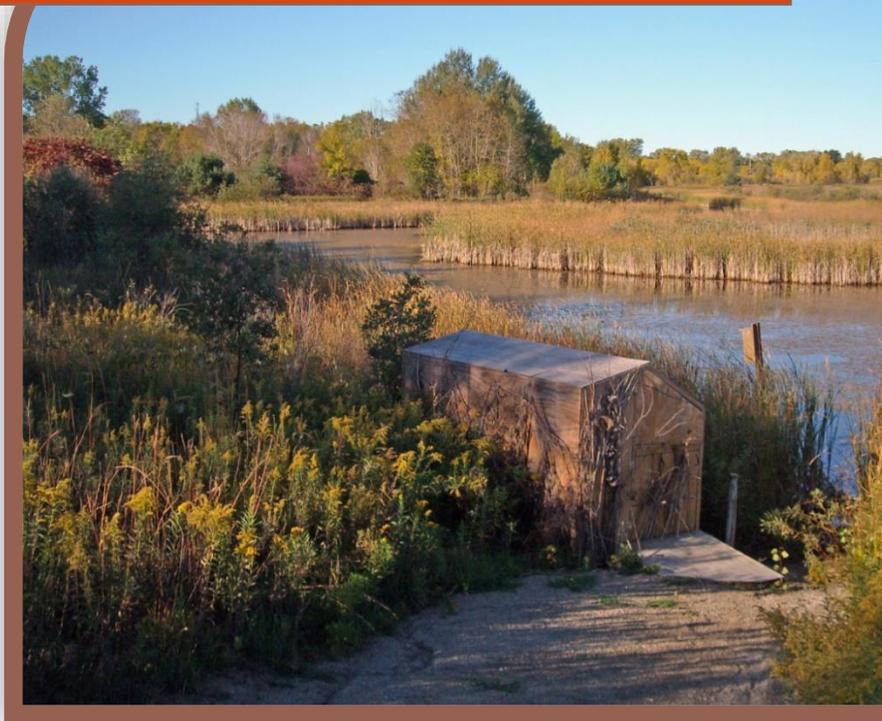


# Wisconsin Waterfowl Association 2015 Annual Report



Wisconsin Waterfowl Association  
PO Box 427, Wales, WI 5318  
[www.wisducks.org](http://www.wisducks.org)

## Fulfilling Our Mission of Habitat, Education and Legislation/Regulation

2015 was an immensely successful year for the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association during which we saw our membership continue to grow to over 6,000 members by year end. We continued our works in our habitat, education and legislation/regulation programs, restoring almost 350 acres of wetland habitat throughout the state, working directly with local youth and adults on environmental- and hunting-based educational programs while also keeping a finger on the important issues decided in our legislature. Thank you to each and every one of you who supported WWA in 2015, the waterfowl and wetlands of our state thank you as well.



See you on the water...  
Don Kirby, Executive Director

## Habitat Programs

In 2015, WWA continued our works with Wisconsin landowners and federal, state, county and private agencies to restore both public and private wetland & upland habitats in Wisconsin. Our field restoration team utilized our historic-ecosystem based technique, which has received international attention and acceptance. The wetlands we restored not only provide important

habitat for waterfowl and thousands of other species, but they also provide the many-fold benefits of all wetlands; including cleaner water & flood control impacts, to name a few. We also continued our work to increase nesting success through habitat improvement, as well as control of the spread of invasive species, including participating in an experimental boot-cleaning station program.



In 2015 WWA completed wetland

restoration projects in the counties of Brown, Columbia, Fond du Lac, Forest, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage and Winnebago, completing 10 projects totaling 341 acres of restored wetland habitat in the state of Wisconsin, including Wild Rice seeding through our partnership with Northern Pines Charter School students and numerous acres of upland seeding to complement the wetlands restored. Additionally, our volunteers built, placed, maintained & distributed several hundred wood duck boxes, providing vital nesting opportunities for waterfowl. By the end of 2015, we had completed \$100,000 in project work, funded through federal NAWCA monies, in the north eastern and central portions of the state, over the past 30 months.



## Educational Programs



WWA focuses on five main educational programs including Learn to Hunt Waterfowl, our Abrams Property educational opportunities, environmental education, duck and goose banding opportunities and youth hunts. In 2015 WWA hosted 24 Learn to Hunt Waterfowl students & mentors, near Green Bay, and two additional youth hunts, near Fountain City & Prairie du Chien. We participated in,

and/or organized, several youth outdoor and waterfowl days, duck and goose banding events, and the Wisconsin State Duck & Goose Calling Competition; reaching out to adults & youth alike, throughout the state to help educate them on the value of Wisconsin's waterfowl and wetland resources. We continued to expand access to our Abrams long-term project property, open to the public and located in Oconto County, by providing disabled accessible hunting blinds as well as informational signage, further trail expansion and overall property maintenance including prescription burning and tree planting on this 152 acre site.

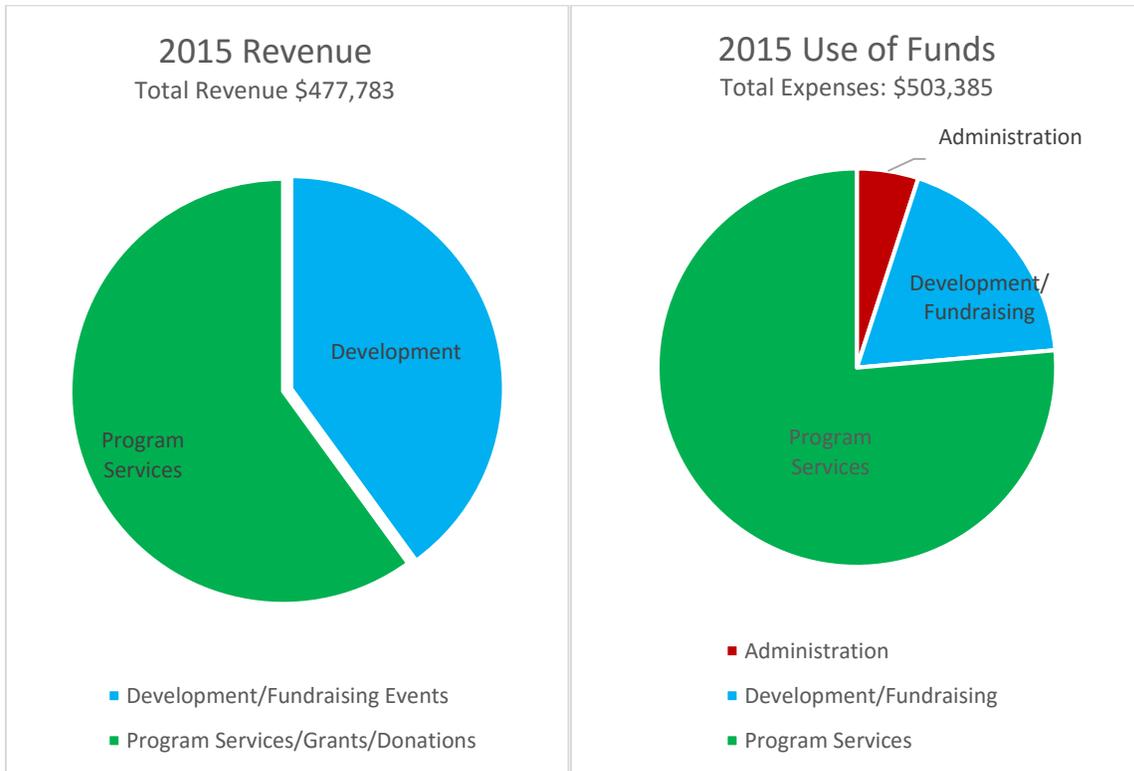


## Legislation/Regulation Program



The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association consistently works to stay up-to-date and involved in those legislative & regulatory issues most important to our membership and our mission. In 2015, WWA worked to represent our membership in the annual hunting seasons and process by serving on the WI DNR's migratory committee, the ad-hoc waterfowl hunting zones committee, and on the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's migratory committee, while also serving on the WDNR Wild Rice advisory team (an important food source for migrating waterfowl in the northern half of our state), as well. The highlight of these efforts for 2015 was the long-awaited abolishment of the delayed starting time of hunting on "opening days" of waterfowl seasons; a hindrance much bemoaned by generations of hunters who were willing to greet the dawn's early light, in pursuit of their traditions. WWA was also pleased to see the final approval of changes to Wisconsin's tax law, which reduced the burden on property owners who performed wetland restorations on their lands, which would result in their removal from agriculture classification, resulting in much higher property tax rates. Our work in support of the WI Wetland Association on this effort, took more than a decade to accomplish, found success at last.

## Financials



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Peter Ziegler – *Project Director*  
Tom Seibert – *Regional Director*  
Kelcy M. Boettcher – *Director of Administration*



Wisconsin Waterfowl Association - PO Box 427, Wales, WI 5318  
Contact us at 262.968.1722 or visit us at [www.wisducks.org](http://www.wisducks.org)