As 2018 has disappeared, let’s reflect on what has happened this past year. IL DU has persevered and had a pretty darned good year! We have had growth in a number of categories with some of the main ones being Event Income (up over 13%), New Volunteers (up over 300), Greenwings (up at least 20 from last year), Sponsors (up 190), and several new chapters becoming active that should greatly increase our 2019 results. Congratulations to everyone involved who helped make these results reality. Give yourselves a pat on the back for all your efforts!

Our Capstone Gala was fabulous, the likes of which we had not seen before. Live cattails among the 300+ attendees? It was a reality at this event! Over $3,000,000 in pledges and cash were realized that evening! Tremendous! It truly was a wonderful experience.

We have a great group of RD’s, District Chair-people and Area Chairpeople! All help lay the groundwork for our success and I know it will continue non-stop in 2019! IL DU could always use more D/C’s, so if that is something that intrigues you, please talk to your RD for more info. And, not to be overlooked—please consider succession planning as A/C and D/C also need reinforcements.

Now, we are close to what is promising to be our best, most fun State Convention! You will want to be a part of this event, so if you haven’t made your reservations for this “volunteer thank you” happening, please make sure you do. Don’t miss the Friday night party (movie Tombstone themed event) and you for sure will want to be a part of the Saturday Awards luncheon.

Major Donors, you must be part of the Major Donor reception on Saturday afternoon at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. DON’T MISS IT! (Teaser—the Museum will be opening their showcase exhibit on duck decoys especially for IL DU.) It truly will be something special.

Please help us realize a HUGE increase in Conference attendees and participants. You won’t regret it.

Lastly, for all who are part of the State Council, another benefit this year is your State Council Meeting on Friday afternoon at 2. This will allow you time to be home well in advance of past years time which should make the Saturday happenings all the more special.

I look forward to greeting/visiting with a large part of our IL volunteers at this event. I hope your Christmas was grand and that the New Year will be super and always special for each of you as well.

Tom
Illinois Greenwing Corner

Youth & Education Update

Whether you are hunting deer, ducks, geese, turkeys, I hope everyone is having a great and safe hunting season!

In the fall and/or January, February timeframe, we hear of opportunities for youth to get out and participate in Youth hunts. ILDNR has many Youth Hunt programs and they’re in need of some volunteers. If you have some land with pits/blinds, etc. or just simply want to volunteer – please reach out to me and/or Eric Schenk or check out the ILDNR website.

On another note……I would like to share a story about our Southern Illinois University (SIU) Chapter, SIU is our only University Chapter. Currently, we have an outstanding committee down there participating in all kinds of activities with the Oakwood Bottoms Project. Trevor Hickman, Southern IL Regional Director, is doing an outstanding job supporting this committee. John O’Connell is spearheading and mentoring the committee from the faculty side. Joe & Ethan Dittmer are the chairman & co-chairman of the committee. I’ve had the chance to work with them at Oakwood Bottoms and I’m thoroughly impressed of their attitudes, ethics, and dedication. Both brothers are big duck hunters and are pursuing their careers as Undergraduate, Dept. of Zoology & Forestry. Ethan is working on a research project named, “Evaluating Hunter Surveys at Oakwood Bottoms Greentree Reservoir in Southern Illinois”. The research cost is approximately $3,480 to complete. I’ve read the proposal for Research that was submitted. Ethan’s objectives to this research include human dimensions, designing a survey for hunters on harvest, measurable changes for habitat, current management issues, he describes his methods of how he will conduct a survey, etc. The research is also a comparison to what hunting was like before DU was involved with this project and the results of hunting today. Ethan is anticipating, with his data outcomes, to produce three manuscripts to serve multi-purposes, produce a report to the National Forest Service, present the results of his study at regional and national wildlife conferences. He has done an exceptional job on putting together this research. I hope I can share the results with you someday.

This is a great example of why we need to get more involved with schools to create Varsity & University Chapters. Together, as volunteers, we can help those who don’t have opportunities or the resources to get involved and learn.

Hunting season and Youth Hunts are a great time to teach your greenwings to start a journal of their experiences. They will develop good writing skills in documenting the memory. Encourage your youngster to write me a letter telling me a story about their hunt with a photo!

I look forward to seeing you at the State Convention! Stop by on Saturday morning to find out what National Headquarters is doing to create more activity for greenwings!

Until next month……….Vicki
As I have been meeting with the Area and District Chairmen this summer, they all have heard me talk about the need for more volunteers. Volunteers have been the key to IL’s success over the years, but we have a lack of volunteers for a state the size of IL.

The committee level which makes our chapters work the best can always use more volunteers, and one doesn’t have to be busy all the time! There is room for you to step up and do something, regardless of how much time you can afford to donate. Tom

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

**CONTACT:** JKing@ducks.org

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

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

**CONTACT:** Trevor Hickman THickman@ducks.org

**Northwest Illinois Chapter Startups Needed:**
- Galesburg
- Monmouth
- Galena
- Aledo

**CONTACT:** BBrown2@ducks.org

**northeastern Illinois Chapter Startups Needed:**
- Grundy County
- Elgin

**CONTACT:** mrichard@ducks.org

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

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**“IL DU needs chapters in these areas. If you know of anyone in these areas please contact the State Chairman or the local Regional Director”**

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- **At-Large Member**
  - Rex Schultz

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Funding from the Illinois DU License Plate program has been put to work on two DU initiatives.

Keep spreading the word about our Specialty License plate! $25 from every one of our license plates comes back to us and is used for habitat projects right here in Illinois.

Go to http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/ and click on "Pick-A-Plate" to order your DU license plate today.

Photo courtesy of Craig Collister and Becket, son of Deke.
Name of project: Friends of Hackmatack Wetland Conservation Project ( Portions of $75K small NAWCA Grant, Private DU Support, and OL, TLC, NWA, and MCCD Support Utilized)

Project Location: McHenry Co., Northeastern IL – 161 acres @ Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

Status of project: Completed in Fall 2018

Size/scope of project: The purpose of the Friends of Hackmatack Wetland Conservation Project was to acquire 19 acres and restore 142 acres of wetlands and associated upland habitats within the “core and corridor” boundaries of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Hackmatack NWR was established in 2012 to conserve important breeding habitat for many wetland and grassland nesting birds, including several species of waterfowl. The Hackmatack Comprehensive Conservation Plan identified the project area within this North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) small grant as being core to connecting NWR units and adjacent conservation lands.

Goals of the project: This particular NAWCA grant was needed to restore wetland and associated upland prairie on newly protected tracts of land that have been recently acquired by five local conservation organizations that are working under the umbrella of the “Hackmatack Conservation Partnership”. This Conservation Partnership includes: Openlands, The Land Conservancy, Nippersink Watershed Association, McHenry County Conservation District, and Ducks Unlimited. The goals of the Partnership are to: 1) provide migration and nesting habitat for waterfowl, other wetland/grassland dependent birds, and state-listed threatened or endangered wildlife, 2) implement the “core and corridor” land protection strategy developed for Hackmatack NWR, and 3) create important momentum for future conservation action. Wildlife benefits: The protection of 19 acres and restoration of 142 acres of important breeding habitat will benefit numerous migratory birds, including nesting waterfowl, other wetland-dependent species, and other wildlife.

Human/social benefits: Restored and enhanced wetlands will lead to greater habitat diversity, more desired wetland management capabilities, enhanced water quality, and more public recreational opportunity.

Photos (Completed restoration projects):
News From the Field (Cont.)

Name of project: Big Muddy Units 3, 17, & 18 (Portions of $1M NAWCA Grant, Private DU Support, and USFS Support Utilized)

Project Location: Jackson Co., Southern IL – 107.5 acres @ Shawnee National Forest (NF)

Status of project: To-Be-Completed in Summer 2019

Size/scope of project: The Big Muddy River Bottoms constitutes one of the largest continuous bottomland hardwood tracts in all of Illinois. However, the hydrology and wetland functions of this landscape have been greatly modified. Over the years the Big Muddy River has become increasingly incised which has caused a headcut effect and erosion within the small tributaries of the river. Before U.S. Forest Service (USFS) ownership, the focus was to improve the drainage of the floodplain and to control or eliminate the natural wetland functions. Today, man-made ditches run across the landscape and continue to rapidly drain the floodplain. As a result, the natural water table is lowered and many historic ephemeral Big Muddy Units (BMU) wetland depressions have been eliminated. This project will address the restoration of BMUs 3, 17, & 18.

Goals of the project: Utilizing a combination of NAWCA grant and USFS non-matching funds, DU and the USFS propose to construct small earthen berms where appropriate to plug drainage ditches, stabilize the natural grade, and to stop erosion, head cutting, and un-natural drainage of these low areas to improve seasonal wetland functions of BMUs 3, 17, & 18. This project will restore a total of 107.5 acres of emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetlands. These restored and enhanced wetlands will then mimic the natural flooding duration that occurred prior to human disturbance.

Wildlife benefits: Project will restore 107.5 acres of high quality bottomland hardwoods, scrub-shrub thickets, and emergent wetlands, benefiting numerous migratory birds and wetland-dependent species.

Human/social benefits: Restored wetlands will lead to more dependable water control and timing of flooding, improved bottomland hardwood health, and more public recreational opportunity targeting hunting, bird watching and wildlife photography.

Photos (Big Muddy Unit 2 – previously restored in 2012; Big Muddy Unit 3 – to-be-restored in 2019):
News From the Field (Cont.)

Name of project: 3-I’s Marsh Enhancement - (Portions of Pending $1M NAWCA Proposal, Private DU Support, and DNR Support Utilized)

Project Location: Bureau Co., Northern IL – 90 acres @ Donnelley-DePue State Fish & Wildlife Area (SFWA)

Status of project: To-Be-Completed in Summer 2019

Size/scope of project: This project is proposed to enhance 90 acres of emergent, moist soil wetlands within the 3I’s Moist Soil Units (MSUs) at Donnelley-DePue SFWA, owned and managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These MSUs are located adjacent to Lake DePue, a backwater lake located along the north side of the Illinois River where it makes the “Big Bend” to turn its path eastward toward Chicago and Lake Michigan. The MSUs were constructed in 1992 with Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp funds to be managed for moist-soil vegetation via levees, water control structures, and a pump station to provide both waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunity. Current infrastructure at the 3-I’s MSUs is limiting the capability of DNR to manage moist-soil habitat, and control woody invasives. The ability to manipulate water levels as necessary for habitat management goals is not possible because the existing structures don’t have the necessary capacity to address changes in Illinois River hydrology and flooding regimes.

Goals of the project: DU and DNR proposed to replace the deteriorating existing steel structures with longer-lived concrete and aluminum full-round risers, to allow management for moist-soil vegetation as intended to increase migration, breeding, and brood-rearing habitat important for a variety of species. This improved habitat will then also lead to improved waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Wildlife benefits: Improved habitat conditions and food resources for a number of waterfowl, wildlife and other wetland-dependent species.

Human/social benefits: Donnelley-DePue SFWA provides 1,200 hunter-use-days annually through public waterfowl hunting opportunities. Because of Donnelley-DePue’s proximity to relatively large population centers, it offers an excellent opportunity to increase wetland related recreation participation by hunters and viewers and support for conservation.

Photos (A deteriorated control structure to be replaced; One of the MSUs to be enhanced at 3-I’s Marsh):
Name of project: Cypress Creek NWR Bottomland Hardwood Reforestation (Portions of both two separate $1M NAWCA Grants, a $250K Foundation Grant, and FWS-NWR Support Utilized)

Project Location: Union, Alexander, and Pulaski Cos., Southern IL – 610 acres @ Cypress Creek NWR

Status of project: To-Be-Completed in Spring 2019

Size/scope of project: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) identified numerous sites upon Cypress Creek NWR that are former or current agricultural crop ground to be replanted to the bottomland hardwood forest that it historically was prior to human development of the Cache River floodplain. The FWS has selected the hardwood tree species native to southern Illinois that will thrive best on each of these sites, including pin, willow, swamp chestnut, swamp white, and overcup oaks, shellbark and shagbark hickories, and bald cypress. The restoration of these forested wetlands will provide decades of habitat benefits to numerous species of wildlife, especially as the trees mature. The forested wetlands will provide migration, wintering, breeding, and brood-rearing habitat important to many species of waterfowl, and other wildlife.

Goals of the project: FWS and DU will reforest 610 acres to bottomland hardwoods, meeting the current reforestation opportunities at Cypress Creek NWR. Following the completion of these reforestations in 2019, DU and FWS will begin to identify opportunities to restore emergent wetlands within these reforested sites.

Wildlife benefits: Located within DU’s Level 1 Priority Landscape of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, the restored bottomland hardwood forests interspersed with seasonal emergent wetlands will provide productive habitat for the benefit of migrating and wintering waterfowl, other migratory birds and numerous other species.

Human/social benefits: Restored wetlands will lead to greater habitat diversity, more desired wetland management capabilities, enhanced water quality, and more public recreational opportunity targeting hunting, bird watching and wildlife photography.

Photos (Newly and Recently Reforested Floodplains at Cypress Creek NWR):
News From the Field (Cont.)

Name of project: Carlson Unit Enhancement (DNR Support and Private DU Support Utilized)

Project Location: Fulton and Schuyler Cos., Central IL – 240 acres @ Anderson Lake SFWA

Status of project: This project is currently underway, with completion by Spring 2019.

Size/scope of project: This project is proposed for the Carlson Unit at Anderson Lake SFWA, a large backwater wetland of the Illinois River, owned and managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Carlson Unit is an ~240-acre managed impoundment located immediately adjacent to the Illinois River, and managed to provide waterfowl habitat and waterfowl hunting opportunity. The habitat quality and waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife use is traditionally high within the Carlson Unit. Unfortunately, similar to many waterfowl management areas, changes in Illinois River hydrology and flooding intensity has hindered management capability and negatively impacted habitat quality. Therefore, wetland managers need to be able to adapt their management to meet these changes into the future.

Goals of the project: DU and DNR are grading and installing a new armored emergency spillway that can both more quickly equalize hydraulic pressure on the existing infrastructure to avoid damage, and to withstand the changes in hydrology under the current and future flooding regimes of the Illinois River. This project will also reduce annual maintenance costs and loss of habitat due to summer growing-season and unexpected flood events that happen more routinely than they historically did. The improved management capability will increase the DNR’s ability to provide migration, wintering and breeding habitat for a variety of waterfowl species and increase waterfowl hunter and wildlife viewer access and success.

Wildlife benefits: We will be able to enhance the wetland habitat for the benefit of waterfowl and other migratory birds along with numerous other wetland-dependent species.

Human/social benefits: Anderson Lake SFWA supports 2,000 hunter-use-days annually through public waterfowl hunting opportunity. Enhanced wetlands will lead to greater habitat diversity, more desired wetland management capabilities, enhanced water quality, and more public recreational opportunity targeting hunting, fishing, bird watching and wildlife photography.

Photos (Carlson Unit flood damage and project site):
News From the Field (Cont.)

Name of project: Jenkins Marsh Property Transfer (Foundation, Private DU, and DNR Support Utilized)

Project Location: Woodford Co., Central IL – 247 acres added to Woodford SFWA

Status of project: The transfer of fee-title ownership was completed in December 2018.

Size/scope of project: DU sold its Jenkins Marsh property to the DNR in December for inclusion into Woodford SFWA. DU will then utilize the entirety of the funds from this sale to reinvest back into additional wetland habitat conservation projects within the Illinois River Valley. Additionally, DU will be partnering with the DNR and FWS-Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to remove ~45 acres of woody invasives and restore both the Triangle Marsh and Main Marsh wetland units back to a diverse mix of ~125 acres of wetlands.

Goals of the project: The transfer and restoration of the Jenkins Marsh property as part of Woodford SFWA will increase both the quality and acreage of wetland and upland habitat, provide water quality benefits for the Illinois River, and will further add to the acres available to public access.

Wildlife benefits: We will continue to partner with the DNR to restore and enhance the wetland and grassland habitat for the benefit of waterfowl, other migratory birds and numerous other wildlife species.

Human/social benefits: Woodford SFWA provides 2,300 hunter-use-days annually through public waterfowl hunting opportunity. Restored and enhanced wetlands and uplands will lead to greater habitat diversity, more desired wetland management capabilities, enhanced water quality, and more public recreational opportunity targeting hunting, fishing, bird watching and wildlife photography. The inclusion of this property into Woodford SFWA will also increase the public acreage available for recreational users to access.

Photos (Jenkins Marsh’s restored native prairie; A portion of the Main Marsh to be fully restored):
News From the Field (Cont.)

Name of project: Oakwood Bottoms HayGlade/28 Restoration (Portions of a $1M NAWCA Grant, Private DU and NWTF Support, and USFS Support Utilized)

Project Location: Jackson Co., Southern IL – 130 acres @ Shawnee NF

Status of project: The project is currently underway, with completion by Summer 2019.

Size/scope of project: DU, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the USFS plan to restore and enhance 320 acres of emergent and forested wetlands. Oakwood Bottoms is located within the floodplain of the Mississippi River, but is on the protected side of the Big Muddy Levee. Therefore, all of Oakwood Bottoms is actively managed by USFS to mimic natural fall, winter, and spring floodplain hydrology that cannot otherwise be achieved naturally. As a result, the habitat within Greentree Unit 28 cannot be properly managed.

Goals of the project: To address these management needs, a multi-directional well will be installed to provide water to both Greentree Unit 28 and the neighboring Greentree Unit 27. There are currently 13 acres of open land located along the entire length of the GTU 28 boundary. These 13 acres will be restored to emergent marsh, and then be managed as the “Hay Glade Moist Soil Unit” in conjunction with the management of Greentree Unit 28.

Wildlife benefits: Restored water management capabilities to both high quality bottomland hardwoods and moist soil wetlands, benefiting numerous migratory birds and wetland-dependent species.

Human/social benefits: Restored water management capabilities will lead to more dependable water control and timing of flooding, improved bottomland hardwood health, and more public recreational opportunity targeting hunting, bird watching and wildlife photography.

Photo (The Future Greentree Unit 28 and HayGlade Moist Soil Unit wetlands):
News From the Field (Cont.)

Name of project: Two Rivers NWR Moist Soil Units (Portions of $1M NAWCA Grant, Private DU Support, and FWS-NWR Support Utilized)

Project Location: Calhoun Co., Southwestern IL – 500 acres @ Two Rivers NWR

Status of project: The project is currently underway, with DU providing engineering in 2018/2019, and project construction in 2019/2020.

Size/scope of project: The FWS established Two Rivers NWR in 1958 as a migratory bird refuge comprised of over 9,000 acres of floodplain habitat located at the physical confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Additionally, the NWR is surrounded by over 20,000 acres of Illinois and Mississippi River floodplain wetlands managed by the DNR as part of Mississippi River SFWA for waterfowl habitat and waterfowl hunting. In 2017, waterfowl numbers on the NWR peaked at well over 300,000 ducks.

Goals of the project: DU and the FWS will restore and enhance ~500 acres of moist soil and hemi-marsh wetlands. The FWS has identified fallow agricultural fields on Two Rivers NWR be restored by installing low, contour berms, water management structures, and pumps to allow FWS staff to mimic historic natural flooding to provide moist-soil habitat at the preferred water depths for foraging waterfowl and shorebirds (<12”).

Wildlife benefits: Located in the Confluence Region floodplains of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers, waters from over half of the United States landscape flow through this region. These wetland restorations and enhancements serve vital ecological functions such as the storage and purification of floodwaters and provide critically important migration habitat to over 250 species of waterfowl, wading birds and neo-tropical migrant songbirds.

Human/social benefits: Restored and enhanced wetlands will lead to greater habitat diversity, more desired wetland management capabilities, enhanced water quality, and more public recreational opportunity targeting hunting, fishing, bird watching and wildlife photography.

Photos (Wetlands to be enhanced and restored):
News From the Field (Cont.)

**Name of project:** Horseshoe Lake SP Wetlands (Phillips 66 Grant)

**Project Location:** Madison Co., Southwestern Illinois – Horseshoe Lake State Park (SP)

**Status of project in Missouri:** The project is currently underway, with DU providing engineering in 2018/2019, and project construction in 2019/2020.

**Size/scope of project:** Horseshoe Lake SP is a 2,960-acre property located near Granite City, IL and managed by the DNR for public recreation. A remnant Mississippi River oxbow and 2nd largest natural lake in Illinois, it is nestled along the Illinois side of the Mississippi River and surrounded by the St. Louis metropolitan area. It provides a unique urban habitat oasis, supporting recreational activities such as hunting, boating, hiking, fishing, camping, and bird watching. As one of the top waterfowl management areas in Illinois, DU and DNR have identified multiple individual wetland units in need of restoration and enhancement to provide increase benefits to waterfowl and other wildlife.

**Goals of the project:** Currently, DU and the DNR have identified opportunities for enhanced management infrastructure for Raskey Slough and the Lower End, and restoration options for wetland habitat within the Bend Rd. Unit. The completion of these projects will allow the DNR to effectively manage ~200-300 acres of shallow wetlands.

**Wildlife benefits:** Located in The Confluence Region, we will be able to restore and enhance these wetland habitats for the benefit of large numbers of waterfowl and other migratory birds along with numerous other wetland-dependent species. . Human/social benefits: Restored and enhanced wetlands will lead to greater habitat diversity, more desired wetland management capabilities, enhanced water quality, and more public recreational opportunity targeting hunting, fishing, bird watching and wildlife photography.

**Photos (The F7 Slough restoration and Raskey Slough enhancement project sites):**
News From the Field (Cont.)

LOOKING AHEAD

We have a number of great projects and opportunities ahead of us in Illinois:

(1) **Northern Illinois** – DU plans to transfer the Kennedy Tract to the McHenry County Conservation District to be included into their Monastery Marsh Complex. Recently, we began exploring opportunities to partner with the FWS-Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, DNR, Pheasants Forever, and others to complete grassland and wetland restorations across northern Illinois to promote breeding habitat and improved water quality, including portions of the Kankakee, Iroquois, and Rock River watersheds, and Northeast Moraine. We will also begin to seek out project and partnership opportunities to expand our conservation program along the Upper Mississippi River.

(2) **Central Illinois** – DU will continue our coordination with the DNR, FWS, and other conservation partners to focus on providing restoration and enhancement assistance to the important public and private waterfowl management areas of both the Illinois River Valley and key lakes/reservoirs. DU and its partner have recently submitted a $1M NAWCA proposal to protect, restore and enhance ~13,000 acres of wetlands within the Illinois River Valley, with final grant approval expected in April. Beginning in 2019, DU engineering staff will begin a 10-year effort to assist in the planning, design, and implementation of a multi-phased upgrade and restructuring of Carlyle Lake SFWA. DU will also begin to explore public and private wetland conservation opportunities to help us expand our program further along and up the Mississippi River.

(3) **Southern Illinois** – DU will continue to coordinate with our public land partners at the DNR, FWS, and USFS to protect, restore, and enhance important bottomland wetland ecosystems. Within the next year, DU will be transferring the Brooks Tract to the USFS for inclusion into the Big Muddy Bottoms wetland complex as part of the Shawnee NF. We will partner with the DNR and NAWCA to complete our first Johnson Co. project, the 80-acre Owens Tract. Finally, DU and the DNR have been identifying opportunities for additional wetland restoration and enhancements at the ~2,700-acres Embarras River SHA in Lawrence Co.

Given its central location in DU’s Big Rivers Initiative (BRI) of Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky, DU has recently chosen O’Fallon, IL as the location for its newly established “Big Rivers Field Office”. The new Big Rivers Field Office will house multiple DU conservation staff within the next month and will allow DU to further improve our efficiency and expand our conservation program delivery throughout the entirety of the BRI. With a crucial mid-latitude location in the Mississippi Flyway, both Illinois and the BRI will continue to be an important DU focus for waterfowl and wetlands conservation.

Thank you for all that you do for the Ducks,

Michael Sertle DU Regional Biologist – IL/IN