Message from the Chairman

Good news! Fiscal year 2008 is over, behind us and has left us with many lessons that we must use to help ensure that fiscal year 2009 does not fall victim to similar circumstances. To all the Area Chairman and Treasurers that sent monies into Memphis at the end of FY 2008, you have my thank you. To everyone who helped Florida DU march through a very difficult year, you also have my thank you.

Now.... we are off on a new year, with clean slate and some very simple goals. We need to make sure we have every chair at our fund raising events filled. The new buzzwords are “Fill the Halls”. Simply put means sell tickets. Our jobs are clear; if we are to fill the halls we must sell tickets. Everyone must sell tickets. The committees that sell tickets and fills their hall will, for certain, have a successful event. Those who do not sell tickets to fill their halls will have sad results. So be it, the challenge is clear.

To help committees be successful we have two new incentives for FY 2009:

1st Incentive:

To help stimulate the Sealed Bid Auction (SBA) program in Florida, the State Committee will offer to each chapter that begins a new SBA and successfully continues that new SBA for ten (10) auction items, one gun to be added to their next scheduled event upon completion of the ten auction items. If a chapter has one or more SBA’s currently in process, the addition of one or two new SBA’s will count toward this incentive.

2nd Incentive:

To stimulate new growth in two extremely important programs, the following incentive is offered: Each chapter that increases their Bronze Sponsor members by ten (10) new Bronze Sponsors, will be eligible for one gun for their next dinner event. Should the committee meet this incentive prior to the dinner event the gun will be available for their upcoming event. If the committee achieves this incentive at or within 30 days following their respective dinner event, the incentive gun will be available for their next scheduled event.

Or...

For each chapter that increases their Bronze Sponsor members by five (5) new Bronze Sponsors and Feather Society members by five (5) new members, will be eligible for the one gun for their next scheduled dinner event. Should the committee meet this incentive prior to the dinner event the gun will be available for their upcoming event. If the committee achieves this incentive at or within 30 days following their respective dinner event, the incentive gun will be available for their next scheduled event.

The above two incentives will run for the fiscal year 2009 and will be independent of one another. . Both incentives will be limited to two guns, each, for a four gun total limit.

A third incentive intended to increase the number of Live Sponsors in Florida and is under review at this time.

Every committee in Florida should have a SBA running. The process has become so easy that there is no reason why a committee should find running a SBA to be problematic. If your committee would like to start a SBA, please call me.

Continued on page 2.
One area I know is concerning to all is the quality of auction items available from DU National that have been manufactured off shore. Many members have contacted me with their views on the quality of some items offered by DU. I, like many others, share this concern. Recently, I had the opportunity to discuss my concern with President Bruce Lewis. My questions to President Lewis were not the first time he had heard this topic. My satisfaction is that President Lewis and several other leaders of DU in Memphis understand the concern, are working to help bring better quality items to us, while focusing on items that will turn the largest profits for the ducks. Please do not expect to see a major change in items offered in our National Package. I am sure that over a reasonable period of time we will see new items that have favorable costs, member desire ability, and that have potentials for income generation. To help maximize income each committee is encouraged to seek unique items for their respective live and silent auctions. Using local artisans and well-known guides, lodges for hunting and fishing trips is a sure way to add to the committees profit.

In closing, I extend my thanks to all who have supported DU and continue to play a role in the success of Florida Ducks Unlimited. I hope to see many old and new faces during the State Convention in Ocala, at the ducks friendly Ocala Hilton, April 17 – 19, 2009. Watch for more information on this annual fun event soon, and please mark your calendars now.

Remember: “Fill the Halls – Fill the Skies”

Ralph

**REMEMINDER TO ALL COMMITTEES**

Prior to using an FFL Dealer please make sure your committee has asked that Dealer EACH YEAR for his permission to receive and handle our guns. We have had several “ticked-off” FFL dealers call in asking why the guns were sent without the local folks having the courtesy of asking for his approval.

Also, when filling out the order form, please supply the contact name & phone number of the person picking up the guns. Numerous times FFL dealers have called in asking who the guns are for, and that leads the dealer to frustration with DU.

**FLORIDA STATE OFFICERS**

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<th>State Chairman</th>
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Ducks Unlimited supports flexibility for ranchers affected by extreme weather

WASHINGTON - JULY 7, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program in counties affected by flooding will be opened for grazing. This action will provide feed and forage for livestock while maintaining the conservation benefits to waterfowl habitat. Ducks Unlimited supports this method of keeping the Conservation Reserve Program as a practical option for landowners. This decision reinforces the importance of grasslands to the nation, especially in waterfowl breeding areas.

“Ducks Unlimited believes that well managed ranching and duck nesting habitat work well together, and this move underscores how the Conservation Reserve Program has served both ranchers and waterfowl for over twenty years,” said Director of Agriculture Conservation Policy, Barton James. “Using the land in this way, especially to provide relief for ranchers during this time of hardship, is good policy and we’re pleased that USDA has chosen this route.”

Ducks Unlimited has encouraged allowing well managed grazing on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program in emergency situations. Flooding in the Midwest and drought in the Great Plains underscores the need for a common sense approach to land use policy. USDA’s action addresses this situation in a comprehensive fashion, allowing for a positive outcome for both agriculture and conservation.

In addition to the benefits of Conservation Reserve Program land for cattle herds, the program has also been responsible for conserving thousands of acres of wetlands and uplands. The Conservation Reserve Program also adds more than 2.2 million ducks to the fall migration each year, as well conserving more than 450 million tons of topsoil and sequestering more than 48 million tons of carbon to combat global warming. The decision to open acres in flooded counties highlights the importance of having Conservation Reserve Program land available in disaster situations.

The Conservation Reserve Program has also been helpful in mitigating the effects of droughts, like the one that the Great Plains is experiencing now. DU supports efforts to open Conservation Reserve Program acreage in North Dakota for grazing by livestock producers in severely drought-stricken areas. Allowing managed grazing on select Conservation Reserve Program land will maintain those mitigating qualities, while providing some relief for ranchers from the dry conditions.

The Conservation Reserve Program faces additional challenges in the form of recent proposals to terminate contracts, without reimbursement of the conservation payments made to landowners.

“Cultivating Conservation Reserve Program land without reimbursing the taxpayer for the money paid to keep their marginal cropland in a more appropriate use sends the wrong message about the value that we place on conservation,” said James. “Ducks Unlimited believes that we must be clear about the need to ‘farm the best, and conserve the rest’ and not squander the taxpayer’s investment into these lands.”

With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization with more than 12 million acres conserved. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands - nature’s most productive ecosystem - and continues to lose more than 80,000 wetland acres each year.
ANHEUSER-BUSCH/FLORIDA DUCKS UNLIMITED “BUDWEISER PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION” LIMITED EDITION DECOY

Sponsored by Anheuser-Busch Brewery

This is one of the very limited decoys to be auctioned for our new program with Budweiser. “1 of 100” Decoys to be auctioned at Florida DU events. The winner of this Decoy will also receive a 1 in 100 chance in the drawing for a Browning Citori “Partners in Conservation 20 Gage Shotgun” (which will be drawn for at our 2009 state convention). The Shotgun features high grade wood, silver sided receiver embellished with gold engraving and the A-B logos and “Partners in Conservation”. The gun is conservatively estimated at $3500.

The winner will be drawn at the Florida State Convention.
Beretta White Onyx, Over/Under Shotgun

One of Beretta’s most versatile shotgun lines, this 20 gauge, 3” magnum has 28” blued, chrome lined vent rib barrels, 3 interchangeable choke tubes (IC, M, F) and wrench. The stock and fore-end are European Walnut in semi-gloss finish with classic checkering, and a black recoil pad. The metal receiver is satin nickel accented with Beretta’s Dura-Jewel finish. Custom treatments include gold-filled DU duck head, Ducks Unlimited logo on the bottom side of the receiver and two gold-filled flying mallards on left and right sides. This artwork is the same as the 12 gauge White Onyx in 2005/06. With special DU serial numbering, a polymer “Giugiaro” case with the DU logo on the lid, and trigger lock.

GOLDEN RETREAT REDLIN CANVAS

-Third edition in the Terry Redlin Retreat canvas series
-Redlin’s use of earthy colors, blazing sunrises and sunsets and nostalgic themes are often cited for his immense popularity
-Over the 17 year period from 1981 to 1997, Redlin’s donations to Ducks Unlimited raised more than $28 million, setting an all-time record in art sales for wetland conservation projects
-Measures 24” x 36”

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FLORIDA

08/09/2008 Osceola County - Annual Banquet
08/10/2008 FLORIDA STATE DUCK CALLING CONTEST - Orlando
08/15/2008 Big Bend - Casino Night
08/16/2008 Volusia County - Annual Banquet
08/23/2008 Hollywood Ted Foster - Annual Banquet
09/06/2008 Orlando - Annual Banquet
09/18/2008 Clearwater - Annual Banquet
09/25/2008 Lake Wales - Annual Banquet
09/27/2008 East Hillsborough - Annual Banquet
10/02/2008 Tampa - Annual Banquet
10/02/2008 Lakeland - Annual Banquet
10/16/2008 Lady Lake - Villages / Tri County - Fundraising Banquet
10/22/2008 St. Augustine - Annual Banquet
11/13/2008 Mt. Dora - Golden Triangle - Annual Banquet

3 PIECE GW TABLE & CHAIRS
- Foldable children’s table and chair set for compact carry and storage
- Dark green nylon with tan trim
- Features the Greenwing logo on all pieces
- Table 18 ½” x 18 ½” x 18”, Chairs 14 ½” x 14 ½” x 23”
- Approximately 18” tall with adjustable straps
- Ages 3-8

Event Merchandise

Event Merchandise

Event Merchandise
MEMPHIS, Tenn. July 29, 2008 – In a continuing effort to protect the environment, Anheuser-Busch has committed to contribute $2 million to support Duck’s Unlimited’s wetland habitat conservation mission.

As part of this ongoing commitment, the Budweiser brand is working with Anheuser-Busch wholesalers around the country to obtain the funds, which will be directed toward Ducks Unlimited’s “Wetlands for Tomorrow” campaign.

The “Wetlands for Tomorrow” campaign has an ambitious objective to raise $1.7 billion to restore North America’s wetlands, grasslands and waterfowl.

“Few companies recognize the importance of conserving wetlands and wild places as much as Anheuser-Busch and its wholesalers throughout the country,” said Don Young, executive vice-president, Ducks Unlimited. “Ducks Unlimited is grateful for this generous support and plans to conserve the most important waterfowl habitat with this financial commitment.”

Budweiser is a leading promoter of wildlife and habitat conservation with its “Budweiser Outdoors” program. The brand has supported a variety of outdoor organizations through the years and, combined with Anheuser-Busch wholesalers, has contributed more than $9 million to DU during the past 10 years.

“Ducks Unlimited has been a great partner through the years, and we strongly support its ‘Wetlands for Tomorrow’ initiative,” said Dave Peacock, vice president of Marketing, Anheuser-Busch, Inc. “Preserving wetlands on our continent is important to the future of our wildlife and our water supply. Our wholesalers share in our commitment to protect wetlands and promote conservation programs that work to preserve these natural habitats for future generations.”

In the past, wetlands have been considered wastelands – places to avoid or eliminate. More than half of North America’s wetlands have been destroyed by draining and converting them for housing and industrial developments and using them as landfills. Each year, the United States loses more than 80,000 wetland acres.

Today, through organizations like DU, more people understand the true benefits of wetlands. They support millions of migrating birds by providing breeding grounds, nesting habitats and nurseries for young birds. Wetlands also offer food sources and homes for more than 900 wildlife species. They help provide clean and abundant water, serving as the foundation for North America’s water supply. They protect us from floods and storm surges and help prevent erosion. And wetlands allow generations of families to enjoy the great outdoors.

Protecting the environment and preserving natural resources is nothing new at Anheuser-Busch. For generations, the company’s mission has been to brew, package and ship the freshest, highest quality beer in the world in the most efficient and responsible manner possible. Since Anheuser-Busch was founded in 1852, the company has been committed to supporting outdoor sports enthusiasts and the environment. In 1995, the Budweiser brand stepped up its support by creating the “Budweiser Outdoors” program, which has grown to involve six organizations – including Ducks Unlimited. For the past 13 years, Budweiser has recognized the nation’s leading conservationist with the “Budweiser Conservationist of the Year” award.

For more information on Budweiser’s support of conservation and wildlife habitat, visit www.budweiser.com.

Based in St. Louis, Anheuser-Busch is the leading American brewer, holding a 48.5 percent share of U.S. beer sales. The company brews the world’s largest-selling beers, Budweiser and Bud Light. Anheuser-Busch also owns a 50 percent share in Grupo Modelo, Mexico’s leading brewer, and a 27 percent share in China brewer Tsingtao, whose namesake beer brand is the country’s best-selling premium beer. Anheuser-Busch ranked No. 1 among beverage companies in FORTUNE Magazine’s Most Admired U.S. and Global Companies lists in 2008. Anheuser-Busch is one of the largest theme park operators in the United States, is a major manufacturer of aluminum cans and one of the world’s largest recyclers of aluminum cans. For more information, visit www.anheuser-busch.com.
WASHINGTON – July 29, 2008 – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer said today there would be no early releases of acres from the popular Conservation Reserve Program to be put into production without repayment. He cited robust corn and soybean yields and less-than-expected crop damage as the reasons to keep the program’s regulations unchanged.

“This was a very tough decision for Sec. Schafer and USDA,” said Don Young, executive vice president of Ducks Unlimited, concerning the announcement.

“Ducks Unlimited is pleased the USDA will maintain the program and the benefits that it has had,” said Barton James, Ducks Unlimited’s director of agriculture conservation policy. “The Secretary had to weigh many issues and balance competing demands and interests in this decision,” James said.

CRP has been a windfall for wildlife – adding more than 2.2 million ducks to the annual migration, and more than 13.5 million pheasants to the prairies. “We are grateful to producers who have chosen to enroll in the CRP program. Its benefits for wildlife and society are numerous,” James said. “We plan to work with the USDA and producers to ensure that CRP remains an attractive option in this new economic environment,” he said.

CRP land is responsible for removing more than 50 million tons of carbon dioxide from the air. The program is also credited with conserving more than 470 million tons of topsoil in the past year alone.