatter will feature your hunting photos and stores.

Please send them to me at jan.mcd�@yahoo.com.

Thank you in advance!

Jan Marra

Jan Marra
Marsh Chatter Editor



"Changing Colors of the Oak" by David Bowers