



# Cattails



## Special points of interest:

- Anderson WPA Dedication
- New Chevy Truck Program
- State Convention Highlights
- Conservation Cup Golf

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Winter 2018

Official Newsletter of Minnesota Ducks Unlimited

## WOODLAND WMA WINNER



Above: The finished control structure at the Woodland WMA shows the huge improvement over the old fixed crest structure and the reason MN DNR turns to DU for help with these projects.

Right: The construction crew works on placing riprap for erosion control as part of finishing the Woodland WMA water control project.



**More about the Woodland WMA Project on page 6**



## State Chair's Chatter



Ruth Hoefs, State Chair

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Minnesota Ducks Unlimited's 36<sup>th</sup> State Convention was held Feb. 9 & 10, 2018 in Wilmar. We had 381 attend, up 30 from 2017, including DU members from all over the State. Friday night we "Started Our Engines" with raffles, drawings, and entertainment for everyone to enjoy and socialize. Saturday morning we honored our chapters and volunteers with awards. We then had a Conservation Luncheon "Plight of the Prairies" with Speakers Dr. Steve Adair from the DU Great Plains office in Bismarck ND and Kaylan Carlson Manager of Conservation Planning DU Great Plains Region in Canada. Jon Schneider, John Lindstrom and Kassy Hendricks from Minnesota told us how important it is to enhance shallow lakes and restore prairie and wetlands. Our Annual Banquet featured Dr. Karla Guyn, Chief Executive Officer DU Canada. We honored Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen with the 2018 Public Policy Award. We also honored Scott Christensen with the Tommy Nelson Award, Unmin with the Win Stephens Award, Jim Demgen with the Jimmy Robinson Award and Peter Eigen with the Landowski Leadership Award (see award photos on next page). These awards were well deserved. From what I saw, a good time was had by all and I am sure many stories were shared, as well as raffle ideas to use at chapter events across Minnesota. A big Thank You to the Convention Committee, the RD's and also the college chapters that attended and helped with the raffles for all their hard work. Join us for the 2019 State Convention February 8 and 9 in Willmar.

The following weekend was Minnesota's largest event held on ice in a town of about 225, in Garrison on Lake Mille Lacs. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual "Fishing for Ducks" was attended by 4,960 anglers (see photo below). The weather was a normal Minnesota winter day with the temps in the upper 20's and a light breeze.

Event goers could wander through a huge tent to sign in, register their fish, play raffles, enjoy food, hot and cold beverages and just come in and warm up. The Green Wings could build a wood duck house on the ice and take it home with them. There were also games and raffles on the ice, a fire pit and our Famous Quack Shack where you could enjoy a variety of adult beverages sponsored by Tito's, You couldn't miss it, with the Big Inflatable Duck on it's roof. The top 100 fish received prizes. The Garrison Ducks Unlimited Chapter does an awesome job to put such an event on, with the help of 200 plus volunteers from across Minnesota. I would like to thank the Garrison Ducks Unlimited Chapter, the volunteers, and sponsors who help put on the Friday Night Flight, Fishing for Ducks, and After Party for the volunteers. Without all of your help, this event would not be such a big success. DU President Rogers Hoyt sent all the volunteers a message from Napa, California congratulating the Garrison Chapter for such a great Job.. Join us in 2019 for another "Fishing for Ducks" February 16<sup>th</sup>. You can visit the "Fishing For Ducks" Facebook

Page for pictures and prize winners.

I am honored to be your State Chair and look forward to my next year. We have great volunteers. In the coming year, I am looking forward to working with all you to recruit new members, grow more sponsors, and increase our event income.

Have a Great Spring Event Season!



The Quack Shack is a popular spot at Fishing For Ducks.





## MINNESOTA DU AWARDS AT THE STATE CONVENTION



Doug Lohsee (with plaque) accepted the Win Stephen Award given to Unimin for their support of MN DU's conservation programs from Director of Development Adam Dehaan (left), Regional Director Andrew Limmer, and State Chair Ruth Hoefs (on right).



Regional Vice Chair (RVC) Scott Christensen (center) accepts the Tommy Nelson, MN DU's "Do it for the Ducks" award for his many volunteer roles from Convention Chair to RVC from Regional Director Kyle Momsen and State Chair Ruth Hoefs.



MN DU State Policy Chair, Peter Eigen, (second from left) accepts the Landowski Leadership Award for his work leading the State Policy Committee, from Jon Schneider, DU Manager of MN Conservation Programs, State Chair Ruth Hoefs, and Senior VP Dave Flink.



Mark Jensen (with keyboard sans Cap Key) received the Zone Chair of the Year Award for the South Region. Presenting him the award are RD Andrew Limmer (left), State Chair Ruth Hoefs, and State Chair Elect Kyle Thaemlitz to the right.



**These are MN DU's  
Annual Awards.**



Taking home the highest MN DU honor, the Jimmy Robinson Award, was Jim Demgen, our Major Donor and State Campaign Chair. With him, are (left to right), Development Director Adam Dehaan, State Chair Ruth Hoefs, and Senior RD Scott Anderson.





## Anderson WPA Project Dedication

Anderson WPA is a 582-acre Waterfowl Production Area located northwest of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota on the east side of Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge. Anderson WPA is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) out of their Detroit Lakes Wetland Management Office. DU secured a state grant appropriation for a project to enhance the wetlands on the WPA from the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The project included design and installation of a water conveyance network and four new water control structures. For more details on the design and construction of the project see the Spring 2014 issue of Cattails: [http://www.ducks.org/newsletters/2014/states/MN/docs/MNDU\\_Newsletter\\_Spring2014.pdf](http://www.ducks.org/newsletters/2014/states/MN/docs/MNDU_Newsletter_Spring2014.pdf) The water control structures have proved to be an efficient tool for the USFWS to actively manage the wetlands and enhance their waterfowl production benefits.

To celebrate the enhancement of the Anderson WPA, Ducks Unlimited and its partners dedicated the site on July 8, 2017. DU Major Sponsors were recognized on a bronze plaque for their generous contributions to the DU Living Lakes Initiative which strives to provide high quality aquatic food and habitat resources for migrating and breeding waterfowl. Over 60 people including DU members, staff, and our USFWS partners attended the dedication on a bright summer day with a nice breeze, nature's air conditioning.



Above: The dedication cairn awaits its unveiling for the dedication.



A large tent canopy kept guests cool during the dedication ceremonial talks.



Right: Tom Melius, USFWS Regional Director was the keynote speaker and talked about the extensive partnership between DU and the Service. Left: The dedication plaque was affixed to a rock provided by the Service.



Left: Some of the over 60 people and two dogs who attended the dedication pose by the cairn.





## Minnesota Artists' Corner—David Maass

"Every so often a man appears and shows us that this is what we are really seeing. This (ability) is the essence of intellect – or art. This is what David Maass has done for us – to show us a common thing in an uncommon way...we can never see it again as plain and ordinary because it isn't anymore; it has become wondrous." – Gene Hill 1927-1997

David Maass' career as a wildlife artist spans five decades. His reputation as one of the foremost painters of nature art did not occur over night. This kind of recognition and the earned respect of both his peers and the public has come one painting at a time, through weeks, months and years of skillful dedication to his avocation.

As a pioneer in the genre of nature art, Maass has paved the way for many new artists and helped make art more accessible for the appreciating public. Maass is credited with the concepts of both the time-limited print edition with his 1974 Federal Duck Stamp and the edition series with "Misty Morning." His artworks reveal an amazing understanding of light and a diligent study of subject matter, capturing in each piece the true spirit of the outdoors. Over 300 of Maass' images appear in limited edition form produced mainly by Wild Wings, his current and longtime publisher. Further David Maass' work has donned the calendars of Brown & Bigelow for 46 years. In June of 1997, US ART honored Maass with the prestigious title of Master Artist. These accomplishments and others have made Maass one of the most popular guests at nature art shows and festivals across the country.

As an avid conservationist, David Maass continues to foster efforts which benefit wildlife and native habitat. He has designed 38 duck and conservation stamps, including two of the coveted Federal Duck Stamp Contests. Pheasants Forever has named Maass their Artist of the Year in 2008 and 2016. He was named Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year in 1974, 1988, 2004, 2013 and 2016 and has been honored as the DU Featured Artist at their Great Outdoors Festival in Memphis, Tennessee. Maass has raised millions of dollars for conservation causes by donating original artworks and limited edition prints to various groups both nationally and internationally. A traditional favorite in DU National Art packages, Maass completed two four-year, four-print series for DU entitled "Fruits of Your Labor" and "Waterfowling Hot Spots." His personal appearances have assisted in public relations efforts by extending the conservation message beyond the hunter to the public at large.

David A. Maass' work has been published in countless magazines, journals and books. Four books specifically featuring his images are: A Gallery of Waterfowl and Upland Birds, a collection of prose and artworks, he produced with renowned outdoors writer Gene Hill; The Wildfowl Art of David Maass by Michael McIntosh from the Masters of the Wild Series; Wildfowl of North America with Micheal McIntosh and Following the Flight by Charles. S. Potter.

Artwork provided courtesy of David Maass and Wild Wings, LLC, Lake City, MN 800-445-4833 [www.wildwings.com](http://www.wildwings.com)



Above is a recent Maass painting titled: Weather Moving In—Wood Ducks.

Below is his DU 2016 Artist of the Year Painting "Late Autumn Green-heads; his fifth such honor with DU.



Left: It is Wild Wings 50th Anniversary so David created a new painting called "Wild Wings on the Upper Mississippi" that incorporates the original Wild Wings logo into the painting. Can you spot the logo ducks?





# Woodland WMA Winner

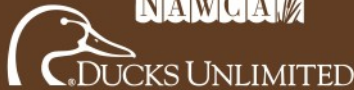
## Woodland WMA

This shallow lake was enhanced by Ducks Unlimited in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Support was appropriated from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and philanthropic support from Flint Hills Resources, Unimin Corporation, Caterpillar Foundation, Ziegler CAT, Van Sloun Foundation, and Ducks Unlimited Members and Major Sponsors.



Thank You!



Woodland Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located on the southeast edge of Montrose, just off U.S. Highway 12 in Wright County. The area is known locally as Montrose Marsh and is owned and managed by Minnesota DNR. DU engineered a new water control structure for the 611-acre basin to provide optimal wetland habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. With the old structure, water levels were low and unmanageable, resulting in heavy cattail encroachment. The new DU structure will allow the water levels to return and give Minnesota DNR the ability to conduct water level draw-downs.



Above: The old water control structure was a simple fixed-crest, sheet-pile weir which limited the ability to control water levels. This resulted in stagnant high water levels and expansion of cattails beds reducing the amount of open water areas for ducks and complicated hunter access.



***DU's engineering expertise is why DNR turns to DU for help with projects like Woodland WMA installing a new water control structure.***





## Woodland WMA Winner (Continued)



Above: The first step after removal of the old structure is pounding in the new sheet pile weir structure. Above right: A welder works on capping the sheet pile weir. It takes a lot of welding to put these large structures together to face the elements for 40 years. Right: The structure continues to take shape behind the sign posted on a nearby roadway to let the public know what is going on in their neighborhood.



Above: The structure is almost ready to let the water flow.

***The structure is designed with a large overflow to handle heavy storm events.***

Left: This Google aerial from spring 2017 shows the finished structure, cleaned outlet channel and parking area,



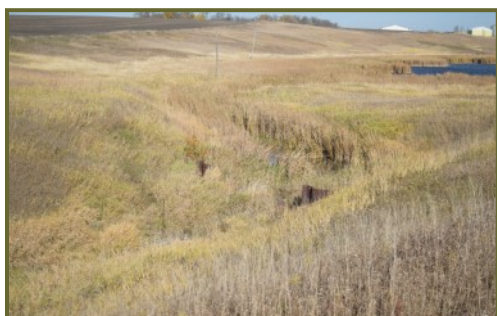


## Project Hall of Fame—Lake Park WPA

Ducks Unlimited has been doing habitat projects in Minnesota since 1985. There are literally hundreds of DU projects scattered across Minnesota. In fact, many of the water control structures on federal waterfowl production areas (WPAs), national wildlife refuges (NWRs), and state wildlife management areas (WMAs) were designed and built as Ducks Unlimited projects. This column is a regular feature devoted to describing some of these older projects.

The Lake Park WPA project was one of the first DU projects constructed in Minnesota being project MN-0006, the sixth project in the state. The project site is just south of Lake Park, MN, in Becker County. It was started in November 1984

and completed by July 1985. The project consisted of installation of a steel sheet control structure to restore the basin and allow for water level control. It also included some channel excavation, installation of two culverts for channel crossings, 233 cubic yards of riprap, and construction of a small island. The total project cost, small by today's standards, was \$68,551 paid to the contractor, who was Harris Construction from Oakes, North Dakota.



Above: The control structure is in the center of the photo on a channel from the restored wetland in the background on the right.



The water control structure is showing its age, but is still functioning as designed.

The editor visited the project site late last fall and found the structure was showing its age, but still working as designed. The basin was at full pool with water spilling over the outlet and great hemi marsh conditions across the basin. It will provide great nesting and brood habitat next summer. The surrounding uplands were also in fantastic shape with thick grasses for upland nesting waterfowl and other grassland species.



Above: This photograph shows the west end of the basin looking north at the channel outlet.

Below: View of the south end of the basin and the Lake Park WPA showing the extensive nesting habitat.



Above: Recent aerial photograph of the basin showing the location of the structure.





## DU News—Check Out [www.duraffles.org](http://www.duraffles.org)



Minnesota DU has a raffles website that features raffles going on for DU committees and events around the state and northwestern Wisconsin. There are dozens of raffles with guns, yeti coolers, decoys, and boats. The website also lists winners of raffles that have been posted. It is updated regularly and lists the committee person's contact information if you want to get in on one of the raffles.

The website is maintained by Alisha Muessetter, who is the MN DU State Webmaster and the Co-chair of the South Metro Flyway Chapter. She updates the website regularly so check back often.



**There Are  
Dozens of  
Raffles to Join  
at the  
DU Raffles  
Website.**

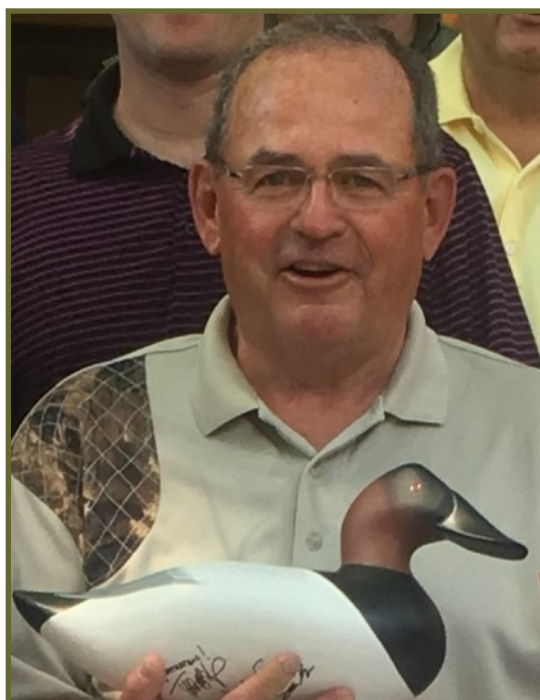
## Volunteer Spotlight—Jim Demgen

Jim Demgen has been committed to the mission of Ducks Unlimited since at least 1973 when he helped found the Paul Bunyan Chapter in Brainerd, the 9th chapter in Minnesota. He started as the chapter's Membership Chair. From the start Jim understood it was all about getting people in the door and introduced to DU and he knew the rest would follow suit. He later served his time as the area chairman (more than once) along with holding several other positions within the chapter and still attends local committee meetings to this day. In fact, any time the Paul Bunyan Chapter has stumbled, Jim is the first guy to be there to help them back up on their feet.

Outside the local chapter Jim made his way through nearly every volunteer position in the region. He served as Zone Chairman, District Chairman and Regional Vice Chairman all with former RD Dick Burch.

He was later engaged in state level positions taking on the State Recruitment Chair and Major Donor Chair. There was nothing that Jim was asked to do that he didn't rise to the challenge of. In fact, when the idea came up of hosting a \$500 per plate event we call the Critical Conservation Club, right in Jim's backyard, he was one of the first to say we can make this work. In the two years of that event, Jim along with Andy Anderson and Jim's son-in-law Adam Arnold have raised over \$270,000.

Former State Chair, David Flink, asked Jim to assume the State Campaign chair position in 2011. The major gift program has exploded under Jim's leadership. Life sponsors have increased from 13 in 2010 to 54 in 2017. Upgrades have increased from 16 in 2010 to 71 in 2017. And annual feather society documentation has tripled from 3 in 2010 to 9 in 2017. The total number of gifts in 7 years is astounding: 252 life sponsors, 266 upgrades, and 44 feather society documentations. The total amount of pledge commitments hovers around 8 million dollars. He has been such an example of an effective State Campaign Chair that he was invited to sit on the DU National Development Committee where he continues to serve today.

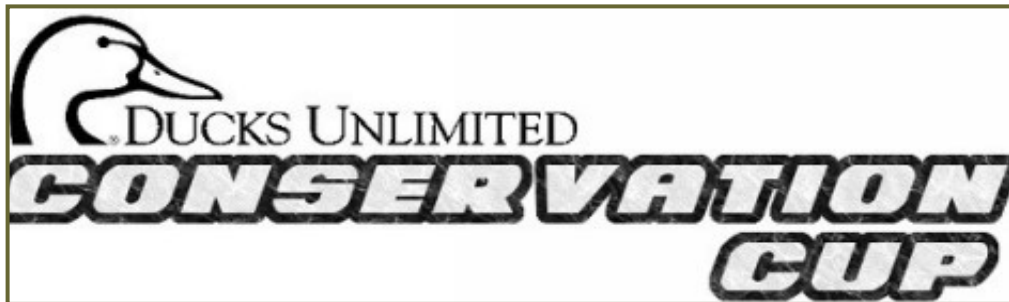


Here is Jim at the 2016 Major Donor Committee meeting where he was just presented a canvasback decoy for MN DU's success with Major Donors.





## The Inaugural Conservation Cup Golf Event



The inaugural Conservation Cup golf event was held last summer at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd. The event included a best ball format, 18-hole competition, but also included several other challenge games. One game was the "Hole in One Challenge", where, at four Par 3 holes, golfers had a chance to win \$25,000, a Caribbean Cruise, airline tickets, and other prizes by getting a hole in one on that hole. Another game was the "The \$1,000,000 Shot!", where three contestants took a 165-yard shot onto the 18th hole green that could make them a Millionaire. The third game was "The Truck Putt" where competitors got a chance to win a new truck for sinking putts at 10 feet, 30 feet, and 50 feet.



The event had 60 golfers for a great start to an annual DU event. The weather was perfect after some morning showers, but nice temperatures and a cooling breeze. The event included side raffles and silent auction items, with a fabulous meal at the end.

This years Conservation Cup will be held at another resort near Brainerd, Grand View Resort, on the north end of Gull Lake. It will be held on June 16, 2018 with the after banquet party at Zorbas on Gull. The team cost will be \$400/team, which includes carts.

***This years'***  
***Conservation Cup***  
***will be at***  
***Grand View Resort***  
***on June 16, 2018.***



Above: The winning team won four Yeti coolers, DU bags, propane, and several bottles of Tito's vodka with many other prizes.



Dondelinger Chevrolet provided a Chevy truck to juice up the competition for the "The Truck Putt!". Hole a putt from 10 feet, 30 feet, and 50 feet and your in the running.



And what would a DU event be without some ducks. A mother mallard and her brood were using the water hazard on Bobby's 9th hole for feeding.



Above: The putting contest to win the truck required buying chances to be one of five finalists. Here one of the contestants is watching his 30-foot putt.





## New Chevy Truck Program and 2018 Chevy Truck Winner

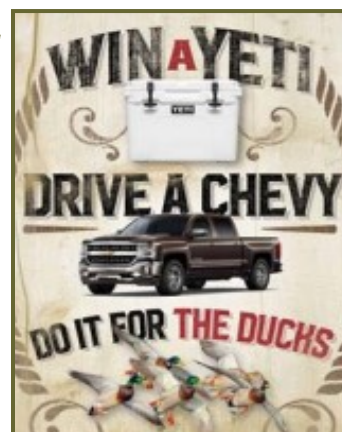
MN DU has reinvigorated its Chevy Truck Program with a new prize, a Yeti cooler, to be given away at all Minnesota events. The new prize is increasing the interest and revenue for MN DU's longstanding state raffle. Check out the Chevy Truck raffle at your local MN DU 2018 event,

Minnesota Chevrolet Dealers annually join together contributing a new Chevrolet Silverado 4 X 4 truck as a grand prize in the program. Attendees at Minnesota DU events can win a YETI Tundra 35 cooler customized with DU and Chevrolet logos. Cooler winners qualify to win the new truck. Said Tom Ward, General Manager of Main Motor and a member of the Select Heartland Chevrolet Dealers, "Each Minnesota DU event works with a neighboring Chevrolet dealer. It's a perfect grassroots partnership. Helping DU volunteers raise dollars for wetland conservation at local events helps build great customer relationships." Chevrolet dealers presented Minnesota DU a ceremonial check for 1,911,268 raised for wetland conservation since the program began in 1997. A new Chevrolet Silverado 4 X 4 will be awarded in February 2019 to a person qualifying at a Minnesota Ducks Unlimited event now through December 2018.

This year's winner, Dean Bechard, was not sure who is more excited this month. "My wife, Alejandra, my sister and brother-in-law, my 83 year-old mother, Elaine, they were all there and literally jumping for joy. Me? Well, I was breathless," said Bechard. The 60 year-old from Champlin, Minnesota won a new \$38,000 2018 Chevrolet Truck in the finale of a Minnesota Ducks Unlimited fundraiser. He was one of hundreds of qualifiers attending state DU events over the past 12 months. Bechard was then one of five statewide finalists for the new 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 4 X 4. The truck was awarded Saturday, February 10, 2018 at the Minnesota Ducks Unlimited State Convention in Willmar, Minnesota. Bechard randomly selected the winning key and is scheduled to take delivery of his new vehicle this month at Main Motor in Anoka, Minnesota.

For the last two decades, he has been an active member and leader of his Anoka County Ducks Unlimited chapter. When I was younger, I hunted a lot with my best friend from high school and he got me involved in our local DU event. It was great fun meeting and working with like-minded people on something so important, preserving wetlands for future generations," said Bechard. He went on to chair the Andover-Ham Lake DU Chapter for 6 years and has been recognized as a DU Diamond Life Sponsor for his personal financial contributions. Said Bechard, "I still hunt with my old high school buddy, but I stay involved with Ducks Unlimited for the people, the fun and the purpose. Preserving wetlands means preserving wildlife and the whole system that provides clean water for us all."

20 other new Chevrolet trucks have been awarded since the program began. Past Minnesota new Chevrolet Silverado winners include Mike Kuka, Maple Plain, MN (1998) Gary Ricard, Chatfield, MN (1999), Jay Kimble, Stillwater, MN (2000), Patrick



Above: A Yeti Tundra 35 cooler customized with the DU and Chevrolet logos will be given away at each MN

Below: The 2018 MN DU Chevy Truck Raffle winner Dean Bechard and his wife Alejandra.





## New Chevy Truck Program and 2018 Chevy Truck Winner (continued)

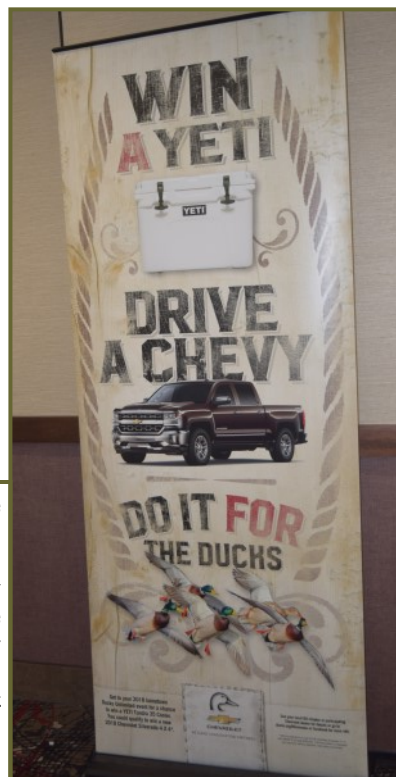
Doyle, Faribault, MN (2001), Marcia Gamer, Farmington, MN (2002), Mike Lidgerding, Wabasha, MN (2003), Ken Cryer, Bloomington, MN (2004), Tom Bollman, Pine Island, MN (2005), Perry Nodsle, Detroit Lakes, MN (2006), Spencer Kvam, Granite Falls, MN (2007), Tim Woelfel, Redwood Falls, MN (2008), Carrie Roble, Frazee, MN (2009), Ruth Hoefs, Le Centre, MN (2010), Colleen Patterson, North Mankato, MN (2011), Robyn Abner, Benson, MN (2012), Tamara Revier, Olivia, MN (2013), Rachel Olson of Benson, MN (2014), Josh Wolf of Glenwood, MN (2015), Peter Rengel of St. Cloud, MN (2016), Chad Neisen, Mahanomen, MN (2017).

"Each \$250 we raise translates into one more acre of wetland preserved for waterfowl and wildlife in North America," said Ruth Hoefs, Minnesota DU State Chair, LeCenter, MN. "DU is the largest grassroots member conservation organization in Minnesota and consistently one of the top states in the nation raising dollars for wetlands." Minnesota DU has some 160 local chapters, conducts 250+ fund raising events, and lists over 45,000 men, women, and youth as members. This article courtesy of David Haeg of Haeg Marketing Communications, davidhaeg@gmail.com, 763-473-6589.



A brand new Chevy Silverado awaits its new owner.

This is the new MN DU 2018 Chevy Truck Raffle banner which should be at your local event.



*The Chevy Truck raffle has raised almost \$2 million for the ducks.*



Pictured here with a ceremonial check are (left to right) D.J. Raduenz, Stillwater Motors, Stillwater, MN, Tom Brimhall, Minnesota Motors, Fergus Falls, MN, Ruth Hoefs, MN DU State Chair, Le-Center, MN, Dean and Alejandra Bechard, Champlin, MN, 2018 Chevrolet Truck Award Winner, and Kyle Thaemlitz, Lakefield, MN, MN DU State Chair-Elect.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2018 MN DU STATE CONVENTION



*The State Convention was held February 9 and 10, 2018 at the Willmar Convention Center.*





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**You are Ducks Unlimited**

***Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 12 million acres, thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.***



**MN DU awarded Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen (with decoy) its 2018 Public Policy Award for his many years of service on the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and his long term support of DU programs. Presenting the award at the State Convention are, from left, Kim Scott, MN DU Lobbyist, Peter Eigen, MN DU Public Policy Chair, Ruth Hoefs, State Chair, and, Jon Schneider, DU Manager of Minnesota Conservation Programs.**

YOU NEED DUCKS. DUCKS NEED YOU.

Waterfowl hunters are a special breed of sportsman, and Ducks Unlimited volunteers are a special breed of waterfowl hunters. DU's critical habitat conservation and public policy efforts help preserve our waterfowl hunting heritage. Come join those dedicated to chilly mornings, wet dogs, and cupped wings. Put your passion into practice.

**VOLUNTEER**  
www.ducks.org/NeedDucks

