What is inside this Issue?

* Save the Illinois DU License Plates
* Win A Gun every 2Minutes.
* Greenwing - New Website Launched
* Upcoming Events
* Help Wanted
* Call for Field Reps

Quick State Facts

Total Membership 29,132
Total Acres Preserved 46,492
Major Sponsors 384
Feather Society Members 193
Greenwings 1,979

Rescue our Wetlands

Rescue Our Wetlands focuses on five priorities vital to the survival of wetlands as well as the waterfowl, ecosystems and communities that rely on those resources.

1. Waterfowl Forever
2. Breeding Landscapes
3. Wintering and Migration Landscapes
4. Conservation Education
5. Conservation Legacy

A Word From Our Chairman

The 2016 National Convention was a resounding success for Illinois Ducks Unlimited. 28 delegates representing Illinois made the trek to Anchorage for the 79th National Convention. The delegates enjoyed and evening out with friends on Thursday and had a great time touring the sites of Alaska. Next year the National Convention will be in San Antonio and I hope many of you are able to join us in representing Illinois.

At the convention Illinois received a bronze award for 2016 were we finished in the top ten 14 times in a total of 34 performance matrix’s. DU Illinois finished 3rd in the country in the overall income category and finished first in the Nation for our Major Donor Campaign! So congratulations to everyone in DU Illinois for the great job!

As of June 29, 2016, for fiscal year 2016 we have raised $2,984,436 with a projected income of $3,046,111 which represents a 12.4 % increase in event income over last year. We are also up in membership, new events, and volunteers. So we have succeeded in accomplishing our goals set forth in our State Plan.

What’s new, in the past few weeks after much thought by the executive committee we have added two new volunteer committees to the States Leadership. First is the Calendar Committee, which will work on the development and implementation of the states very successful program with the regional directors. Second is the Conservation Committee, this committee will be working with our Manger of Conservation throughout the state. Some but not all of its duties will be to manage the DU License Plate Program, the Duck Stamp Program, and a public awareness program in getting all our great DU conservation work, projects, recognized throughout the state.

I will be looking for volunteers to fill these vital positions in DU Illinois. If interested please feel free to give me, or your regional director a call.

The past few weeks I have criss-crossed the state meeting many of you at district meetings and events. I hope to see many of you this fall and wish you the best in the planning of your fall events.

Thanks again for all your dedication to Illinois Ducks Unlimited and to our common mission to “Rescue our Wetlands”!

Sincerely,

Dennis

Rescuing Our Wetlands focuses on five priorities vital to the survival of wetlands as well as the waterfowl, ecosystems and communities that rely on those resources.

1. Waterfowl Forever
2. Breeding Landscapes
3. Wintering and Migration Landscapes
4. Conservation Education
5. Conservation Legacy

Read more in the upcoming Illinois State newsletter to find out more about these top five priorities in our “Conservation corner” found on the last page of each issue.
Help Save the Illinois Ducks Unlimited License Plates

WE NEED YOUR HELP GETTING 1,000 ILLINOIS DU LICENSE PLATES ON THE ROAD!

Recent legislation signed into law requires Ducks Unlimited to sell at least 1,000 plates per year.

Ducks Unlimited currently has 601 specialty plates in Illinois.

If we fall below 1,000 plates for two consecutive years, the state may pull all existing Illinois DU specialty plates off the road and replace them with the universal specialty plate with a DU sticker.

Are you planning on attending one of the Illinois Waterfowl Blind Drawings in July? Help us get the word out by distributing the Illinois Ducks Unlimited Specialty License Plate Dream Gun Giveaway windshield postcard while you’re at the blind drawing.

See pages four and five for blind drawing information and locations.

Become a sponsor & Save an Acre

Each year, more than 80,000 acres of wetlands disappear in the United States. When a wetland is lost, we all lose. Wetlands are vital not only to waterfowl and other wildlife, but also to the very quality of life on earth.

By becoming a DU Sponsor, your $250.00 sponsorship will save one acre of wetlands! The newly established Illinois State Sponsor Committee is there to help chapters increase and maintain Illinois Sponsor numbers.

The Statewide goal is to increase Sponsor numbers to 2,500 a 10% increase. We can do it, but only with your help.

Please find the Illinois DU Sponsor Committee contact information below and give them a call to see what Ideas they have to help increase and maintain sponsor numbers for your chapter.

Illinois Ducks Unlimited Sponsor Committee.

Chairman: Todd Johnson 217-494-7755 midlandsg@comcast.net

NE Region: Scott Hilpert 847-417-1735 Scott.Hilpert@ubs.com

NW Region: Mark Swegle 815-440-2410 mswegle@gmail.com

Central Region: Merlin & Michelle Horath 217-737-8708 mhorath@gmail.com

South Region: Denny Ward 618-498-9855 wardfinancial@gtec.com
As we conclude our first third of the year results, Our IL volunteers and Major Donors are doing great! 2015 saw us achieve “First in the Nation Status” with our Major Donor/Feather Society results (among others).

2016 has us with some advanced goals, but ones that we really feel are totally in reach:

- **Life Sponsors**—Goal is 21. To date, we have 9 new Life Sponsors
- **Upgrade Sponsors**—Goal is 27. To date we are at 8
- **Feather Society Commitments**—Goal is 5. To date we are at 1

Doing the quick math, you will see we are on target with Life Sponsors; we are short of our goal in Upgrade Sponsors; and are way short of Feather Society goal. Feather Society membership is so easy and almost painless! All it takes is either designating DU as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy (and DU can even make that process very easy and deductible/credited toward Life Sponsorship) or simply including DU as one of the beneficiaries in your will. In either case, you simply need to notify DU and send a copy of the document to them and you will be designated as a Feather Society member and receive your Feather Society pin.

At our State Convention this year, we got a huge boost in our numbers to start 2016 with, and they are certainly reflected in the above figures. However, it is never a good thing to rest on our laurels, so I am asking that our IL DU members do all they can to further our efforts at achieving our Goals shown above so we can stay at the top of our game, stay on top with the National competition and continue to fund all our important conservation efforts.

At this point in the “competition,” IL is tied for 3rd with 4 other states. I know we can outdistance ourselves from the 4 we are tied with, and with all of your assistance, we can once again find ourselves on top. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or with potential Major Donor candidates. And also, many thanks for all you do for DU and IL DU!

**State Campaign Chairman**
Tom Tomlinson
tt42@frontiernet.net
**IDNR Announces Schedule of Waterfowl Blind Site Drawings**

**SPRINGFIELD, IL** – Waterfowl hunters are encouraged to mark their calendars for upcoming waterfowl hunting blind site random drawings to be held at several public hunting areas in Illinois this summer.

Duck and goose hunters must register in person for waterfowl blind site drawings and must be present at the drawing – held at each location designated below immediately after the registration period – to claim their blind sites. Mail-in registrations are not accepted. Unless otherwise stated, blind allocations for these sites are good for one year. To participate in a drawing, applicants must present a 2015 or 2016 regular Illinois hunting license (no apprentice or youth license) and a 2015 or 2016 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp at the time they register, unless exempted by law. Applicants must be at least 16 years old by the date of the drawing.

Applicants needing to purchase new licenses and stamps should do so prior to the drawing. Most blind drawing locations will not have license sales available. Licenses and stamps are available at any DNR Direct license and permit vendor, through the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov, or by calling 1-888-6-PERMIT (1-888-673-7648).

Registrants are no longer required to possess a valid Illinois Firearm Owner’s Identification (FOID) card from the Illinois State Police to participate in blind drawings. Also, in order to be an eligible applicant for the drawing, the participant must not have his or her hunting privileges suspended or revoked by the IDNR or any other jurisdiction at the time of the drawing. Out-of-state residents must have a 2015 or 2016 non-resident hunting license for Illinois and a 2015 or 2016 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp.

**SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2016 (Blinds allocated for one year)**

Chain O’ Lakes State Park and Redwing Slough/Deer Lake State Natural Area, Lake County: registration for both sites 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Oak Point day use area, 1/5 mile east of the Fox River on the south side of Illinois Route 173. Hunters will be allowed to register for only one of the two sites.

Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area, Will County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the site office, two miles northwest of Wilmington off exit 241 on Interstate 55.

Kankakee River State Park and Momence Wetlands, Kankakee and Will Counties: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. for both sites at the Kankakee River State Park office, five miles northwest of Bourbonnais on Illinois Route 102. Hunters will be allowed to register for only one of the two sites.

Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area, Grundy County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the site office just off Illinois Route 53, two miles southeast of Braceville.

Shabbona Lake State Recreation Area, DeKalb County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the park office. Directions - go 2½ miles south of Shabbona on Shabbona Road, turn east on Shabbona Grove Road and go ½ mile (office is on left side of the road).

Sinnissippi Lake, Whiteside County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Harry Oppold Marina, on Stouffer Road on the east edge of Sterling.

William Powers State Recreation Area, Cook County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the boat launch, 126th St. and Ave. 0, Chicago.

**SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2016 (Blinds allocated for one year)**

Anderson Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, Fulton County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the area check station, 13½ miles southwest of Havana on Illinois Route 100.

Clear Lake, Mason County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Sand Ridge State Forest Headquarters, 25799E CTY RD. 2300N, Forest City. Phone (309) 597-2212. Follow the signs from Manito or Forest City.
Waterfowl Blind Site Drawing Locations Continued

Lake DePue State Fish and Wildlife Area, Bureau County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Oak Grove Park, ¾ miles west of DePue on Illinois Route 29.

Marshall State Fish and Wildlife Area including the Sparland Unit, Marshall County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the area check station, five miles south of Lacon on Illinois Route 26.

Rice Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, Fulton County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the area check station, three miles south of Banner on Route 24.

Sanganois State Fish and Wildlife Area, Cass and Mason Counties: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. On the east side of the maintenance building, two miles north of Chandlerville on Illinois Route 78 (follow the signs to Sanganois).

Spring Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area and Pekin Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, Tazewell County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the south park office area, two miles north of Manito on County Rd. 16 (Manito Rd.) and eight miles west and south on Spring Lake Rd.

Starved Rock State Park, LaSalle County: registration 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at the Point Shelter day use area on Illinois Route 71, about four miles east of Illinois Route 178 or 5½ miles west of Illinois Route 23 in South Ottawa.

Woodford State Fish and Wildlife Area, Woodford County: registration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the area check station, 5½ miles north of Spring Bay on Illinois Route 26.

**Mississippi River Unclaimed and Unregistered Blinds**

Mississippi River Pools 16, 17, and 18 (second year of two-year allocation). Pool 16 - unregistered blinds and blinds not passing inspection may be claimed on a first-come, first-served basis by calling the district wildlife biologist between 8 a.m. and noon at 815-273-2733, two weeks before the opening day of duck season. Pool 17 and 18 - use the same procedure except phone 309-344-2617.

Additional hunting information and maps on the above sites can be accessed at [http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/hunter_fact_sheet/index.htm](http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/hunter_fact_sheet/index.htm)

Remember, if you planning on attending one of the Illinois Waterfowl Blind Drawings help us get the word out by distributing the Illinois Ducks Unlimited Specialty License Plate Dream Gun Giveaway windshield postcard while you’re at the blind drawing.

Thanks for the help! Questions? Call Bill Sarafin at 815-440-5494.
Upcoming Events:

Downtown Chicago Fundraiser - University Club of Chicago
Thursday, August 18, 2016

Pekin Dinner
Friday, August 19, 2016

Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Annual Ducks Unlimited Banquet
Saturday, August 20, 2016

Super Quick 66 Gun Bash - Chicagoland Speedway
Saturday, August 20, 2016

Granite City Ducks Unlimited Annual Banquet
Saturday, August 27, 2016

Northern Tazewell Co 12th Annual Dinner
Saturday, August 27, 2016

North Shore Chicago Shoot - Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation
Sunday, August 28, 2016

Silver Springs Dinner - Yorkville
Thursday, September 08, 2016

Fox River Valley Dinner - Aurora's Gaslite Manor
Friday, September 09, 2016

Great Kaskaskia Ducks Unlimited Annual Dinner
Saturday, September 10, 2016

Guns and Gear Marengo Flyway -Joe's Place Marengo
Saturday, September 17, 2016

Monroe County Ducks Unlimited Annual Dinner
Saturday, September 24, 2016

Shawnee Ducks Unlimited Annual Banquet
Saturday, October 01, 2016

Guns and Gear Marengo Flyway - Pour House Woodstock
Saturday October 8, 2016

Steeleville Ducks Unlimited Annual Dinner
Saturday, November 05, 2016

Super Quick 66 Gun Bash - Chicagoland Speedway
Saturday, August 20, 2016

Looking for something new?

Looking for new ways and ideas to raise money for the ducks?

Contact your local Regional Director to find out what new creative things people are doing all over the country.

From Gun Bashes where a gun is raffled off every 5mins to Calendar sales. From Greenwing fishing events to Area Shoots.

Contact the Regional Director and ask how to get involved.

Congratulations: Volunteer of the Year & Lifetime Achievement Awards

A special congratulations is in order for Bob & Pat Burton for their Lifetime Achievement award.

Also congrats to our Volunteer of the year, Mike Hecht.

Thank you.

Corporate Awards:

A special thanks to Caterpillar & Reeds
Are you ready to get involved?

Just as ducks need us to help provide adequate habitat for their migration, IL DU needs chapters in the following areas. If you know of anyone or have friends in these areas, please contact the state chairman or your local Regional Director.

**Central Illinois Chapter Startups Needed:**
- Vermillion County—Danville
- Carlinville
- Shelbyville
- Bloomington/Normal

**Areas in Central Illinois needing additional Volunteers**
- Macon County
- Champaign County
- Quincy
- Pike County
- Jacksonville
- Manito
- Northern Tazewell
- Clinton
- Tri-County
- Pekin

**Central Illinois Contacts**
- CONTACT: JKing@ducks.org

**Southern Illinois Chapter Startups Needed:**
- Robinson
- O’Fallon
- Vandalia
- Mascoutah

**Southern Illinois Contacts**
- CONTACT: JSturgill@ducks.org

**Northern Illinois Chapter Start-Ups Needed:**
- Grundy County
- Yorkville
- Elgin

**Northern Illinois Contacts**
- CONTACT: BBrown2@ducks.org

**Areas in Northeastern Illinois needing additional Volunteers**
- Naperville
- Aurora
- Bolingbrook
- Kankakee

**Northeastern Illinois Contacts**
- CONTACT: Kstefancin@ducks.org

**Northwest Illinois Chapter Start-Ups Needed:**
- Galesburg
- Monmouth
- Galena
- Aledo

**Northwest Illinois Contacts**
- CONTACT: BBrown2@ducks.org

**Macon County**
- Roberta Schore  mschore@ducks.org

**State Treasurer**
- Dennis Wooten  dennis_wooten@yahoo.com

**State Webmaster**
- Jonathan Fields  jfields@jfields.com

**State Youth & Education Chairman**
- Vicki Mandurano  vmandurano@hotmail.com

**State Sponsor Chair**
- Todd Johnson  midlandsg@comcast.net

**Northwestern Illinois Chapter Start-Ups Needed:**
- Clinton
- Tri-County
- Pekin

**State Convention Co-Chairman**
- Bill Hatter  archmasonryinc@comcast.net

**State Convention Chair**
- Rob Dunn  capt-emtp@hotmail.com

**Illinois Ducks Unlimited Contacts**

**Regional Biologist—Illinois**
- Eric Schenck  eschenck@ducks.org

**Regional Biologist—Indiana**
- James Roberts  jroberts@ducks.org

**Regional Biologist—Central Illinois**
- Mike Sertle  msertle@ducks.org

**State Chairman**
- Jonathan Fields  jfields@jfields.com

**State Campaign Chair**
- Dennis Wooten  dennis_wooten@yahoo.com

**State Treasurer**
- Scott Marcacci  samarcacci@gmail.com

**State Secretary**
- Mark Schore  schore_mark@cat.com

**State Youth & Education Chairman**
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**State Sponsor Chair**
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**State Convention Chair**
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**State Shooting Chairman**
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**State eNewsletter Editor**
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**State Treasurer**
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**State Secretary**
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**State eNewsletter Editor**
- Ryan Nikolich  R.Nikolich@gmail.com
At the end of March, I received an email from Calvin Larrison. Calvin is a sophomore at Deland-Weldon High School. He requested from me some information to help on a charity drive project for his English Class. His intent was to bring awareness to the younger generation interested in conservation and hunting waterfowl. I sent him some pamphlets, duck identity posters and stickers. I also suggested he review Ducks Unlimited website for more details to help with the project. By the sounds of it – he succeeded. I will let you be the judge!

Calvin sent me a letter stating:

“I appreciated all of this help because without it I would have been a fish out of water. The pamphlets you sent me helped because the people would read it and ask me questions. They guided me so I could answer almost any question that was asked of me. I really appreciated the stickers because I enjoyed seeing a whole school with Ducks Unlimited stickers on them and even on the front of their lockers. This was a great learning experience for me and I want to continue trying to spread the word about the great things you do. I want to start to get involved with the things members of your organization do at the local lake near me, Clinton Lake. I personally think I could be a huge help to the group if I tried. Once again I want to thank you so very much for all the help that you gave me and I hope to further my interest in the organization and help them more than just spreading the word.”

Calvin, first, let me “THANK YOU” for reaching out and spreading the word to your school. I’m confident you can make an impact in future activities with Ducks Unlimited.

If anyone needs additional assistance with helping out any students in your area – please feel free to contact me anytime. Remember…..no task is too big or too small and it pays to help out our Greenwings.

Greenwing Kids Day was led by the following Committee members: Trent Tobias, Ron Adair, Mike Mackey, Patrick Michalak, and myself, with many volunteers: Debbie Babe, Greg Taylor, Alexandria Hood, Dan Rosselli, Adam Hinson, Roy Anderson, Kurt Schultz, Bill Beckmeyer.

Feedback from the event

“We very much enjoyed the event.”

“My son is 13 and especially liked that the groups were organized by age and that the older kids were in the same group.”

“It was VERY organized and the moderators of each event were wonderful!”

“We have a great time, congratulations!”

“Thanks for helping organize this. I thought the whole day was fantastic and the kids absolutely loved it.”

“The volunteers were well organized, friendly, and were really taking the time to talk with the kids so they could understand the activity.”

“It was great how they all focused on the safety part of it AND then the fun part of it.”

Congrats Chain-O-Lakes Chapter 1st Greenwing Kids Day!

It was a sketchy morning with rain, dark clouds and lightning, but by 9am it cleared up. Just in time to get the groups started and on track for their busy activities. The Antioch Boy Scout Troop #92, came out to lend a hand.

With 6 volunteers they were able to earn volunteers hours and participate in the activities. Their participation and support was much appreciated.

Left is a picture of the many attendees and volunteers.
New Greenwing online resources. www.Greenwing.org

Offering youth the opportunity to learn about wetland conservation and the outdoor world around them

Watch full video


In case you haven’t heard – Ducks Unlimited unveiled a new Greenwing Youth Website in an April 2016 release. The new Greenwing website was specifically designed for DU’s junior Greenwing members. Features include a myriad of activities such as printable worksheets, early reader features, waterfowl profiles and how-to-videos. Additional plans for the website include interactive educational games. You can utilize this site for Greenwing activities for a dinner, camp, event or in school.

Check it out!

For more information visit www.greenwing.org or www.ducks.org

Thanks for your Greenwing Support! Send me stories of your Greenwing Successes!

Games

Find the Greenwing
Bluegill Blast
Wetlands Coloring Book
Call for Field Reps.

We are looking for Volunteers to serve as Field Reps for our key conservation projects in Illinois. As a Field Rep, you will support and promote specific wetland conservation projects by learning about the projects purpose, work accomplished, number of acres conserved and Ducks Unlimiteds contribution (dollars, land acquisition, resource support, tech support, etc.). You will also learn about our partner organizations and their contributions to the project. Depending on the location of the project, you may also have the opportunity to work with the current project steward or with future planned projects under Ducks Unlimited Wetland Conservation Programs in Illinois.

In addition to the knowledge gained about specific wetland conservation projects, Field Reps will become knowledgeable in and help promote the following conservation programs and initiatives:

- Illinois State Duck Stamp program
- Illinois Ducks Unlimited Specialty License Plate program
- Ducks Unlimited Conservation Initiative in Illinois
- Great Lakes Initiative
- Rescue Our Wetlands – Banding Together for Waterfowl

Finally, Field Reps will be responsible for sharing their knowledge and information about our conservation efforts with our members and volunteers during Chapter and District events, Illinois State Convention, and any other venue that would maximize our exposure of these conservation programs across the state.

Contact your local RD or Eric Schenck to see how you can get involved.

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

You can find more information (and copies of photos/videos) about all these subjects on DU’s website www.ducks.org or on Illinois DU’s Facebook site. Check them out and share!

It's a tragic fact: Every 6 minutes, the United States loses nearly one acre of wetlands.