



Spring 2016 Highlights from the Wildlife Division's Southeast Region



Prescribed Burns improve habitat for wildlife—GPS Goal 2 \$

Prescribed burns are conducted on many State Game and Wildlife Areas in the spring. This spring, a large burn was conducted in the East Marsh of Fish Point State Wildlife Area. The goal of the burn was to reduce invasive phragmites, reduce cattail cover in the marsh and create a hemi-marsh; a 50/50 mix of cattails and open water which is very beneficial to waterfowl. Before burning, DNR staff applied herbicides to control the spread of phragmites. After spraying, a large amount of dead standing phragmites remained. The burn removed this standing material to improve marsh conditions for waterfowl and other wetland wildlife.

Managing Our Oak Resources—GPS Goal 2 \$

On May 17 & 18, Southeast Region staff attended an Oak Restoration Workshop that was held at the Barry State Game Area and Yankee Springs Recreation Area. There were four main objectives of this workshop: 1) Recognize current challenges and impediments to oak regeneration/restoration, 2) Identify promising silvicultural treatments that favor oak, 3) Highlight sources of information that supports oak ecosystem restoration, and 4) Discuss the significance of oak regeneration monitoring and approaches to accomplish monitoring. Overall, this workshop was a great success and gave land managers a better understanding of the challenges and the benefits involved with managing oak resources.



St. John's Marsh Clean-up Day—GPS Goal 6 \$

60 volunteers from all over St. Clair County assembled at St. John's Marsh this May to help clean up garbage and debris from the roadside, dikes and waterways of the marsh. Volunteer efforts like this help to ensure that the habitat is clean and suitable for wildlife of all types. Special thanks to Waterfowl USA, Chapter #1 for their efforts coordinating the clean-up, providing tools and equipment and feeding the hungry volunteers. Thanks also to Waste Management and State Senator Phil Pavlov who helped to fund the effort, and Emterra Environmental USA who donated the trucks and staff for waste disposal.



Wheels to Woods—GPS Goal 5 \$

Education staff in the Southeast Region took students from Detroit's Turning Point Academy on an adventure in the woods, at Maybury State Park. As part of the Wheels to Woods grant program offered by the Michigan Tree Farm System, 30 students and chaperones were bussed to Maybury to enjoy a day learning about the benefits of forests for people and wildlife alike! The students had a great time and even got to observe a very cooperative pileated woodpecker looking for food in a dead maple tree!



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Peregrine Falcon Banding—GPS Goal 1

The DNR has recently banded 13 peregrine falcon chicks hatched in the Southeast Region. Chicks were banded in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Warren, Jackson and Mount Clemens.

Tracking peregrine falcons through banding is important as their population recovers from a major decline due to the pesticide DDT in the 1960's. Peregrines are considered endangered in the state of Michigan, though they are no longer federally endangered. Michigan began its peregrine recovery efforts in 1986. In 1993, the peregrines in Michigan began reproducing successfully. In 2015 there were 48 nest sites in the entire state of Michigan and 28 of them produced young. 14 of the 28 sites that produced young were in southeast Michigan. There are currently 21 sites being monitored for peregrine nesting in the southeastern part of the state.



Managed Waterfowl Area Open Houses—GPS Goal 4 \$

The five Managed Waterfowl Hunt Areas (MWHAs) in the region held birding open houses this spring. Fish Point, Nayanquing Point, Pointe Mouillee, Harsens Island and Shiawassee River collectively saw over 150 participants. Visitors were treated to an overview of the MWA and an exclusive, behind the scenes tour into refuge areas to look for migrating waterfowl and other springtime birds.

Meet the Staff - Nayanquing Point Field Office

Brandy Dybas-Berger is the Senior Wildlife Technician at Nayanquing Point Wildlife Area. Brandy started her career as a State Worker at Nayanquing and fall 2016 will be the 19th waterfowl season she has participated in as a staff member. Brandy enjoys hunting waterfowl, turkey and deer. She has two teenage daughters, one that will be a senior this year.



Marvin Kish is the Senior Wildlife Assistant at Nayanquing Point. He has been in his current position for 6 years. He started with the DNR in 2008 at Sleeper State Park. Marv has a great love for the outdoors and his greatest passion lies in waterfowl and waterfowl hunting. Marv also enjoys fishing, trapping, and bird hunting with his lab.



To contact Southeast Region staff, call one of the Customer Service Centers

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