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Summer 2019

Official Newsletter of Minnesota Ducks Unlimited

# **Beaulieu Beauty**





Above: Beaulieu Lake shows its beauty in this photo looking across the lake toward the natural, undeveloped shoreline on this enhanced shallow lake in northwest Minnesota,

Right: The new DU-built structure on the Marsh Creek allows DNR to control lake levels to create the optimum waterfowl habitat.



More about the Beaulieu Lake Project on page 4



Thaemlitz, State Chair

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#### State Chair's Chatter

Greetings Team DU - Minnesota!

As your newest state chairman, I'd like to take a few moments to introduce myself and to issue a challenge to you.

My wife, Donna, and I live near Lakefield, in Jackson County. Through my 50+ years of hunting, fishing and trapping along the shores of Heron Lake, I have developed an appreciation for the importance of wetlands and habitat conservation. Whistling wings obviously has a big place in my heart.

As you know, the passing of our Legacy Amendment, which funds the Outdoor Heritage Fund, is important to our future of conservation. Our son is an avid outdoorsman, enjoying a variety of hunting and fishing activities, even though he is a U.S. Marine and stationed in Southern California with his wife, Emma. Our daughter works in the special events planning department of the Hyatt Hotels in New Orleans. Although she is not into hunting, she enjoys the other aspects of the outdoors.

Just a few years ago, Ducks Unlimited issued a challenging fundraising goal of \$2 billion. Although some felt it to be too ambitious, Team DU members across the country stepped up and made the goal a reality. Likewise I would like to issue my own challenge to you, the Team DU -Minnesota members.

- I. Ask a friend to join you at an event. Clean water is for everyone!
- Volunteer to help at a local event or ask someone to volunteer with you!
- 3. Sponsor at an event. Every sponsorship is another acre of conservation!
- 4. Take someone new with you as you enjoy the outdoors!

Go Team DU!!!! Let's make Minnesota Number I in the Nation!!

May your waders always be dry! Kyle



Above: Kyle with his lab, Penny. He lives on South Heron Lake, seen here in the background, which along with North Heron Lake, make up one of most famous waterfowling localities in Minnesota.



Here is Kyle at the 2019 MN DU State Convention introducing himself to the convention attendees.





### DU's Lipetzky Retires

Doug Lipetzky, Director of Engineering Services for Ducks Unlimited's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region, retired this past Nov. 30th. Doug graduated from NDSU in 1978 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. From 1980 to 1987, he worked as an Environmental Engineer with the North Dakota State Department of Health and became Manager of the Air Pollution Control Program. Doug became a licensed P.E. in July 1983. His final job before he can to DU was as a bridge design engineer for the North Dakota State DOT from 1987 through 1989.

In October 1987, Doug joined the Great Plains Regional Office (GPRO)in Bismarck, ND as a Regional Engineer. In July 2003, he was promoted to Senior Regional Engineer and was given the additional responsibility of supervising all the surveying and design engineering activities in the GPRO. With the reorganization of the DU regions in 2013, his duties transferred to the Great Lakes Atlantic Region Office (GLARO) where he became the Director/Regional Engineering Supervisor for the 21-state region. In 2015, I was promoted to Director of Engineering Services for GLARO leading 22 very talented engineering services staff.



Over the past 31 years, he has been involved in the engineering design of hundreds of wetland habitat development projects in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Michigan. A few specific accomplishments for Minnesota include:

- Swan Lake structure in Nicollet County
- Pelican Lake pumping outlet in Wright County, Minnesota
- Lake Geneva outlet structure and fish barrier, Freeborn County, Minnesota
- Upper Lightning Lake pump outlet in Grant County, Minnesota
- Big Slough Waterfowl Production Area project, Murray County
- Bear Lake structure in Freeborn County
- Towner Wildlife Management Area project near Herman in Grant County

Doug says "the best part of my career has been developing lasting friendships with my coworkers, DU volunteers and many, many State and Federal agency partners devoted to the resource. I have been truly blessed to work at a job I really enjoyed for so many years that provides such a sense of pride and accomplishment knowing I'll leave the landscape in a bit better shape than when I started.



Doug's retirement plans are tentative, but he and his wife, Sharon plan to seek a warmer climate when the snow starts to fly in Bismarck, ND.

Left: Doug (center of photograph) leads the Pelican Lake outlet tour as part of the Pelican Lake Area tour for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council in the summer of 2016.

Doug worked on engineering DU projects for 31 years.



Above: Doug talks about all the elements involved in the massive Pelican Lake pump outlet and discharge route project.



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# Beaulieu Lake Beauty



Beaulieu Lake is a shallow lake in far northern Mahnomen County in northwest Minnesota, just southwest of city of Winger. The lake has a large, 350 acre, Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) located at its north end. The Beaulieu Lake WPA provides public access to the lake from 100th Street, also known as 460th Street SE because it is on the line between Mahnomen and Polk Counties.

The 360 acres Beaulieu Lake basin has had a dam on its outlet for years to hold water in the lake. Marsh Creek has been extensively ditched such that it is part of the County ditch system, called

The Beaulieu Lake
project required a
partnership
between DNR, US
Fish and Wildlife
Service, and DU.



Beaulieu

Judicial Ditch No. 91. Because of JD 91, without a dam the lake would be a drained lake, consisting of largely a cattail swamp.

Beaulieu Lake WPA

Over the years, the structure at the outlet to the lake

Left: A spotted sandpiper enjoys the new structure as a evening roosting spot to view Marsh Creek.

#### Beaulieu Lake Beauty (Continued)



Above: The green bulrushes were reestablishing themselves along the shore line.

had been becoming dilapidated and finally, in 2008, the structure failed. This resulted in an unplanned drawdown of the lake resulting in water levels two to three feet lower than historical conditions. The mud flats filled with cattails, but the DNR had no way to raise the water levels with the failed structure. The result was a lake with water levels that were too low, so that is when DU and the Outdoor Heritage Fund came in with the know how and funds to build a new structure.

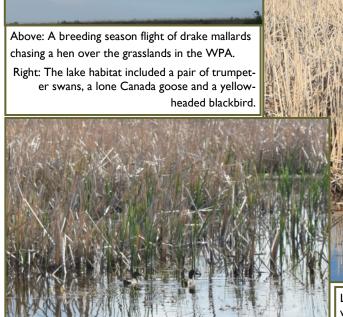
Restoring the lake, required a partnership between DNR, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and DU. This is because DNR has responsibility for controlling the lake levels and protecting the lake. The USFWS had the land and access to where the control structure was located and the new one was to be installed.

> DU provided the funding with DU and OHF dollars for engineering design by DU engineers and hiring contractors for construction of the new structure.

The restored lake was in fabulous condition this spring with the higher water levels and the waterfowl and other birds were using the restored habitat. was flooded, with coots, The new structure will allow the DNR to control lake level to produce the deeper water habitat will Lake WPA, as it has great grassland and temporary the DNR, USFWS, and DU partnership will allow the Beaulieu Lake Beauty to continue for years to come.

The large margin of cattails teal, and mallards using the area for production habitat. optimum waterfowl nesting and migration habitat. The also improve the waterfowl production on the Beaulieu wetland habitat. Together

Left: A pair of blue-winged teal work along the flooded shoreline with the restored water levels.



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#### 2019 Summer Project Dedication



# Join Us If You Can

# WEST POOL - BIG STONE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DEDICATION ORTONVILLE, MINNESOTA

Ducks Unlimited invites you to the West Pool - Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge project dedication, part of Minnesota's Living Lakes Initiative.

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2019 AT 2 P.M.

To RSVP please contact, or for more information about the dedication:

> Dominic Lawrence Director of Development dlawrence@ducks.org or 651-728-1116 Please RSVP by June 29

From Ortonville at the intersection of US Highway 12 and US Highway 75: head south on US 75 for approximately 2 miles. Take a right onto the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge Auto Tour Route. There should be brown MNDOT signs that show the location/turn off for the auto tour route. Follow the auto tour route until you come upon the designated parking area.

From Appleton at the intersection of US Hwy 59 and State Highways 7 and 119; drive west on Hwy 7 (becomes U.S. Hwy 75 near Odessa) for 19 miles past Odessa to the Big Stone NWR Auto Tour Route (look for large brown sign along road), and turn south onto the Auto Route to the dedication site.





#### Local Chevrolet Dealers Help Minnesota Ducks Unlimited Raise Over \$2,000,000



Above: Minnesota Ducks Unlimited State Council members recognize the local Chevrolet dealer fundraising benchmark at their State Convention in Willmar, MN in February 2019.

DO IT FOR THE DUCKS.

Minnesota

Your Local Chevrolet Dealers
FIND NEW ROADS

Above: Andrew Jergenson, Starbuck, Minnesota won a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado 4X4 valued at \$38,000 at the Minnesota Ducks Unlimited Convention on Saturday February 9, 2019.

A local partnership promoting wetland and wildlife conservation celebrated a major benchmark in Willmar, Minnesota on February 2019. "Our program with local Chevrolet dealers has helped raise \$2,025,378 and may be the most successful local partnership for a state Ducks Unlimited (DU) organization in the nation," said Minnesota Ducks Unlimited State Chair, Kyle Thaemlitz of Lakefield, Minnesota.

Local Chevrolet Dealers annually join together contributing a new Chevrolet Silverado 4X4

truck as a program grand prize. 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.

Andrew Jergenson, Starbuck, Minnesota won a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado 4 X 4 valued at \$38,000 at the Minnesota DU state Convention on Satur-



day February 9, 2019. The new vehicle was delivered at Schwieters Chevrolet Willmar. Said Bill Zastrow, General Manager of Schwieters Chevrolet Willmar, "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."

Helping DU volunteers raise dollars for wetland conservation at local events helps build great customer relationships." A new Chevrolet Sil-

verado 4X4 will be awarded in February 2020 to a person qualifying at a Minnesota DU event now through December 2019. 21 others (see listing to left) at-

tending Minnesota Ducks Unlimited events have won new Chevrolet trucks since the program began in 1998.

22 Minnesota Ducks Unlimited, Chevrolet Silverado Winners 998 Mike Kuka, Maple Plain, MN 2009 Carrie Roble, Frazee, MN 999 Gary Ricard, Chatfield, MN 2010 Ruth Hoefs, Le Centre, MN 000 Jay Kimble, Stillwater, MN 2011 Colleen Patterson, North Mankato, MN 001 Patrick Doyle, Faribault, MN 2012 Robyn Abner, Benson, MN 002 Marcia Gamer, Farmington, MN 2013 Tamara Revier, Olivia, MN 003 Mike Lidgerding, Wabasha, MN 2014 Rachel Olson of Benson, MN 004 Ken Cryer, Bloomington, MN 2015 Josh Wolf of Glenwood, MN 005 Tom Bollman, Pine Island, MN 2016 Peter Rengel of St. Cloud, MN Perry Nodsle, Detroit Lakes, MN 2017 Chad Neisen, Mahnomen, MN Spencer Kvam, Granite Falls, MN 2018 Dean Bechard, Champlin, MN 008 Tim Woelfel, Redwood Falls, MN 2019 Andrew Jergenson, Starbuck, MN

"Each \$250 we raise translates into one more acre of wetland preserved for waterfowl and wildlife in North America," said Thaemlitz. 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 175 local chapters, conducts 250+ fund raising events, and lists over 43,000 men, women, and youth as members.



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#### **Chevy Truck Raffle (continued)**

The "Win a Yeti Drive a Chevy" Raffle has brought new excitement to the MN DU Chevy Truck Program.



The MN DU Chevy Truck Raffle has been reinvigorated by changing the incentive prize from a framed print to a special edition Yeti Cooler. The framed print series of Labrador retrievers brought in a lot of revenue to MN DU over the years, but had gotten a little stale. Past State Chair Tim Roble and State Corporate Relations Chair Dan Scheffler worked with David Haeg, the marketing guru for Minnesota Chevy Truck Dealers, to get the new event prize off the ground. The average amount per event for the framed print was about \$360; the Yeti cooler prize is bringing nearly \$600 per event, which is a huge increase and the reason we topped the \$2 million mark so quickly last year. Make sure to look for the above poster at your event to get a chance on winning a Yeti cooler and a new Chevrolet Truck.



#### Minnesota Artists' Corner—Robert Hautman

Robert Hautman has become one of Minnesota's most famous painters after winning last year's Federal Duck Stamp contest (see details below). After a modest beginning painting pictures of ducks on weathered boards and selling them at art fairs, Robert Hautman won his first duck stamp contest in Minnesota in 1987. He has been a dedicated professional artist ever since.

Hautman credits his success to the influence of his parents and supportive family environment . His mother, Elaine, was an accomplished and prolific painter. His father, Tuck, bestowed on all his children a love of the outdoors and a commitment to wildlife conservation.

Robert's 2018-2019 Federal Duck Stamp painting features a pair of mallards landing in a marsh (see painting below right). The painting received a perfect score from a panel of five judges. It is his third winning Federal Duck Stamp contest win. Previously, he won the 2000-2001 contest with a painting of a pintail and the 1997-1998 stamp with a solitary Canada goose. Several state stamps have also

featured his work, including three Minnesota duck stamps (1987, 1992, and 2001), two Texas duck stamps (1999 and 2011), the 2012 New Jersey stamp, the 1999 South Carolina stamp, and the 2018 Arkansas stamp. In 2018, he was named the Ducks Unlimited Flyway Artist and his work is featured in the National Turkey Federation print from the same year.

Along with his wildlife artist brothers, Jim and Joe, he was selected to paint twelve stamps supporting the United Nations Endangerd Species program. He is strongly committed to preservation of wetlands and other places that provide habitat.

Recently, Robert and his brothers were featured in "The Million Dollar Duck", a documentary about the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. The Hautman brothers were also mentioned several times in the movie "Fargo".

Robert lives and works on his farm in western Minnesota, where his studio overlooks wetlands he has been restoring for the past twenty years.

Artwork provided courtesy of Robert Hautman. www.hautman.com

His painting below titled "Sunset Canvasbacks", really captures what waterfowlers look for each fall.

Right: Although waterfowl are clearly his favorite, Robert also pair of bluebirds.













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#### Project Hall of Fame—Stang Lake Restoration

Ducks Unlimited has been conserving habitat in Minnesota since 1984. There are literally hundreds of DU projects scattered across Minnesota. In fact, many of the water control structures on waterfowl production areas (WPAs), national wildlife refuges (NWRs), and state wildlife management areas (WMAs) were designed and built as DU projects. This column is a regular feature devoted to describing some of these older projects.

The Stang Lake project was completed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with financial assistance from DU in 1996. It is located east of Fergus Falls, a few miles from Wall Lake and the city of Underwood. Stang Lake had been drained in the early 1900s for farmland by digging through a large natural hill. It was reported at the time that the lake drained so quickly and with such a noise that the roar was heard several miles away. The lake, howev-



Above: The Stang Lake Restoration sign at the dike and structure highlights all the partners involved with DU and USFWS in the restoration project.



er, could only be partially drained, so the drained lakebed made for poor farmland because it was often wet and full of cattails. DU's partner, the USFWS, purchased a 160 acre parcel at the outlet to the lake, which allowed the restoration project to proceed.



Above: A view of the 16-foot high dike and water control structure constructed in 1996 to restore the Stang Lake shallow lake basin.

The Stang Lake project was not designed and constructed by DU, but even so, DU provided a large part of the funding for the project as part of the DU's Matching Aid to Restore States Habitat (MARSH) grants. The project consisted of constructing a large wa-



ter control structure and dike to restore the lake and raise the water levels nearly six feet above the drained basin level. The project cost approximately \$360,000 and DU contributed \$150,000, which was a huge amount in 1996. The 360acre lake basin provides good hemimarsh habitat for mallards, wood ducks. ring-necked ducks, and blue-winged teal.

Left: The lake was in drawdown this spring, but even so was being used by several blue-winged teal.





#### Flint Hills Resources Surpasses \$1 Million in Giving



Geoff Glasrud, Vice President and Manufacturing Manager at Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend Refinery accepts the Flint Hills Sponsor Print from former Regional Director Mike Dvorak. Ducks Unlimited has recognized Flint Hills Resources for reaching the \$1 million milestone in philanthropic support of the wetlands conservation organization. For more than 30 years, the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery in Rosemount, Minn., has partnered with Ducks Unlimited to conserve more than 250.000 acres across North America.

Flint Hills Resources' contribution to Ducks Unlimited now totals nearly \$1.3 million. The company is a primary supporter of the Living Lakes Initiative, a Ducks Unlimited program to enhance shallow lakes, restore and protect small wetlands and prairie uplands and acquire, and restore additional habitat from willing landowners to increase public holdings. This work has recently expanded beyond Minnesota to Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Texas and Georgia.

"We are incredibly proud of this honor and our longstanding partnership with Ducks Unlimited because we all benefit from the work they do to preserve and enhance cherished natural habitats," said Geoff Glasrud, vice president and manufacturing manager of the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery. "Ducks

Unlimited is an effective champion for the outdoors and we are grateful to be their longtime partners."

In 2019, support from Flint Hills Resources will help Ducks Unlimited enhance more than 1,900 acres of shallow lakes, restore nearly 800 acres of wetland and upland habitat and acquire and restore more than 700 acres of land that will be added to the state's holdings for public use in Minnesota.

#### Volunteer Spotlight—Robyn Jenzen

Robyn Jenzen grew up just outside of a small town in southern Minnesota called Minnesota Lake. She recently bought a house in Richfield and has lived and worked in the metro for 11 years, but says she is a small town girl at heart. Robyn adds, "my parents instilled in my siblings and I a deep love for birds, rocks, water and all that nature has to offer, so conservation and Ducks Unlimited have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Attending college at the University of Minnesota Duluth and spending time on Lake Superior and in the Superior National Forest gave me a whole new appreciation of nature and our part in preserving and sustaining it".

She volunteered for my first DU event when I was I4 years old, selling raffle and game tickets at Lost Marsh's annual Dinner Event with my Uncle Mark. From then on, she says she "was hooked. Every year in April, it was an event I looked forward to, getting to spend time with my Dad and "the guys" and it made me realize that DU truly has always held a special place in my heart. I have such a deep appreciation for everything that DU stands for and for all the like-minded and interesting people I've gotten meet, both at events and selling raffles over the phone".

Working as a Zone Chair for both Andrew Limmer in the Southern Region and John Marks in the Metro has really helped her to understand the scope of what goes into raising money for the Ducks and from planning events to coming up with new, creative ideas for games and raffles. Robyn says, "the volunteer's excitement and passion for what they do is contagious and has made my love for DU grow exponentially over the last several years. I feel like I have a true purpose when I'm giving my time and energy to DU, and for that I am so thankful".



"But, hands down, the best part of being involved with DU is the time I get to spend with my family. It is something we all do together and has become a part of our everyday lives. My Dad is a Zone Chair in the Southern Region, as is my sister, Erynn, and my brother, Ethan, is a ZC in the Central Region. The 4 of us, along with my Mom, Linda, and my sister-in-law, Leah, have the best times together at DU events, working and laughing - we are an amazing team and I'm so thankful that DU allows us another outlet for spending meaningful, quality time together. For us, DU truly is a family affair."

#### AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE MN STATE CONVENTION



Kevin Prouty received the Tommy Nelson Award for his work in the Metro and Northeast regions. Mike Dvorak and Senior Regional Director John Marks present the award to Kevin.



The dynamic duo of Sean and Alisha Mussetter were the winners of the Landowski Leadership Award being presented here by Senior Regional Director John Marks.



The Win Stephens Award went to the Garrison Commercial Club for their work supporting the Fishing For Ducks event and other DU fund raisers in their community of 200 people.



Tradition has that the outgoing State Chair wins the top honor, the Jimmy Robinson Award, so here Ruth Hoefs accepts the award from new State Chair, Kyle Thaemlitz. This is Ruth's second Jimmy Robinson plaque, becoming the first two-time winner.



MN DU had two staff win national awards in their jobs. Scott Anderson Senior RD (second from left) and Senior DOD Adam Dehaan (second from right), for RD of the year and DOD of the year, respectfully. GLARO Directors Brett Plasters (on left) and Todd Bishop (on right) presented the framed award plaques, with State Chair, Ruth Hoefs, (middle) lending a hand.



Scott Gulp (center) of the US Fish and Wildlife Service was given the 2018 Minnesota Conservation Partner of the Year Award, presented by DU's John Lindstrom and Jon Schneider.



#### HIGHLIGHTS AT THE MN STATE CONVENTION



Friday night started out the convention with a Luau Party, which included DU staff and senior volunteers learning the Hula.



The new DNR Commissioner, Sarah Strommen, was on hand to emphasize the importance of DU to Minnesota conservation.



One of the Conservation Program speakers was surprised by a broken drain tile award. Joe Pavelko, Assistant Director Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council was surprised to receive the adhoc award from USFWS's Scott Glup for his work at the Council.



Senior Director of Development Adam Dehaan presented James and Karen Erickson a Major Sponsor plaque for selling land at a bargain price to allow a large wetland to be restored on the Whitewater WMA project in Kandiyohi County.



Landowner David Muchow accepts his Major Sponsor Plaque from Senior Director of Development Adam Dehaan for his sale of 157 acres of land at a bargain price for the Indian Lake project.



Past State Chair Brian Ross shows he can still get under the bar for the Limbo Dance as part of the Friday Night festivities.



#### 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 13 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.

## MINNESOTA DUCKSUNLIMITED

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