

# North Dakota Ducks Unlimited



## Quarterly Newsletter May-July 2017

**What a beautiful time to live in North Dakota! Love is in the air. The ducks are sporting their most vibrant colors and are pairing up to make more ducks! And just think, we are the ones helping them do this (well... in some ways).**

**Take a moment to think that for the last 80 years, people like us have been putting forth an effort to conserve this natural event. Not only does this effort secure habitat for ducks, but thousands of other species of wildlife, improve water quality and maintain a healthy ecosystem.**

**Thank You and all event volunteers. Your hard work and dedication is the only way Ducks Unlimited can continue to save habitat for future generations.**

### **North Dakota Ducks Unlimited Conservation Update:**

The Long Lake NWR wetland restoration project in Burleigh and Kidder county is nearing completion in the next two weeks. The project is enhancing and protecting 454 acres of shallow wetland habitat by repairing breeches in the levee caused by erosion and intrusion of lake water into the managed cells. The project will also serve as a dedication site for the "Rescue Our Wetlands" campaign aimed at raising more philanthropic dollars for the PPR and the Service's wetland and grassland easement program

DU is working to expand the Prairie Pothole Working Lands Partnership in Devils Lake to Kulm region of Logan, La Moure, McIntosh and Dickey county. The working lands program provides cost-share to farmers and ranchers interested in planting marginal cropland back to grassland habitat but still have the ability to hay and graze the grass once established. Producers can still use the ground as part of their operation while also providing waterfowl habitat, increasing the chance that the grass will remain after the 10-year agreement. Landowners can also apply for help with grazing management plans, cross fencing and water developments.

Ducks Unlimited (DU) and the University of North Dakota (UND) partnered in 2015 to start an internship program for undergraduate Fish and Wildlife students. The program is geared towards individuals who have little to no experience in field research, which is often required for the entry-level jobs in this area

of expertise. This year, thanks to additional funding from the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, the internship has grown to include an opportunity for undergraduate students looking to gain experience in science communication. Students participating in this portion of the program will work with a DU communication specialist and Sarah Cavanah, a UND communication professor to learn how to send conservation messages to certain audiences. These communication interns will be working very closely with field research interns from the original internship program.

## Key Opening Dates for 2017 Hunting Seasons: (Tentative)

- June 7<sup>th</sup> Deer Lottery Deadline
- August 14<sup>th</sup> Early Goose
- August 16<sup>th</sup> Swan Lottery Deadline
- September 1<sup>st</sup> Dove, Archery Deer
- September 9<sup>th</sup> Partridge, Grouse
- September 16<sup>th</sup> Youth Waterfowl
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> Waterfowl Resident
- September 30<sup>th</sup> Waterfowl Non-Resident
- October 7<sup>th</sup> Pheasant
- November 10<sup>th</sup> Firearm Deer



## Kick off Parties and Inviting New Volunteers

Let's have a party!!!

For the first meeting (at least 6 weeks in advance) have a fun night of just dusting off the dinner planning book. **Invite** new volunteers and just get together. Nothing official needs to happen, just have a good time and let everyone know it's time to start thinking about planning your event. Make it fun and unique to draw everyone's attention.

Regional Director Terry Lassiter will come grill for you. You set the date, invite some people and relax. It's a great time to share stories, ideas and tell fish lies.

Rome wasn't built in a day... neither is a successful banquet.

Anyone who read this and calls or text their name and phone number to 701-890-5770 will be entered for a chance at a 20 quart DU edition K2 Cooler. Drawing held at the same time as the calendar raffle June 15th.

Event materials will be sent to the Area Chairmen/women well in advance so keep an eye out for the 2017 Fall banquet kits.

### **Events Successfully Completed Spring 2017:**

January 20<sup>th</sup> Kenmare (Gooseneck) AC-Kory Richardson

January 21<sup>st</sup> NDDU State Convention

February 17<sup>th</sup> Grand Forks Sponsor Dinner AC-Mike Elsberry

February 25<sup>th</sup> Kulm (Pothole Paradise) AC Florian Schnabel

March 3<sup>rd</sup> Minot Waterfowl Hunters Party AC-Brenden Jehlicka

March 4<sup>th</sup> Williston Banquet. AC Mike and Sarah Johnson

March 15<sup>th</sup> Mandan Dinner. AC Landon Feil

March 23<sup>rd</sup> Valley City Dinner. AC Scott Tichy (\*Record Turnout)

April 6<sup>th</sup> NDSU. AC Spencer Fenske (\*Record Turnout)

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Divide County (Crosby) AC-Steve Hurley

### **Upcoming Events Summer/Fall 2017:**

June 15<sup>th</sup> Calendar Raffle and Benelli 3 Gun Raffle. 12:00PM Mandan Baymont Inn. 2018 Calendar Planning meeting held after drawing.

June 24<sup>th</sup> Bismarck Fun Shoot. Capital City Sporting Clays-Bismarck. Al Geisen 701-220-9568 [All are welcome!](#)

August 31<sup>st</sup> Grand Forks Dinner. Mike Elsberry 701-340-4445

August TBD Kenmare Youth Day. Check [ducks.org/north-dakota](http://ducks.org/north-dakota) for details.

**\*\*Ducks Unlimited 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Convention\*\***

**May 31-June 4<sup>th</sup> San Antonio Texas.**

**Everyone is welcome to attend!!**

<http://www.ducks.org/ducks-unlimited-events/national-convention>



## 2018 Calendar Photo Submissions Wanted

Are you a photographer who has photos of waterfowl? Submit them for consideration in the 2018 ND DU calendar.



The above photo of a Blue Wing Teal nest was taken on May 19<sup>th</sup> at Ducks Unlimited Coteau Ranch which is located 14 miles north of Wing, ND on HWY 14. The ranch is in the heart of the Prairie Pot Hole country, and serves as one of many research sites that Ducks Unlimited uses to monitor ducks. This nest was located about 100 yards from one of the potholes on the ranch and hidden in the natural short grass prairie.

DU biologists and other researchers use the ranch for environmental monitoring, duck mortality, nest success and many other factors associated with nesting waterfowl.

The ranch is open to hunting for the public and only requires registration card be filled out. For more information on the ranch or for a tour, contact Terry Lassiter at [tlassiter@ducks.org](mailto:tlassiter@ducks.org), or by phone or text at 701-890-5770.

# North Dakota State Contacts

## State Chairman

**John Schutt**

701-541-6964

[john@theacegrp.com](mailto:john@theacegrp.com)

## State Campaign Chair

**Matt Shahan**

406-396-7468

[Matt.shahan@gmail.com](mailto:Matt.shahan@gmail.com)

## State Treasurer

**Randy Martin**

701-658-9765

[Randyatstoudford@yahoo.com](mailto:Randyatstoudford@yahoo.com)

## Regional Director

**Terry Lassiter**

701-890-5770

[tlassiter@ducks.org](mailto:tlassiter@ducks.org)

