Indiana Ducks Unlimited

January, 2012 edition newsletter

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# Upcoming Indiana Events

- NC IN (D2) Volunteer District Meeting  
  Wednesday, January 25th, 2012
- NW IN (D1) Volunteer District Meeting  
  Thursday, January 26th, 2012
- Sugar Creek 26th Annual Dinner Banquet  
  Saturday, January 28, 2012
- Huntington Hills 27th Annual Dinner Banquet  
  Saturday, January 28, 2012
- Noble & Lagrange County Gun Bash  
  Friday, February 03, 2012
- Tippecanoe County Dinner Banquet  
  Saturday, February 25, 2012
- Blue River Misc  
  Saturday, February 25, 2012
- Mud Lake Greenwing Event  
  Saturday, March 03, 2012
- Indiana DU Volunteer Celebration Day  
  Saturday, March 10, 2012
- Adams County Dinner Banquet  
  Saturday, March 17, 2012
- Wa-Nee Dinner Banquet  
  Saturday, March 24, 2012
- Kankakee Valley Dinner Banquet  
  Saturday, March 24, 2012
- Mud Lake Smoker  
  Friday, April 13, 2012
- St. Joseph valley Greenwing Event  
  Saturday, June 16th, 2012
- Three Rivers Dinner Banquet  
  Saturday, April 14, 2012
- Porter County Dinner Banquet  
  Saturday, April 28, 2012
- IN DU Ladies of the Outdoors Event  
  Saturday, April 28, 2012
- Indy Sponsor “75th DU Diamond Anniversary Event”  
  Friday, May 11, 2012

# Cover Photo

The Indiana State Newsletter cover will feature photos contributed by DU volunteers from around the state of Indiana whenever possible. Please submit your photo and a few words about the who, what, when, where and why .....  

“Sunset in the Blair Blind”  
Location: Blair’s River Hunt Club  
Photographer: Randy Armstrong

# State Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total DU Membership</td>
<td>12,895</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Members</td>
<td>10,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwings</td>
<td>1,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy Greenwings</td>
<td>244</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsor Members</td>
<td>679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Sponsors</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassroots dollars raised last year</td>
<td>$552,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total acres conserved</td>
<td>23,114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# State Contacts

**Indiana State Chairman**  
Curt Lee  
lee7598@comcast.net

**Indiana State Treasurer**  
Pam Harkin  
Pamela_m_harkin@uhc.com

**Indiana State Chairman Elect**  
Jim Franz  
Jafranz1950@embarqmail.com

**Indiana State Council Chairman**  
Frank Wolka  
r.frank.wolka@cummins.com

**Indiana Regional Director – North**  
Dave Neal  
dneal@ducks.org

**Indiana Regional Director – South**  
Joe Borders  
jborders@ducks.org

**Indiana Director of Development**  
Doug Gorby  
dgorby@ducks.org

**Indiana Regional Biologist**  
Michael Sertle  
msertle@ducks.org

**Indiana State Webmaster/Newsletter**  
Randy Armstrong  
northwestindianadu@gmail.com
I’m one hundred yards from my truck carrying a decoy bag heavy enough to give Santa Claus a hernia, a shotgun and mojo duck, knee deep in a flooded field of cockle burrs, horse weeds and foxtail swearing that next duck season I am going to be in better shape. New Years resolutions – we all make ‘em, we all break’em.

IN DU has had the goal for the last five years to become a “Million Dollar State” again. Unlike most of our personal New Year’s resolutions IN DU has kept moving in a positive direction towards that goal. This past year was no exception. As of the middle of December our calendar year income was almost $580,000, which represents a 22% increase over 2010. Indiana was one of only two states in the five state Heartland Region with growth in our fundraising. What you all have done and continue to do as DU volunteer’s is outstanding. I can’t thank you enough for the time and resources you give so freely to the Ducks.

As I’m sure many of you did, I received a copy of “The Ducks Unlimited Story” as a Christmas gift this year. I am anxious to get some time to read it. As you all know DU was started during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. In the midst of those times a group of men met at Joseph Knapp’s fishing camp to take action to preserve the habitat so vital to the waterfowl they loved. Thanks to them we are able to enjoy the great traditions of waterfowl hunting, and to be able to pass those traditions on to our children and grandchildren.

Today the threat of habitat loss is less visible than the drought of the mid thirties, but just as real. The need for us to take action is just as great as it was for the founders of DU in 1937. Conservation programs such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) are prime targets as Congress looks for ways to reduce Government spending. As citizens and conservationists we have a responsibility to express our opinions and desires to our elected representatives. In this issue of the newsletter is an article about a bill before Congress to extend the authorization for funding of NAWCA to 2017. I hope you will all read this article, then take some time to contact your respective Representative and Senators and let them know you support this bill, as well as all legislation that supports the DU vision of skies full of waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

As DU volunteers we are all aware of the importance of our fundraising efforts to support DU conservation mission. This year Indiana will offer a Ducks Unlimited Special Group license plate. For every one of these license plates that are sold, $25.00 goes to Ducks Unlimited for conservation programs in Indiana. This is a great opportunity to show your support of Ducks Unlimited and help conserve valuable wetlands in our state. I hope when it is time to renew your license plates you choose to support DU through one of the special group plates. I would also like to take this space to thank the volunteers of the DeMotte Chapter for bringing this idea forward, and all of the volunteers and staff who made this project successful.

The year 2012 marks the 75th anniversary of Ducks Unlimited. The slogan for our diamond anniversary is “Conservation for Generations.” As we begin a new year let us each remember that those who benefit most from the work we do now are generations yet to be born. My wish for each of you is a healthy and prosperous New Year, and as always – Thanks for all you do for the Ducks.
I hope everyone had a great finish to 2011, and that you were able to hunt with family and friends. This year will be a special year for Ducks Unlimited, as we will be celebrating our 75th anniversary as the leading conservation organization in the world. We will have lots to celebrate in 2012, and I look forwarded to hearing about the successes at your events this year.

In this and in future newsletters, I would like to talk about the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan and how that plan will ultimately be implemented on the regional, state and local levels. First, the newly created 2012 – 2016 Strategic Plan talks about “Who We Are”:

“Ducks Unlimited is a waterfowl and wetlands conservation organization supported by waterfowl hunters and other conservationists. Our conservation efforts produce a broad range of benefits for society, hunters, wildlife viewers, anglers and many other outdoor recreationists. This wetlands conservation work provides habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife and helps to mitigate flooding and improve water quality for wildlife and people alike.”

With a statement like that, it is easy to see why we need to reach out to not just our waterfowl friends, but anyone who hunts, fishes or just enjoys the outdoors and invite them to a DU event.

As a member of the board of directors, one of my responsibilities is to help DU and DU members meet the overarching strategic mission listed above. Each national committee is chaired by a Senior Vice President. The following is a list of standing national committees:

- Membership
- Marketing and Communication
- Conservation Programs
- Youth and Education
- Event and Volunteer Management
- Development
- Business Planning
- Corporate Relations

The committee that I serve on is the Marketing and Communication committee, and I serve on that committee with fellow Hoosier Frank Wolka. Frank and I, serve under the leadership of Mike Woodward (from New York). Our committee works with the DU staff in Memphis, led by Tom Fulgham, Chief Communications Officer.

The Marketing and Communication committee has a host of items in which we give our input for the communication department. The communications department is responsible for internal and external communications, and a variety of public relations activities. The Marketing and Communications committee ensures that our messaging is on target; our activities are compatible with Ducks Unlimited brand; and support the Ducks Unlimited business objectives.

The marketing and communications committee gives input on:

- The Ducks Unlimited and the Puddler magazines;
- Ways to use social media sites, like Facebook and Twitter, for branding and reaching out to our younger members; and
- The website and mobile applications.

Cont. on Pg. 7
# Indiana PRIDE

## What is Indiana PRIDE?

The Ducks Unlimited Indiana PRIDE (Putting Resources Into Ducks Everywhere) program is securing major sponsors to support habitat conservation and our waterfowling heritage in the United States, Canada and Mexico, with special emphasis on the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi River ecosystems.

For 70 years, with the support of our volunteers, members and donors, Ducks Unlimited has been successful in turning grassroots dollars into habitat throughout North America. Your gift will leave a legacy on the landscape to be enjoyed by future generations and enhance our rich waterfowling heritage.

Ducks Unlimited will use your gift in the most efficient manner, focusing on the highest priority areas in Indiana and North America. At least 80 cents of every donated dollar goes directly into habitat programs.

For more details on sponsoring, please contact
Tom Quarandillo – (574) 264-5567
Or
Doug Gorby – (734) 623-2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indiana PRIDE</th>
<th>INDU Social Media</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What is Indiana PRIDE?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Get connected with Ducks Unlimited today and get exclusive updates, tips and tricks and other insider info online now. You can find DU on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Myspace and more.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ducks Unlimited Indiana PRIDE (Putting Resources Into Ducks Everywhere) program is securing major sponsors to support habitat conservation and our waterfowling heritage in the United States, Canada and Mexico, with special emphasis on the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi River ecosystems.</td>
<td><strong>Facebook</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For 70 years, with the support of our volunteers, members and donors, Ducks Unlimited has been successful in turning grassroots dollars into habitat throughout North America. Your gift will leave a legacy on the landscape to be enjoyed by future generations and enhance our rich waterfowling heritage.</td>
<td>Check out DU's official Facebook page for the latest updates on conservation, hunting and more. &quot;Like&quot; Ducks Unlimited today and you can join the conversation on our Facebook wall, upload fan photos and more! While you're there, show your support by joining DU's official Cause. More than 100,000 fans and growing!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ducks Unlimited will use your gift in the most efficient manner, focusing on the highest priority areas in Indiana and North America. At least 80 cents of every donated dollar goes directly into habitat programs.</td>
<td><strong>Twitter</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For more details on sponsoring, please contact Tom Quarandillo – (574) 264-5567 Or Doug Gorby – (734) 623-2000</td>
<td>If you're looking for quick tips on the go, follow DU on Twitter! You'll get updates from DU's national headquarters and across the country about the latest DU news, conservation projects, hunting and migration information and more. You can even subscribe to receive DU tweets on your mobile phone.</td>
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<td><strong>YouTube</strong></td>
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<td>Ducks Unlimited's official YouTube channel has a great collection of videos to help improve your shooting, set up your decoys, clean your gear, train your dog and much more. Check out all these videos and subscribe to DU on YouTube today!</td>
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<td><strong>Websites &amp; Social Media for Local Chapters</strong></td>
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<td>Check the updated Indiana pages on the Ducks Unlimited website for links to local chapter web sites, Facebook pages, Twitter accounts &amp; more.</td>
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<td><strong>Click here to get connected!</strong></td>
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**The “OFF” Season** *(Things to do & read … When we’re not hunting)*

**WF360**

**Ultimate 360° Waterfowling**

www.waterfowl360.com

**DU-TV**

This season’s wide range of hunts is sure to get you fired up as you witness rich waterfowling traditions, cupped wings and amazing retrieves.

View air dates & times »

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**NAWCA Needs Your Help!**

North American Wetlands Conservation Act NEEDS YOU! DU members in Indiana can help with the reauthorization of one of the most important pieces of wetland conservation legislation in our nation’s history. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act or NAWCA, has been around since 1989 and has conserved more than 26 million acres on the continent. The NAWCA program is set to expire at the end of FY12. Congressional leaders have stated that any program not reauthorized for FY13 will NOT be recommended for funding – creating a huge problem for this important wildlife conservation program right now, since the appropriations process will occur this spring.

NAWCA has been very effective in Indiana, which currently has 21 NAWCA projects either completed or underway. These projects have conserved a total of 41,053 acres of wildlife habitat throughout the state. NAWCA funding of over $10.8 million stimulated partner contributions of over $37.4 million – so NAWCA has meant big bucks for ducks in Indiana, including conserving such areas as Goose Pond, Grand Kankakee Marsh, Wabash River area, and Patoka NWR and the Four Rivers area.

Fortunately, Congressman Rob Wittman (VA) and John Dingell (MI) have introduced H.R. 1960 to reauthorize NAWCA through 2017. We need your help in securing House co-sponsors to H.R. 1960!! Indiana DU members can call or email their Congressional Representatives (www.house.gov/representatives) and ask them to cosponsor H.B.1960, or go to www.ducks.org/conservation/public-policy and Take Action! Stress that this important program leverages each federal dollar at least 3 times, creates 7,500 new jobs each year, and conserves vital wetland habitat used by wildlife, hunters, and other citizens. For more information, go to http://www.ducks.org/conservation/public-policy. Thank you very much!

**Gildo Tori**
CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR

We need your help. Please contact your state senator today requesting their support of Senate Bill 315 to simplify Indiana’s Charitable Gaming law for conservation organizations.

THE ISSUE:
- Raffles and other events licensed by the Indiana Gaming Commission are the most successful fundraising activities for conservation and outdoor sporting chapters and thereby yield the greatest benefit to conservation and hunter safety in Indiana.
- The application process, required information, and detailed accounting do not work for volunteer organizations without brick and mortar locations.
- Each chapter spends on average 16 hours of its volunteers' time in complying with rules.
- This paperwork has proved complicated and frustrating to volunteers and discourages conservation fundraising.
- Unfortunately, the time and effort spent dealing with the requirements of the Indiana Gaming Commission—the permit application process, the organization and production of information required for each event, and the detailed accounting thereafter—have proved exceedingly burdensome to the organization and its volunteer members.

WHAT THE BILL DOES:
- House Bill _______ (Due to the House walkout we can't provide you with a House Bill number yet) and Senate Bill 315 will establish an annual comprehensive charity gaming license for national organizations and foundations. Under current law, an organization must apply for a gaming permit for every event.
- The new permit will comply in all respects with existing rules and requirements, but will simplify the front-end administrative process for national organizations, thereby relieving volunteers of this burden.
- The bill will require organizations to give a simple notice to the Gaming Commission 21 days in advance of an event. Qualified organizations will never be in the position of having to wait for a license.
- The bill will reduce the period for a nonprofit to qualify from 5 years to 3 years.
- The annual comprehensive charity gaming license will allow local chapters to conduct events on one license.
- The bill will allow workers to participate in raffles they do not supervise.
- The bill will hold the Gaming Commission harmless in the fees they collect and will reduce the paperwork the Gaming Commission must process.
- The bill will help improve compliance with the law by making the front-end rules easier and by allowing staff for conservation organizations to better organize paperwork for volunteers.
“At Large” With Jim Prough (Cont.)

FYI: Ducks Unlimited within the last year has introduced the following new apps:
Waterfowler 360, DU Migration map and DU Journal.

Fortunately, we don’t have a lock on all of the good ideas, and we NEED input from our volunteers. Please feel free to contact either Frank Wolka or myself, if you have an idea that could be used by the Marketing and Communications committee, or any of the national committees.

DU’s 75th Anniversary is January 28, 2012. Let’s toast Ducks Unlimited on our 75th anniversary of incorporation as the leading conservation organization in American history. Jim (jp2riskmgmt@yahoo.com or 765-730-0602)

DU License Plates!

500 plates must be ordered in 2012 to recover the bond we’ve secured to put the INDU plate into production... Find out more!
Northwest Indiana’s “Big 5” Event

Some of you may be aware of Northwest Indiana’s longstanding “Big 5” Event and some of you may not. The “Big 5” Event is a vehicle that ties a significant portion of northwestern Indiana DU chapters together for our common goal of raising bucks for the ducks. The “Big 5” refers to the 5 sponsors who back the funding for the events “gun vault” full of firearm prizes!

Here is how it works. Each year the “Big 5” committee starts by selecting a featured decoy for that year’s event. These decoys are offered to Indiana chapters in the NW quarter of the state for use in their fundraising events however they see fit. The catch to the whole “Big 5 Decoy” resides in the prize! The winner of each decoy receives two tickets to the “Big 5” Event, the decoy itself and is guaranteed to walk home with one of the events firearms. This year’s event consisted of 24 decoys and the list of firearms included everything from pistols and shotguns to a military commemorative Henry that had everyone hoping they held the lucky number!

Each chapter utilizes their decoy in their own manner. Using the allure of a guaranteed firearm and two free tickets to a very nice event, it’s not difficult to raise $500 to $2,000 or better on this single item. The event is held in December after all the individual chapters have utilized their decoys. The decoy winners and chapter members along with a hall full of event attendees come together for a chance at the last remaining decoys and to see who walks home with the top guns not to mention the live auction, silent auction, tier raffle and walk-arounds.

This event will see big changes for the 75th anniversary of DU that will continue to expand it’s ability to bring chapters together and added bucks for the ducks. First and foremost are plans to expand the number of sponsors to, well, as many as we can get. More sponsors means more prizes and this will warrant the name change to the “Big Ducks” event. The “Big Ducks” referring to the generous sponsors. The next big change will be moving the event to a Friday or possibly a Saturday night instead of the traditional Wednesday night. This will make it easier for winners from distant chapters such as Purdue to attend the event historically held near Merrillville Indiana (event attendance is not required to receive your prize as a decoy winner).

Participation is a key to this event. We would love to see two or more committee members from each of our participating chapters attending this event to show their decoy winners that they support this event. Some chapters, like the Big Lake chapter, went above and beyond filling tables this year! Seeing faces from all over NW INDU chapters renews faith in our successful DU fundraising system!

This year’s event was a huge success, better than doubling last year’s event, and plans for 2012 are to have a complete blowout! For more information on the “Big Ducks” event, acquiring a decoy for your event or the opportunity to become a “Big Duck” sponsor and enjoy the benefits of sponsorship, please contact Jason, Pete or Randy at:

Jason Kleine  Pete Beischer  Randy Armstrong
jaykleine@aol.com  decoysaregood@netnitco.net  NorthwestindianaDU@gmail.com
Success in the Field

Member photos of the Who, What, When and Where DUer’s are getting it done!

Joe Borders
Regional Director
Southern IN / Northeast KY

Joe scores 9 points in a game of “Fill your freezer”.

Tom Quarandillo
District 2 Chairman
IN Major Donor Chairman

Tom’s prize from Lake Of The Woods in October. 49 inches of fish stories!

Scott Schreiber
Bluffton Chapter
Area Chairman

Pheasants live here to ...
Success in the Field

Member photos of the Who, What, When and Where DUer’s are getting it done!

Jason Kleine
District 1 Area Chairman

Jason with camera shy “Pops” and Lucy the “red head” gettin’ it done in Stark County.

Crown Point Chapter
Green Bay, WI.

Members Sam Carlson, Randy Armstrong and Jason Kleine of the Crown Point Chapter after A day on the Bay. Jason decided to have a baby during the 2011 season so this is a 2010 photo. Congratulations Jason & Allyson!

Jason Kleine
District 1 Area Chairman

Nothing spells success like the addition of a future conservationist! Welcome to the newest DU family member, and Greenwing Legacy, Parker William Kleine. Born 11-8-2011 @ 5:11pm, weight 7lbs 3 oz., length 19".
Success in the Field

Member photos of the Who, What, When and Where DUer’s are getting it done!

Jason Kleine
District 1 Area Chairman

Who says you need a good 12 Ga. To be a successful waterfowl hunter ....
Kleine shot more birds this year with his Cannon!
Success in the Field

Member photos of the Who, What, When and Where DUer’s are getting it done!

Dave Neal
Indiana Regional Director – North

Dave Neal in super secrecy highly confidential locations undiscloseable to the general public!
Indiana Ducks Unlimited
State Stamp Print “Raffle” Order Form

Limited quantity available (only 40 prints) – limit one per chapter
Signed by Governor Mitch Daniels

Chapter Number/Name: ___________________________ Event Date: ___________________________
Your Name: ___________________________ Phone#: ___________________________
Shipping Address: ___________________________ E-mail: ___________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ Zip: ___________________________

Send order form and post dated check for $100.00 to:
Indiana Ducks Unlimited, c/o Pam Harkin
1753 W. 172 Lane, Lowell, IN 46356
jpharkin@sbcglobal.net

State Stamp Print “Raffle” Winner Information:
Winner of the State Stamp Print will be entered into a separate raffle and will be eligible to win 1 or 3 guns at
the 2012 Volunteer Celebration Day Event (date & location to be announced). One of those guns will be a
Ducks Unlimited “Gun of the Year”! Winner need not be present to win, but we need their contact
information in order to enter them into the drawing.

Please return to:
Indiana Ducks Unlimited, c/o Pam Harkin
1753 W. 172 Lane, Lowell, IN 46356
jpharkin@sbcglobal.net

Winners Name: ___________________________ Phone#: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ___________________________ Zip: ___________________________

Gross Amount Raised by State Stamp Print ($): ___________________________
How was State Stamp Print Utilized (i.e. Live Auction, Silent Auction or Raffle): ___________________________

Chapter Number/Name: ___________________________ Event Date: ___________________________
(please print was purchased/won)
Messages from the Editor

The Indiana newsletter belongs to all of us! I would hope that everyone can realize the value in chapter participation and consider asking a committee member to volunteer as a newsletter chairman, so to speak, to send in material to be included in future issues. The more we get to know each other the more we (and the ducks) will benefit.

In order to make this happen I will need your help. I encourage ANYONE & EVERYONE on your chapters to submit news, stories, photos, accomplishments and recognitions no matter how big/small to share with the rest of your DU family. I promise to make every effort to include everything you send me and space is not an issue ... I guarantee you can't send too much (that is a direct challenge).

Thanks,
Randy Armstrong
INDU Newsletter Editor/Webmaster
CPDU Secretary/Webmaster

Send questions, comments and article submissions to:

Bigarmstrong69@gmail.com
Or
NorthwestindianaDU@gmail.com

Your headlines should be in here!

Volunteering takes special efforts from special people and Ducks Unlimited is full of both! Highlight what your chapter is doing and be proud of the difference you make every day.

What we have today wouldn’t be much without what you’ve done yesterday.