



Cattails



Special points of interest:

- Legacy Greenwing Dedications
- Pelican Lake Enhancement Project
- State Convention Highlights
- Growing Volunteer Ranks

Inside this issue:

Chair's Chatter	2
State Convention Awards	3
MN DU Strategic Plan Key Area #2	4
Minnesota Artist's Corner	5
Pelican Lake Precision	6
MN DU News	10
Volunteer Spotlight	10
Greenwing Legacy Dedication South	11
Greenwing Legacy Dedication North	12
Highlights of the State Convention	13
Senator Klobuchar	14

Winter 2017

Official Newsletter of Minnesota Ducks Unlimited

PELICAN LAKE PRECISION



Above: The control panel for the Pelican Lake outlet pump system hints at the precision needed for the electrical components required for the massive three pump system.



Right: The initial gravity drawdown of Pelican Lake during the last year revealed thick beds of submerged vegetation, which attracts migrating red-heads and canvasbacks as well as other ducks.



More about the Pelican Lake Enhancement Project on page 6



State Chair's Chatter



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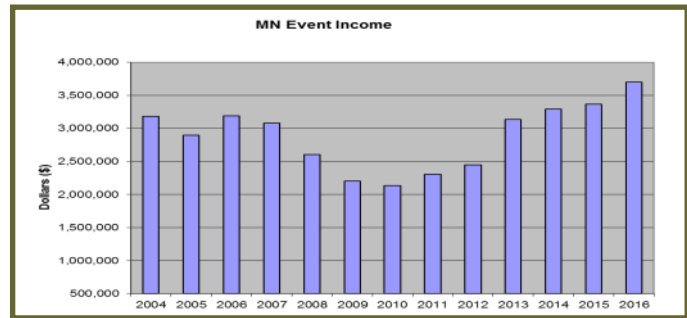
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Hi all,
Well this is my final chatter as State Chair as the past two years has flown by, just like the migration the last two years. We had a record fundraising year in 2016, with revenue up \$350,000 to just over \$3,700,000 (see graph of revenue history below). Better yet, the number of major donor pledges has increased dollars going into our DU Living Lakes Initiative, to fund more of the needed work in Minnesota. The number of sponsors has also increased to 2,700, a 15 percent increase. Finally, total members in Minnesota are now 46,180, another record. These numbers have anchored MN DU in the top three fund raising states in the nation.



Being State Chair has been a humbling job, because no matter how much time you spend on DU volunteer duties, you see that there are others putting in just as much or more time for the ducks. One is Ruth Hoefs, your next State Chair, as she leads several banquets and helps at many other using here firearms license to register guns at these events. Another is Scott Christensen, who is working as State Volunteer Recruitment Chair, State Convention Chair, and Regional Vice Chair all at the same time. Another is Doug Hartke, who leads the small Sherburn chapter and the Fox Lake Conservation League. Paul and Greg Erickson, who lead the Fishing for Ducks tournament are another two that come to mind. There are many more who give so much time for the ducks it is hard not to be humble. I thank all of you for making my time as State Chair a success.

Another group that has helped me greatly is the DU staff. especially Scott Anderson. As Senior RD, he assisted me with coordinating the Strategic Planning Meeting, getting the Greenwing Legacy Cairn done for northern MN, setting up the 2016 Summer State Council meeting, and leading the other RDs with State Convention planning. I also appreciate the help of all the new RDs, there have been three in my tenure, who have been very supportive especially with getting the Greenwing Legacy cairns placed. I also appreciate the advice of the former RDs, Dick Burch, Terry Kostinec, Brad Jensen, and Mike Dvorak gave to me, even though Brad and Mike would characterize it as chewing my butt. I also want to thank their boss, Bret Plasters, for his assistance with the Strategic Planning meeting, especially with getting me to streamline the final product. Jon Schneider, Manager of MN Conservation Programs, was also very helpful with keeping me abreast of the conservation work. None of our success would not been possible without Adam Dehaan, Senior Director of Development, who made sure we worked as a team. Thank you all.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Stevie for all her help during the last two years. She is incredible and many of do not realize how much she does for MN DU. From all the work preparing for the convention, and keeping information for about the 230 events straight

Finally, keep up the good work and follow the Strategic Plan so we can continue to make Minnesota one of the top fundraising states and continue to improve the waterfowl habitat and change the landscape in Minnesota. I will now pass on the State Chair "wood duck" necklace to the incoming State Chair Ruth Hoefs. The necklace has been passed down for innumerable years.



This is the "wood duck" necklace that the State Chair passes onto the new State Chair.



MINNESOTAN DU AWARDS AT THE STATE CONVENTION



Former Representative Denny McNamara (center) accepts the 2016 Minnesota Policy Award from Pete Eigen, MN DU Policy Chair, and Kim Scott, MN DU Policy Liaison.



Former Regional Director, Mike Dvorak (center) accepts the Tommy Nelson, MN DU's "Do it for the Ducks" award from Former State Chair Bill Aldinger and State Chair Brian Ross.



Jennelle Anacker and Jason Fairchild (right) accepts the Landowski Leadership Award for their work as Special Event Chairs with Game Fair and the Northwest Sports Show.



Chris Cunningham (with plaque) received the Win Stephens Award for his corporate donations of Tito's Vodka. Presenting him the award are Paul Erickson (left), Greg Erickson and Scott Anderson to the right.



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



Taking home the highest MN DU honor, the Jimmy Robinson Award, was Brian Ross (center) the outgoing State Chair. With him, are (left to right), retired Regional Director Dick Burch, senior RD, John Marks, Senior RD Scott Anderson, and RD Patrick Patterson.



MN DU Strategic Plan - Grow Volunteers Key Area



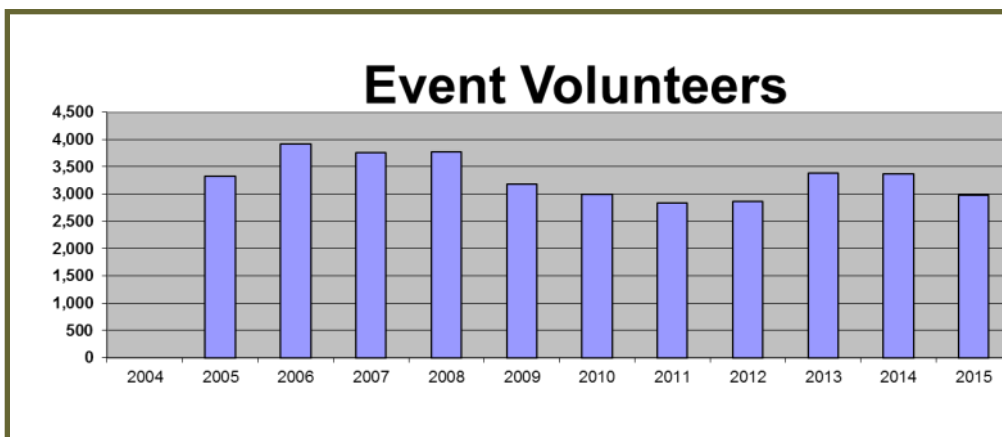
The MN DU 2016 Strategic Plan concentrated on three key areas: 1) Increase Membership; 2) Grow Volunteer Ranks, and 3) Major Donor Focus. To learn more about the Strategic Plan process, see the Winter 2016 Cattails Newsletter. The Strategic Plan is targeted at our volunteers, who are the grassroots base of Ducks Unlimited.

The second key area of the MN DU Strategic Plan is to grow volunteer ranks. This is perhaps the most important key area in the Strategic Plan because it supports all the other fundraising areas. Volunteers are the lifeblood of DU, as they drive the organization forward and support the event system.

The number of MN DU volunteers peaked in 2006 at just under 4,000 volunteers. The number dropped through the recession and bottomed out in 2011. The number has rebounded some over the last few years, but is down in 2015 again. Part of this variation is that we have worked over the last few years to review our volunteer lists and make sure people on those lists are actually volunteering; this has resulted in some of the reductions.

The other issue is that volunteers can be difficult to count, because some are engaged year

round and others only help at their local banquet. In any event, the volunteers we now have on the list are generally more active and engaged. The goal is to increase event volunteers by 600 to 3,600.



The MN DU Strategic Planning Committee identified three strategies to grow the volunteer ranks and they are:

1. Conduct Recruit at Events
2. Have Recruit Events at Two Chapters
3. Plan Committee Recreation Get-Togethers

The first strategy is to recruit at the banquets or other event. The idea is to dedicate a zone chair other person to engage potential volunteers and then ask them to join the committee. The second strategy is to have two recruitment events for each region; recruitment events are held with the main purpose of recruiting new volunteers, but also as a team building effort. The last strategy is to plan committee recreation get-togethers for more team building and committee camaraderie development, but other potential volunteers can also be invited as a way of getting to know the others on the committee. All three of these strategies are meant to be fun ways to grow the volunteer ranks. From these volunteers will come our area chairs, zone chairs, and regional vice chairs which will perpetuate the organization and our fundraising capabilities.



Minnesota Artists' Corner—Rosemary Millette

This South Dakota artist has been developing her natural talents and sharpening her skills since she was a young girl, but we are going to consider her a Minnesota Artist because she was born in Owatonna. Through her formal education and work as a commercial artist, Millette has learned to approach her work with vivacity and employ rigorous self-discipline. Whether painting elk, pheasants or chickadees, her mastery of skills is apparent. By carefully studying her subject matter, Millette realistically portrays each animal's physical structure and tone. Yet, her paintings offer the viewer more than a photo-realistic representation. The use of light and color, the composition, and the perspective of each complementing background reveal and reinforce the quintessential qualities of the animal.

Rosemary Millette is especially proud of her association with groups striving to preserve and protect wildlife and the natural environment. Her work has been selected for over a dozen state conservation stamps and she works closely with Pheasants Forever, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association.

Artwork provided courtesy of
Rosemary Millette and Wild
Wings, LLC, Lake City, MN
800-445-4833
www.wildwings.com

She paints many different species of birds such as this raptor to the right, titled: Fencepost Perch—Kestrel



Below is: Backwaters—Green-winged Teal



Millette has an obvious eye for detail as seen in this painting of wood ducks titled: Backwaters—Wood Ducks



Rosemary also does a lot of large game animals including pronghorns, moose, bighorn sheep, whitetailed deer, elk, black bear, and buffalo as in this example to the right titled: Dusty Plains—Bison

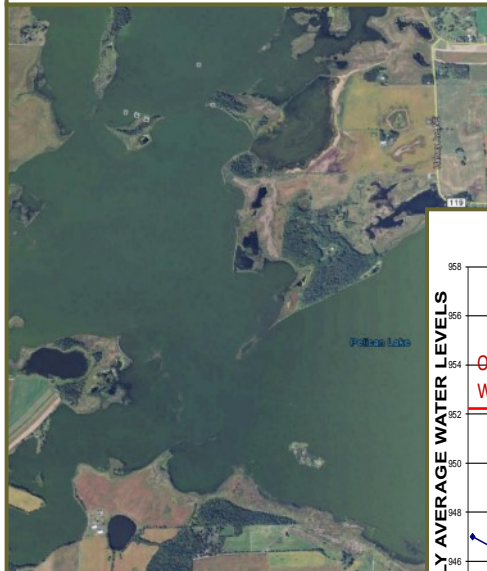


Pelican Lake Precision

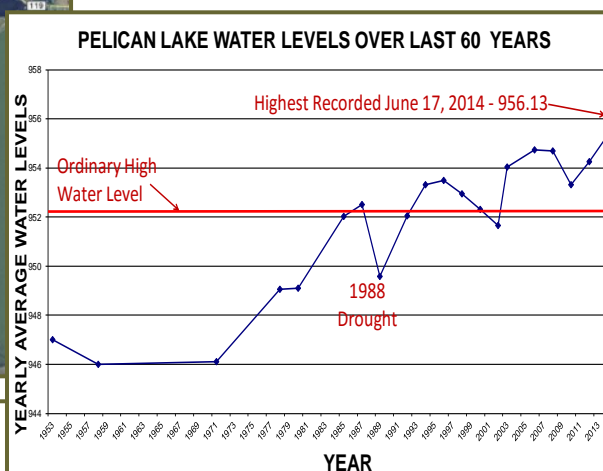


Above: The sign at the public access on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Pelican Lake Waterfowl Production Area on the west side of the lake highlights the project.

Below: The turbid water of Pelican Lake shows in this 2010 aerial contrasting with the dark clear water of bays and nearby lakes.



Right: Graph of Pelican Lake average water levels from 1953 through 2014.



The Pelican Lake Enhancement Project has been the most complex and time-consuming project in Minnesota DU history. The lake, located in Wright County, south of Monticello, has a long history of waterfowl use and hunting. Because of its location being not too far from the Minneapolis, it became much used by hunters from the Twin Cities. The lake, however, has suffered over the last several years from high water and fish abundance. This article describes the project to return the lake to its previous prominence.

Pelican Lake is considered by many Minnesota waterfowl biologists, hunters, and birders to be one of the very few large shallow lakes in Minnesota that serves as primary spring and fall migration habitat for diving ducks like lesser scaup (bluebill), canvasback, redhead, and ring-necked duck. These species are generally understood to be the most at risk, on a national scale, due to their specific migration needs. Pelican Lake is a very unique geographical migration "stepping stone" for these species as well as for other waterfowl (puddle ducks, geese, trumpeter swans, etc.) and wetland wildlife. As a result of these considerations, Pelican Lake was designated as a state wildlife lake in 1977.

The quality of lake habitat has deteriorated over the past 25 years due to high water level conditions, (see graph below) which have caused erosion and flooded some county highways. Nutrient loading, wave action and black bull-head expansion has caused the lake to consistently become highly turbid (see photograph below left). In most years of the last 3 decades, the high degree of turbidity and subsequent loss of sunlight penetration in the water column have prevented rooted aquatic plants in over 95% of the lake from growing. Diverse aquatic plant beds are vital for direct duck food source, substrate for invertebrates (another highly important food source), and stabilization of lake bottom. More noticeable and as important to waterfowl for breeding and escape cover, has been the large loss of cattails and bulrushes in the lake.

The Pelican Lake Work Group was formed in 2005 and met numerous times that year. Following work group recommendations, MN-DNR and DU funded a Pelican Lake Outlet Feasibility Study, completed in April 2006, which outlined water level management of the lake as practical and feasible providing downstream mitigation measures were completed beforehand. A mandated environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) evaluation was completed with a positive record of decision on January 15, 2009. A public input meeting was held April 9, 2008 in the St. Michael High School auditorium with close to 300 people attending. Returned survey questionnaires indicated about 70% support for plans to manage water levels on Pelican Lake for wildlife habitat improvement and flooding control.

The Pelican Lake Enhancement Project was the most complicated and time consuming project in MN DU history.



The Pelican Lake Enhancement project has six phases. Several of the phases involved working on the downstream water conveyance infrastructure including streams and ditches.

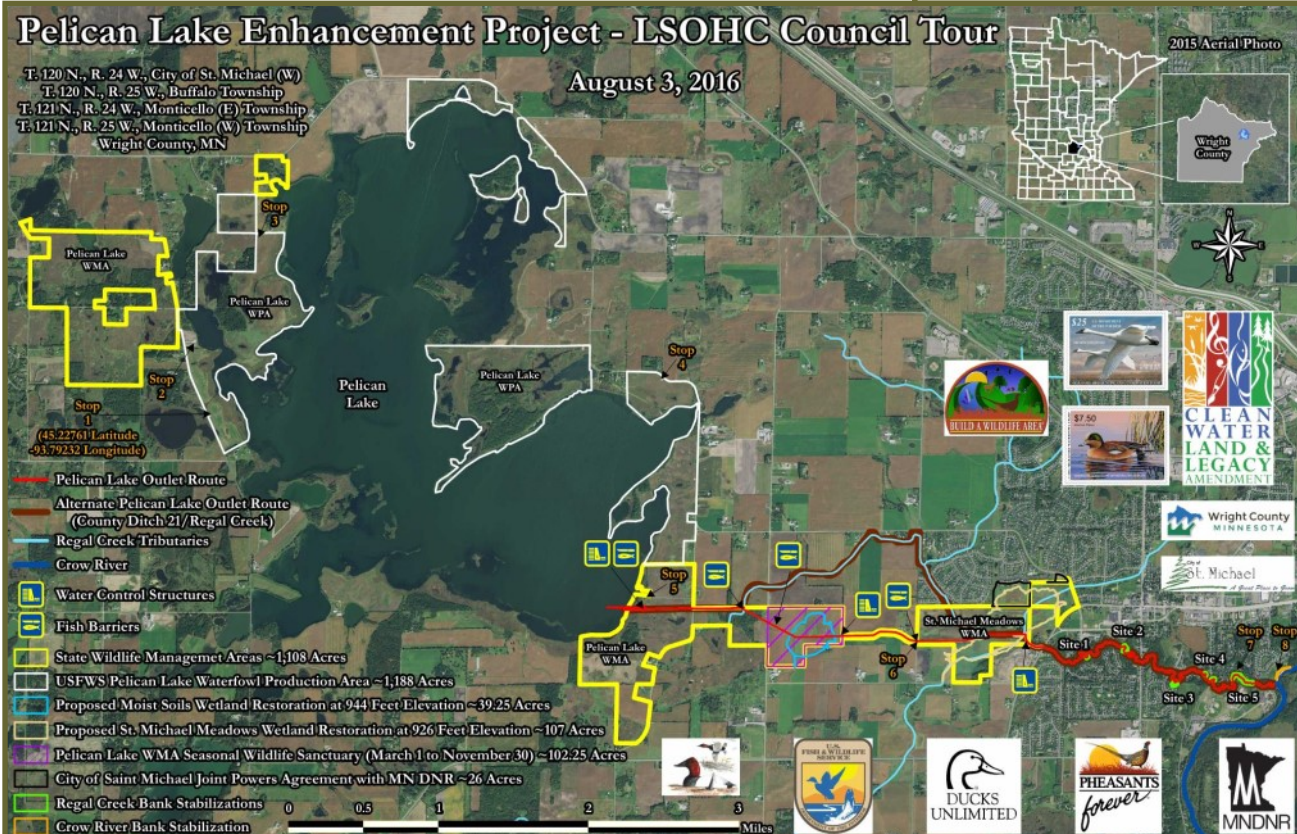
St. Michael Meadows Wetland Restoration (Phase I) - The first phase of project involves restoration of the partially-drained 180 acre St. Michael Meadows Wetland (see map below). This wetland restoration proposes restoration by a combination of converting existing ditches to meandering channels and constructing an outlet weir. The St. Michael Meadows Wetland is being restored to attenuate or reduce storm flows to downstream reaches of Regal Creek, provide water quality treatment, and serve as a wetland mitigation site. In addition, construction of a high velocity fish barrier is proposed where the proposed new stream channel crosses Jamison Avenue and there is a relatively high gradient reach greater than three percent (3%). This fish barrier will limit migration of fish upstream to Pelican Lake from the Crow River and other downstream water bodies.

Stabilization of Lower Regal Creek to the Crow River (Phase 2) - The second phase of the project involves the stabilization of the lower reaches of Regal Creek to the Crow River. A variety of stabilization techniques were used including altering the stream channel, adding meanders, slope stabilization, vegetative management, riprap, and establishment of protective riparian buffers. Downstream of the St. Michael Meadows Wetland, Regal Creek descends to the Crow River. Within moderate gradient reaches, channel scour and stream bank erosion threatened Regal Creek, as well as public and private infrastructure. Adjacent residential and past agricultural land uses adjacent to the creek contributed to loss of riparian buffers and destabilization of stream banks. The project has worked to stabilize the downstream portion of Regal Creek before additional flows were released from Pelican Lake.



Above: An aerial view of the stabilized channel of Regal Creek in the city limits of St. Michael.

Below: This is the tour stop map for the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) tour of the Pelican Lake Enhancement Project taken in August last summer.



Pelican Lake Precision (Continued)



Above: Backhoes work to install the new outlet route for the lake.

Below: The 48-inch diameter outlet pipe being installed and covered.



Restoration of the stream channel from Regal Creek to the St. Michael Meadows Wetland and construction of primary outlet route (Phase 3) - The third phase of project construction involved the temporary outlet of water from Pelican Lake using Regal Creek, from the north side of School Lake to the west side of the St. Michael Meadows Wetland. The primary Pelican Lake outlet route was constructed in the fall of 2015, starting just north of School Lake, under Regal Creek and extending southeast to a private ditch continuing east to the St. Michael Meadows Wetland. The primary outlet route conveys flows from Pelican Lake, while avoiding a stretch of Regal Creek until it reaches the St. Michael Meadows Wetland. Wetlands restorations within the flood prone zone of the primary outlet route will improve water quality while providing wildlife habitat. Near the lower portion of this primary outlet route, upstream of the outfall into the St. Michael Meadows Wetland, a fish barrier was constructed to restrict fish movement from downstream portions of Regal Creek to Pelican Lake.



Above: The new outlet pipe entering the existing ditch just west of the St. Michael Meadows Wetland.

Construction of a Pelican Lake outlet and pump lift station and construction of a new outlet channel from Pelican Lake to Regal Creek (Phase 4)

- This phase of the project involved construction of the outlet of Pelican Lake, construction of a pump lift station in proximity to the Pelican Lake outlet, and construction of a new stream channel from the Pelican Lake outlet to Regal Creek. The Pelican Lake outlet included construction of a stoplog weir structure with a control elevation of 950.7 feet. An intake pipe will be placed within the bed of Pelican Lake

below elevation 944.0 feet. A pump station and force main was installed to pump water from Pelican Lake to the new outlet channel. A stoplog weir structure was built at the mouth of an existing ditch that flows into Pelican Lake. The stoplog weir passes flows during normal operating periods and will be designed to manage Pelican Lake at an elevation of 950.7 feet, which is one-and-a-half feet below the DNR-established ordinary high water level of 952.2 feet. A pump station was constructed at the existing edge of the eastern-most bay of Pelican Lake. The 24" intake pipe was installed from this point for 900 feet into the lake and be set at an invert elevation of 942.0 feet. The lift station intake pipe involved placement of a structure within the lake bed to support the intake pipe at the proper invert elevation. A short 24" forcemain will outlet into the new channel on the

The pump station includes three large pumps.



Left: The base of the large pump station needed to be installed several feet into the ground.



Above: A backhoe works out into the lake to dig a channel to the outlet.



Pelican Lake Precision (Continued)



The lift station required several precast sections being lowered into place on the lift station base.

downstream side of a weir. The lift station includes three large pumps.

Initial Pelican Lake drawdown to 950.7 feet (Phase 5) - The fifth phase of the project involves an initial drawdown of Pelican Lake to elevation 950.7 feet accomplished by operating the weir system constructed in the fourth phase of project.

This initial drawdown is designed to establish the Pelican Lake water level at a new long-term Normal Water Level (NWL) of 950.7 feet. This initial drawdown to elevation 950.7 feet began in December 2014 and continued through the summer of 2016. Operation of the pump and weir system occurred after implementation of all downstream phases of project construction, as well as after any subsequent stabilization required before flows can be conveyed through this system.



Temporary Drawdown for Pelican Lake management to 944.0 feet (Phase 6) - The sixth phase of the project involves the drawdown of Pelican Lake to elevation 944.0 feet for a temporary period of time (i.e., approximately up to three years). This elevation is at an approximate low lake level elevation from the 1930s. The temporary drawdown for lake management is designed to mimic the 70-year to 100-year natural drought cycle. This drawdown for lake management is designed to restore submergent and emergent vegetation and reduce or eliminate existing population of rough fish. Historic water level data is limited for Pelican Lake, particularly during dry years. Available lake level records, beginning in approximately the 1950s indicate that the elevation at Pelican Lake ranged from about 946.0 feet in the late 1950s to the early 1970s and then generally rose to the present range of approximately 952 to 956 feet in the early 1980s. Since the early 1980s, lake elevations have remained high (i.e., greater than the ordinary high water mark of 952.2 feet) and the elevation in September 2005 was 954.5 feet, approximately two feet below the breach runout elevation of Pelican Lake. The current lake elevation as of August 5, 2016 was 952 feet.



Above: The initial drawdown of Pelican Lake was already showing results last summer with arrowhead and rushes growing and blue-winged teal flocking up for fall.

The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and others stopped at the lake on August 3rd last year, as part of a tour, to see the final project. At the stop, MN DU awarded DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor Fred Bengtson with the 2016 Minnesota Conservation Partner Award for his work getting the Pelican Lake project accomplished (see below). His help and the engineering precision at the Pelican Lake Enhancement Project will result in much more duck use into the future.



Above left: DU GLARO Director of Engineering for the project, Doug Lipetsky, explains the work required for the lift station to the LSOHC tour group. Above right: The tour group views the completed lift station just before the pumps are started up for Phase 6 of the project.



The interior of the lift station as the pumps and piping are being installed.

Below: State Chair, Brian Ross (left) and DU Manager of Minnesota Conservation Programs, Jon Schneider (right) present the award to Fred Bengtson.



Summer–Fall 2016 Cattails Newsletter Errata

The last issue of the Cattails Newsletter had an article about the Capitol Chapter banquet. Unfortunately, we spelled it Capital, which is usually used to mean very great or as principal in accounting. It is hard to believe that three DU staff and volunteers reviewed the draft before it went out and neither they nor the editor caught the gaffe. A long time Capitol Chapter volunteer, Nick Riley, who has been assisting the chapter for 25 years, correctly pointed out our error.

Speaking of the Capitol Chapter banquet, it is coming up April 18, 2016. This year the banquet will be held at the Embassy Suites hotel at 175 10th Street East, in the downtown St. Paul, of course. This is the same location it was held last year. It will feature several legislators in attendance and often the DNR Commissioner himself shows up. The Capitol Banquet is a standard banquet that gives away a lot of prizes and moves along quickly so the legislators can get back to work.

This is a photograph of the refurbished Capitol Rotunda, with the incredible restored artwork and architecture.



Volunteer Spotlight—Alisha and Sean Mussetter

Sean and Alisha Mussetter are MN DU's Metro area dynamic duo. The volunteer spotlight usually highlights one volunteer, but these two are inseparable and are always working for the ducks, so we decided to highlight them together.

Sean grew up hunting deer and grouse with his dad, brother, and uncles. But duck hunting was never a part of their hunting culture. It wasn't until after college and an invite from a buddy that duck hunting became a part of his blood. Then, it was time to see if his wife wanted to join in on the fun, because he needed to convince her that they needed a puppy and a bunch of decoys.

Alisha was involved in the 4-H shooting sports program in middle and high school, shooting trap leagues all summer long. Hunting, however, wasn't a part of her childhood. When Sean went duck hunting, he had been hooked. Being skilled with a shotgun, she wasn't going to become a hunter's widow, so she joined him on his duck hunting forays. Now, she too has become a passionate duck hunter. There is rarely a time you will find one without the other in the blind.

Joining Ducks Unlimited was a natural next step - learning more about ducks, habitat, hunting land, and meeting new people with the same passions. Sean's quick sense of humor and upbeat attitude makes him easy to talk to, hilarious as an event MC and he's constantly working to recruit new volunteers. Alisha's technical savvy and kind smile welcomes attendees to events, and she works hard to make sure everyone has a great experience.

Sean and Alisha are now Metro Area Zone Chairs from Eagan, MN and lead the incredibly successful South Metro Flyway Chapter. Alisha recently became the State Webmaster. Together, they have been volunteering since 2013, after attending a volunteer recruitment party a short drive across the river in Hudson, WI. When their chapter chairman took a position as a Regional Director (Patrick Patterson!), they stepped up and took over the planning of 4 events a year, and maintained their chapters' standing in the President's Elite top chapters in the nation. They also helped create the DURaffles.org page and run social media pages for the state and many chapters.

Alisha sums it up with, "We consider everyone we meet in Ducks Unlimited as friends, and our volunteers and regional directors have easily become family. Joining DU has been one of the greatest experiences we have ever had and we encourage everyone to give volunteering a try."



Sean and Alisha together during a fishing trip on Lake Michigan.



Minnesota Legacy Greenwing Dedication—South

Minnesota DU cap-stoned it Legacy Greenwing Program in 2016, with two dedications. The first was the south dedication on Saturday, July 30, 2016 at the Zins Tract near Swan Lake. The second was the north dedication at the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area (see Page 12). The projects were dedicated to Legacy Greenwing members who joined through a Minnesota Ducks Unlimited Chapter between the years 1996 to 2014. In the past, MN DU had a program where purchase of Greenwing Legacy membership would get the Greenwing's name on a dedication plaque. The problem was the list of Greenwings kept growing and no plaques were being dedicated. In fact, the list had grown to over 300 Legacy Greenwing members.

To meet our obligations to put Legacy Greenwing member name on plaques, MN DU put together a massive effort to collect all the names, contacted each family to make sure they wanted to be on a plaque, arranged for dedication sites, order the plaque, and have the dedication ceremony. This effort was led by State Chair Elect, Ruth Hoefs, with extraordinary effort by the regional directors and MN DU Coordinator Stevie Grussendorf. The dedications could not have happened without the assistance of our MnDNR partners.

The Zins Tract is a piece of property adjacent to the Peterson Lake Unit of the Swan Lake Wildlife Management Unit. The 40 acre tract of land was purchased by DU and then small wetlands basins were restored. It was then seeded with a native prairie plant mix to benefit nesting ducks, but also other prairie wildlife like songbirds, monarch butterflies, and bees. The land was then donated to the MnDNR to become part of the wildlife management unit. It was an important project because it was adjacent to Peterson Lake and helps restore upland habitat around Swan Lake, to help protect the water quality for this famous duck lake.



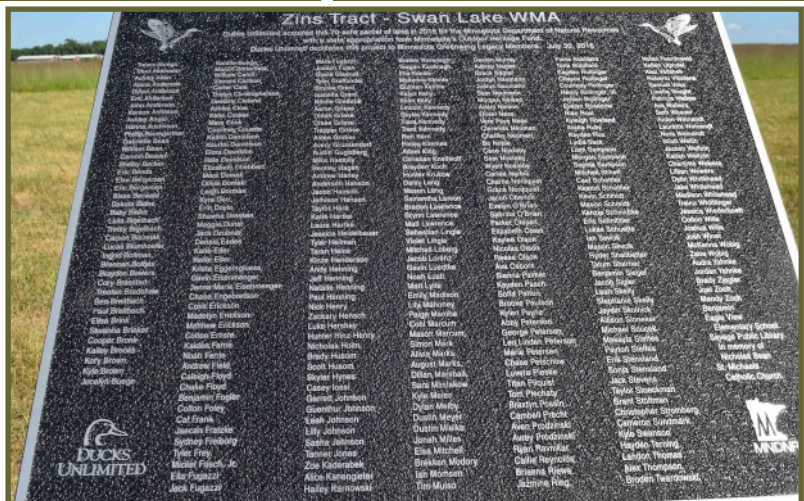
It was a gorgeous day for the dedication, resulting in a very good turn out by DU folks.



Above: Barry Tilley of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) was the main speaker for the dedication ceremony.



Several of the Legacy Greenwings who appear on the plaque pose for a photo. Above Photo: Former DU biologist, Josh Kavanaugh's two boys pose by the project sign.



Above: The plaque has 271 Legacy Greenwings from the southern two-thirds of the state listed on it and that is a big bunch.



MN DU Legacy Greenwing Dedication—North

The other MN DU Legacy Greenwing cap-stoning dedication was held on August 28th, 2016. It was held in far northern Minnesota at the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. Like the southern Legacy Greenwing dedication (see Page 11), it turned out to be a beautiful day with sunny skies and a nice breeze. The northern dedication was done for Legacy Greenwings from the northern third of the state, which included 68 Legacy Greenwings on the plaque.

DU completed the project at the Roseau River WMA many years ago, in the mid 1980s, and already had a sign at the dedication location describing the project. The project involved restoring dikes around several of the pools and building new water control structures on the MNDNR property. DU spent \$450,000 at the time, which in today's dollars would run into several million dollars. For more information about the project, see the Winter 2013 issue of Cattails at: http://www.ducks.org/media/Minnesota/MN%20Content/_documents/MN%20DU%20Winter%202013%20Newsletter.pdf



DU folks and partners gather for the dedication on a beautiful late summer's day.



Two of our speakers for the dedication event were from our partner agency MNDNR, and included Randy Prachar, Roseau River WMA Manager on the left and John Williams, Regional Wildlife Manager for Region 1, which includes a large area in Northwestern MN.



All the attendees, young and old gather by the cairn for a group photograph beneath the flags of the three nations and the state flag of MN.



Left: A great group photograph of three generations of Minnesota DU members.



The plaque had a total of 68 Legacy Greenwings, which, with the southern dedication plaque added up to 339 Legacy Greenwings.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2017 MN DU STATE CONVENTION

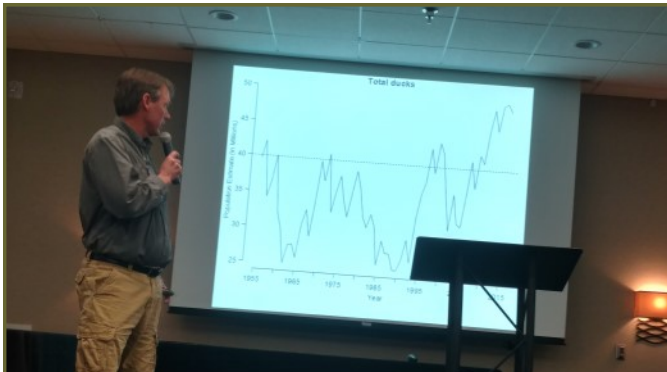


The Tiered Raffle tables are all ready for the Friday Night Buffett and Party which opens the State Convention festivities. The evening also includes a large silent auction to raise money for the ducks.

The State Convention was held February 10 and 11, 2017 at the Willmar Convention Center.



The Traveling Art Pub painting class was held Saturday morning and was a great success by all accounts.



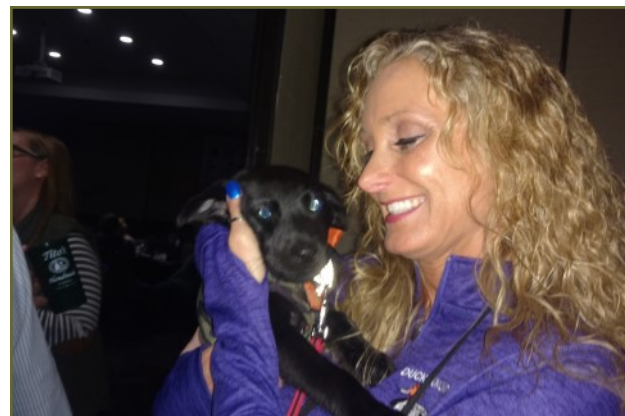
Steve Cordts, the MnDNR's head waterfowl biologist was the invited speaker for the Saturday afternoon Conservation Session. He updated the audience on MN duck populations and harvest.



The keynote speaker was our own U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. Sen. Klobuchar gave a sometimes humorous talk about her experiences in Washington D.C. and conservation.



The Chevy Truck drawing is one of the big highlights of the State Convention Banquet. This year's winner was Chad Neisen of Mahanomen, shown here with his wife, Kimberly Scott-Neisen.



It always seems like some puppies show up at the State Convention and this year was no exception. Here one of the attendee gives an eight-week old black lab puppy some loving.



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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 invited Senator Amy Klobuchar to our annual State Convention and even with her extremely busy schedule, she accepted. We were the last stop of a 10 county whirlwind tour she was on in south central Minnesota. Here she is with Paul Schmidt, DU Chief Conservation Officer, and Brian Ross, outgoing State Chair.

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

