By the time you read this the 2018-19 waterfowl season is over. Decoys are being stored, guns are getting that once a season cleaning, the dog is not getting you up at 3:30 in the morning to go or at least not to hunt and now the honey-do lists that you have been putting off since November are being revisited. This time also says it is banquet time again. We are gearing up for that late winter early spring time when chapters across the state have been busy planning for their events. Last year was a great year for Kentucky DU. Thanks to the help from the greatest volunteers, Ky. exceeded their goals. Let’s also make 2019 another great year. Just encase you haven’t heard, Bob Bezkor is the only Regional Director now for the state. Last year some things changed. Josh Hall (Northern Ky,) transferred to Northern Indiana to fill a vacant position and Charlie Lowery now has Tennessee. So the State Committee has kept Bob hopping over the last year learning things about his new chapters. If you see Bob tell him thanks for his help and support in making Ky. a great DU State. Josh and Charlie, thanks for the two of you and the guidance during your time with us. Something to consider, if you or your chapter has not participated in the Christmas in July Calendar sales, this year maybe the year to get involved. It is a great way for making it a second event. Sell 100 calendars at $50 each and you have a second event plus it will increase your chapters membership. Who knows maybe you will be a lucky winner of a gun. Well it is time for me to go and finish some painting, remember the honey-do lists in the opening paragraph? So in closing, the 2019 Ky. Volunteer Celebration Weekend will be held at Lake Barkley State Resort Park on March 29-31, 2019. Check out the Ky. DU page on the DU Website and Ky. Ducks Unlimited Facebook page for the updates. I hope to see there.

Thanks
Mike Hough
Kentucky State Chairman
Mike Checkett, Lynn McCutchen, Trudy McCutchen, and Brian Priddle presents Teal Award to major donor Lynn and Trudy McCutchen of Shooter’s Supply for gift in kind donations to DU events.
Through his role as Migratory Bird Program Coordinator, John is responsible for overseeing the hunting seasons, habitat projects and research for waterfowl and other wetland dependent migratory birds in Kentucky. He is the Kentucky representative on the Mississippi Flyway Council’s Game Bird Technical Section. He introduced a new idea to the Mississippi Flyway Council’s Game Bird Technical Section’s Habitat Committee, that would bring states together that have similar wetland types, on an annual basis, to discuss and learn from each other about wetland management and waterfowl hunting structures. The first meeting of this type was hosted at Ballard WMA in 2017, and is being replicated in other states, and by the US Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge System managers. John serves on the American Black Duck Joint Venture, to discuss and fund research that will ultimately help to reestablish black duck numbers and enhance habitat for the black duck. His hard work and knowledge brings new ideas to the table each year to enhance waterfowl hunting and habitat across the Commonwealth.

John leads the efforts for KDFWR partnering with Ducks Unlimited and multiple other states for acquiring funds for wetland enhancement projects in Kentucky through DU’s NAWCA program. He also has works with DU’s habitat committee chair to see DU’s small grant projects applied on public lands across the state. John coordinates all waterfowl banding efforts in Kentucky Canada geese, wood ducks, mallards and black ducks in all regions of the state.

John is passionate about his job. Each year he spends a huge proportion of his time evaluating waterfowl hunting strategies on public lands. He always has new and exciting ideas, and he is personally responsible for pursuing new ways to create access for waterfowl hunters in Kentucky. John leads the Kentucky Waterfowl Management Team, a group of experienced biologist and WMA managers that discuss waterfowl and wetland issues across the state. His knowledge and experience influences the management of waterfowl and wetlands across the state, as well as the Mississippi Flyway, each year.

Dr. John H. Brunjes, IV, 1 Sportsman’s Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Migratory Bird Program Coordinator
Wetlands Dedication Unites Kentucky Conservationists

This past October, more than 50 Ducks Unlimited volunteers, supporters, and partners gathered in Henderson County, Kentucky, to celebrate the restoration of wetland habitat on Sloughs Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Those who attended the project dedication toured the WMA and the restoration work that has revived this key wetland complex. The dedication of the Crenshaw Tract Project was a special moment for conservationists in the Bluegrass State.

“Our volunteers and supporters can see the rewards of their donations and that we’re working together to give Kentucky the biggest bang for its buck,” said Barry Welty, chairman of the Kentucky DU Conservation Committee. “The new vegetation has resulted in quite a bit of hunter success out there.”

In 2016, DU completed an enhancement and restoration project that created 109 acres of managed shallow-water wetland habitat in six pools on the Crenshaw Tract. The project directly enhanced 22 acres of existing habitat and restored seasonal hydrology on another 87 acres.

Encompassing approximately 11,000 acres of floodplain habitat near the confluence of the Wabash, Ohio, and Green Rivers, Sloughs WMA is an important wetland complex for waterfowl and other wildlife. The WMA serves as a migration stopover and provides wintering habitat for more than 30,000 ducks and a similar number of geese each year. Peak waterfowl concentrations typically occur in January and early February.

DU and its partners have identified Sloughs WMA as a high-priority conservation area for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland-dependent waterbirds. Bottomland hardwood forests in this region also support many other species of game and nongame wildlife.
Meet KY DU - Mike Hough - State Chairman

Meet KY DU - Mike Hough - State Chairman
For our very first Meet KY DU post, we felt it was appropriate to spotlight our new State Chairman - Mike Hough. For over 22 years, Mike has been a dedicated and involved DU volunteer holding multiple positions including - Committee Member, Area Chairman, District 10 Chairman, Eastern KY Regional Chairman and State Convention Chairman. His home chapter is Wilderness Trail and they have seen steady growth in Attendees, Sponsors and dollars raised for conservation. Always quick with a joke or a smile, Mike has proven to be an inspiration for the entire organization. During Waterfowl Season, you can find Mike in a boat or a blind doing what he loves. Being the family man that he is, a majority of his hunts have included his wife Carol or daughter Nicole. Of course, both of them are tremendous DU volunteers and have made significant contributions as well. Mike accepted the position at our State Convention in March at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park. He has already made some significant changes and we are very excited to have Mike as our leader for the next two years. Drop him a note and let him know you support him.

#MeetKYDU

You don’t want to miss these events!!!

Lake Cumberland Dinner
Saturday, February 9, 2019

Hickman County Dinner
Saturday, February 9, 2019

Butler County Dinner
Saturday, February 16, 2019

Wetherby (Frankfort) Dinner
Friday, March 1, 2019

Oldham County Dinner
Saturday, March 2, 2019

Barkley Lake Dinner
Saturday, March 2, 2019

Bowling Green Banquet
Saturday, March 9, 2019

Madison County Dinner
Saturday, March 9, 2019

Murray State University Dinner
Saturday, March 9, 2019

State Convention and Volunteer Celebration Weekend
Friday, March 29, 2019
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