Ducks Unlimited holds Inaugural Volunteer Appreciation Week

From January 30 to February 4, Ducks Unlimited celebrated to honor its volunteers across the United States who make the organization’s conservation work possible. The inaugural DU National Volunteer week kicked off on January 30 with meetings and events across the country. On Saturday, February 4, eighty-nine locations throughout the country “linked up” for a live video simulcast with National Headquarters for the volunteer appreciation events.

North Carolina Ducks Unlimited volunteers joined the celebration at three locations: Kinston, the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, and Bass Pro Shops in Concord. There were 810 NCDU volunteers attending these three Volunteer Appreciate Day Events. Senior Regional Director Don See APPRECIATION Page 21.
We are making the goals of our Sound CARE initiative a reality. The first year of our initiative ended on June 30, 2005. I’m very proud to tell you that after our first year, we are on our goal. Our plan for the Grassroots, Development and Conservation arms of Ducks Unlimited to jointly raise $22 million in North Carolina in five years is on track.

The first six months of our second year appears to be even better. Through volunteer recruitment and new chapters, Grassroots was up almost 18% through December 31. Conservation had another large grant ($400,000) from the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office this fall. Development had 39 Major Sponsors or Major Sponsor upgrades during 2005 with most of these happening in the first six months of the 2nd year of our initiative. This is what I call “firing on all cylinders.” The NCDU engine is really humming. This is with out a doubt the most exciting time I have ever been involved with NCDU. It seems that something new and good is happening all the time. Eight Wake County chapters have joined forces to have our first regional Greenwing event. Entire counties are being underwritten for Project Webfoot. A duck club and some of its members are signing up as Life Sponsors with plans to do a Major Sponsor project in Eastern Canada. Another duck club is talking about Greenwing the same thing. High schools and colleges are forming chapters. We had five new Major Sponsors the first three weeks of January. Initially, our Sound CARE goals seemed so lofty that I am not sure everyone really paid attention. Now that we are a year and a half into this initiative, and we ARE on track, I would like to repeat them again for you. Our goal is to raise $22 million to conserve an additional 64,000 acres of wetland habitat in five years. $11 million will remain in North Carolina to conserve an additional 22,000 acres to compliment the 49,000 acres we have already conserved. The other $11 million will be spent to conserve an additional 42,000 acres in the breeding areas that supply North Carolina’s migratory birds.

Through Sound CARE NCDU has been given the opportunity to do something that will forever benefit our state. I am proud that we are taking advantage of this opportunity.

More than 49,000 acres conserved since 1984

- 55 Public Land Projects = 34,920 acres
- 13 Conservation Easements = 6,381 acres
- 101 Farmers Projects = 4,230 acres
- 12 WRP Projects = 4,022 acres
- 17 Potential Projects = 4,628 acres

North Carolina DU Projects as of January 2006

Greenwings are the future of Ducks Unlimited. Since 1973, the Greenwings programs conducts by local committees have created the perfect opportunity for youngsters to learn about wetlands conservation by exposing them to the great outdoors and the need for improving aquatic habitat. We are making positive steps to ensure the future of our natural heritage.
We're Going Fishing!
The DU chapters in Wake County (Raleigh, Cary, Wake Forest, Wendell, Holly Springs and Willow Creek), along with Carteret County’s (Newport, Tarboro, and Beaufort) and Sampson County (Clinton, Lumberton, and Wallace) have recently formed the NCDU Goose gang which is working to bring a new DU Goose Chapter to the state. If you are interested in helping or learning more about the efforts of the Goose Gang, please contact any of the listed local representatives.

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Greenwings Project Webfoot Update
By Fred Kaplan
State Greenwings Chairman
This project is a perfect example of the efforts of Keith Jones, Rodney Warren, Kevin Lewis, George Simpson, and Eddie Morgan, as well as my co-captain, Bob Thompson, for making us:

NO. 1 IN THE NATION IN PROJECT WHOLESOME PARTICIPATION!

We now have over 1,100 students enrolled in the following North Carolina counties: Sampson, Harnett, Carteret, and Currituck. For more information on how to get your chapter to grow its Greenwings membership, visit www.ducks.org (click on the Greenwing link and greenwing@ducks.org at the bottom of the page). The attached photo is of a recently-encroached Project Webfoot classroom in Carteret County, including George and Kevin.

First Flight
First Flight, the North Carolina Ducks Unlimited Newsletter, is published three times a year in the spring, summer, and fall. Due dates for articles and advertisements for the newsletter are January 31, May 31, and September 30. Articles, advertisements and leads should be submitted to:

Joseph A. Clendenin, State Publicity Chairman, North Carolina DU
1035 Inverness Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387

E-mail: jclendenin@ncdu.com
Submissions may also be given to NC regional directors.

“Greenwings” Project Webfoot offers NC Students Wetland Education
Teachers in North Carolina can now share the wonders of wetlands with students through a new environmental education initiative launched this fall by Ducks Unlimited (DU). The new program, Project Webfoot, offers 4th through 8th grade teachers an opportunity to learn a wetland education kit that they can use as a supplement to their basic school curriculum. The kit also provides students a free Greenwing membership in Ducks Unlimited.

“We’ve already enrolled 1,500 North Carolina students in Project Webfoot,” said Fred Kaplan, the state Greenwings Chairman. “Our goal is to eventually reach all the 4th through 6th grade students in the state, increasing their awareness and understanding of wetlands and wetland conservation.”

Kaplan said Project Webfoot is a grass-roots, volunteer effort. Funds are raised locally to enroll classrooms in communities across the state, with a goal fee of $25 per class, which covers the cost of the education materials and provides each student in the classroom a one-year subscription to the Greenwings magazine Puddler, a wetland ID guide, a wetland collection and other items designed to make environmental education fun.

For more information about Project Webfoot, visit their Web site at www.projectwebfoot.org or call Fred Kaplan at 252-974-5485.

With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest wetlands and waterfowl conservation organization. The United States alone has lost more than 90% of its original wetlands—nature’s most productive ecosystems—and continue to lose more than 100,000 wetland acres each year.

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By Luke Laborde

Regional Vice President

Across North America, DU volunteers are on a roll! Led by the Southeast Atlantic and Texas regions (remember that Schuessler fellow?) Ducks Unlimited, Inc. had a great fall banquet season, and, for the first time in five years, finished 2005 with an increase in gross dollars. Last May, DU President Jim Hilbert announced a national goal of 250 new DU chapters. By year end, 216 new chapters had held inaugural events, with over 100 new events scheduled nationwide this spring. In the process, over 2,500 new volunteers have been recruited, and adult membership passed 610,000. Momentum is building, guided by the DU Regional Organizational Core (see accompanying article), as we enter the $1 billion dollar campaign, “Wetlands for Tomorrow.”

Here in North Carolina, over 70 recruitment events have been held, and the nation is watching. With these efforts, our fall banquet season netted a $140,000 increase in event income over the comparative period of 2004. At the 2006 DU Leadership Conference, NC DU State Recruitment Chairman and Chairman-Elect Larry Wilkins will be recognized for our collective efforts and represent us in a panel discussion on successful volunteer recruitment.

This year, four NCDU Chapters will be recognized in DU’s Top 100 – Clinton, Cumberland County, Hamlet County and Raleigh. At this writing, NCDU leads the nation in number of classrooms sponsored for Project Webfoot. Congratulations to State Greenwing Chairman Fred Kapel and his Greenwing committee, and especially to the Clinton, Cabarrus County and Hamlet County chapters. Additionally, congratulations to the Cumberland County Chapter for hosting the largest greenwing event in the state with over 600 greenwings attending.

Our major donor program has been given a shot in the arm by new NCDU Major Donor Chairman John Farley, and NCDU totaled 39 major donor commitments in 2005. We have already received five major donor upgrade commitments at this writing for 2006. Our sponsor program has now focused under the leadership of NCDU State Sponsor Chairman Harry Kiddle, and you can read about our new sponsor initiative and incentives. Congratulations to our Wilmington Chapter and Area Chairman Gil Dubois who have recruited over 100 sponsors and made Senior Regional Director Don Ranley walk the stage in a duck suit in the process. (They did wait until after the season was closed, thank goodness!). Over 800 NCDU volunteers joined 11,000 nationwide in celebrating our first National Volunteer Celebration Day. What a blast! The food, the fun and the fellowship reminded us all of what great feeling it is to be leaders in a worthy cause. Most touching were the many testimonies of how the DU friendships and programs have changed the lives of many of our volunteers, this one absolutely included! State Chairman Lloyd Goode has confirmed that NCDU is on target to achieve our Sound CARE goals of $22 million raised to conserve 64,000 acres in North Carolina and our primary breeding areas. We are blessed with inspired and unselfish leadership provided by Lloyd, by NCDU Chairman Larry Wilkins, Lee Warren and Glenn Hamilton, and by Regional Directors Don Ranley, Curtis Wooten and Shawn Kooyman. What a blast! And yet it is you, on the ground, our Area Chairmen and local committee members, who are most responsible for our success. NCDU volunteers – we salute you!

Ducks Unlimited wants to make next year’s appreciate day even better. If you have suggestions for next year’s event, email them to Larry Wilkins at larry.wilkins@gmail.com. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE DUCKS!

DU Volunteers on a Roll

Appreciation

Marly hosted NCDU volunteers in Kinston; Senior Regional Director, Curtis Wooten hosted the event in Concord; Regional Director Shawn Kooyman hosted the celebration in Raleigh. At each location, there were prizes, free food, a swap shop, silent auctions, raffles, and a DU Store.

In his opening remarks, DU President Jim Hilbert recognized Gil Dubois, Area Chairman in New Hanover County for his outstanding committee recruitment event, which helped the New Hanover County Chapter to sign up over 100 sponsor members.

Senior Regional Director Curtis Wooten presented Distinguished Service Awards to District Chairman Larry Marler and State Shooting Chairman Gary Sturgi.

State Shooting Chairman Gary Sturgi receives his distinguished service award.

Marilyn Mehlik and Logan Joyce were National Raffle Winners.

Marilyn won the Austin & Hallick 12 gauge muzzle loading shotgun and Logan won a new Grohmann knife.

In Raleigh, State Senator A. B. Swindell was a special guest speaker. The chili cook off was big hit with 9 extra large pots of chili. When the judging was completed, Kevin Hawkins, Roanoke Valley Area Chairman won first place and a Benelli Nova Shotgun, Bob Thompson placed second and Austin Murray placed third.

Many sponsors and vendors (too many to mention), helped make the day a huge success. Special thanks go to Bass Pro Shops and Kings Restaurant for allowing NCDU to use their facilities.

Ducks Unlimited wants to make next year’s appreciate day even better. If you have suggestions for next year’s event, email them to Larry Wilkins at larry.wilkins@gmail.com. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE DUCKS!
North Carolina Ducks Unlimited

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**Help Wanted!**

Sealed Bid Auction Easels

NCDU seeking volunteers to place and monitor easels at retail establishments for the SBA Art program.

Volunteers needed all metro areas. Potential to evolve to full or part-time position.

Earn extra income for your local chapter and NCU.

Contact Luke Laborde at (919) 389-2021 or Luke.Laborde@willis.com

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**NCDU Public Awareness Campaign**

By Lee Warren

NCDU Deputy State Chairman

The Du message of proven conservation efforts is well known in our outdoor and environmental circles, and now we have the opportunity of presenting our message to other groups. This is the reason that we have developed our new public awareness campaign. We are looking for a number of our talented volunteers from all levels of our organization to be willing to take part in an exciting new program that will touch all our chapters.

This campaign will be directed towards civic groups (such as Kiwanis, Ruritan, Civitan), church groups, or any other organization that has regular meetings. Most of these groups meet on a weekly basis and are in need of interesting and worthwhile programs.

These groups usually have somewhere in their “mission statement” a reference to helping children. This is certainly an area that has universal appeal. With this in mind, the “Project Webfoot” and our Greenwing events would be the focus of the presentation. In cooperation with Fred Kaplan, State Greenwing Chairman, and Lloyd Goode, State Chairman, we have developed a new program format.

You will probably be asked to add this to your NCU “to do list.” It will be an excellent opportunity to spread the message of DU and to position NCDU as a viable partner in the conservation of our natural resources and wetlands.

See Awareness, page 15

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**Ducks Unlimited Inc.**

by becoming a Ducks Unlimited Sponsor.

Did you know that for every $250.00 donated to Ducks Unlimited, one acre of precious wetlands or breeding grounds are preserved forever. That’s right, by becoming a Ducks Unlimited Sponsor, you will be directly responsible for preserving one acre! This is an exciting time to be involved with Ducks Unlimited. If you are not already on a committee in your area or town, I challenge you to work on your local committee. If you are already on a committee, I challenge you to recruit a new committee member. New committee recruitment is THE KEY to our success. As a prime example, just look at Wilmington. They held a committee recruitment meeting and signed up about 26 new committee members and they now have over 100 sponsors.

See Duck Blind, page 15

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**North Carolina Ducks Unlimited**

First Flight is published by Main Street Newspapers, Salem VA.

First Flight is published three times yearly and mailed to more than 18,000 DU supporters.
With the end of another waterfowl season in North Carolina, we can cherish yet more great memories of sharing time with friends and family at the camp or in the field. The event, it was a tremendous success hosting 331 people. The most important aspect of the event was to provide a venue to say 'Thank You' for all that you do for the ducks as DU volunteers. I also wanted to say 'Thank You' to the following volunteers who helped to make the event successful; A.B. Swindell, Larry Wilkins, Kurt Adams, Bob Thompson, David and Anne Summerlin, Danny and Carol Drye, Jerry Fisher, Michael Jennings, Tyson Taylor, Chad and Lynn Scott, John Oglesby, and Mark Speed.

The volunteer appreciation event not only concluded a great year for NCDU but also set the stage for the upcoming year. We recruited more than 30 new committee members and were able to exceed the requirement for the NCDU 3 Star Award that will be presented at the upcoming NCDU State Convention this summer.

As we move into a new year, we need to continue our focus on volunteer recruitment. We need to plan ahead and have our committee recruitment meetings scheduled well in advance of our upcoming events. If you would like to volunteer with your local DU chapter, please contact your local area chairman or go to our website at www.nc.ducks.org.

By Lloyd Goode
State Chairman

I would like to thank all the volunteers in this state for making our Volunteer Appreciation Day such a success. We had 810 volunteers participate. That is over 1/3 of our total volunteers. A great showing for NCDU one more time. Everyone learned a lot and we all want to get your feedback. Let us know how we can improve this event. We have already told National about the youth hunt. We had good participation on our Area Chairman’s conference calls last week. Some highlights are:

NCDU was up $93,000 for 2005, and we raised a total of $1,539,660.14.
NCDU is up $140,000 for the first 6 months of the fiscal year.
North Carolina is leading the nation with Project Webfoot enrollments.
We have enough prints that New Sponsors can receive this year’s and last year’s Sponsor print.
Link to Bass Pro through www.nc.ducks.org for you purchases and NCDU gets a rebate.
This is something that was not covered on the call last week. Just got the notification today. National has unveiled a new chapter recognition called the Presidential Citation.
Your upcoming events can qualify your chapter for this.

■ DUCK NOTES FROM WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

By Shawn Kooyman
Regional Director

With the end of another waterfowl season in North Carolina, we can cherish yet more great memories of sharing time with friends and family at the camp or in the blind. We also concluded yet another great year for NCDU at our volunteer appreciation day on February 4th held at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. The event was free to all past, current, and potential DU volunteers. The event featured a chili cook-off, vendors, a swap shop, DU store, and various raffles. Being our first volunteer appreciation event, it was a tremendous success hosting 333 people. The most important aspect of the event was to provide a venue to say ‘Thank You’ for all that you do for the ducks as DU volunteers. I also wanted to say ‘Thank You’ to the following volunteers who helped to make the event successful; A.B. Swindell, Larry Wilkins, Kurt Adams, Bob Thompson, David and Anne Summerlin, Danny and Carol Drye, Jerry Fisher, Michael Jennings, Tyson Taylor, Chad and Lynn Scott, John Oglesby, and Mark Speed.

The ground!

If you are one of the many who read “First Flight” who aren’t DU volunteers but have the desire to get personally involved in efforts to “put something back”, to help ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy the sights, sounds and experiences that wetlands and associated habitats provide, then give a call to any of the DU leaders shown on the second page of this issue or go online to www.ducks.org to make your interest known. There is always room within our growing ranks for one more volunteer. The resources we are working to protect and restore can certainly use the time and talent you would bring to our collective efforts.

As part of our Sound CARE Initiative, which began two years ago, we are undertaking efforts to grow our membership and conservation funding base by twelve percent per year. We are working to find individuals who share our conservation vision to help start DU chapters in communities that

■ DUCK NOTES FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

By Curtis Wooten
Sr. Regional Director

As I write this in early February, we’re wrapping up healthy results related to Ducks Unlimited’s first-ever Volunteer Appreciation Day, held on Saturday, February 4th. You’ve seen photos elsewhere in this issue from the three events held in North Carolina, (89 events were held simultaneously around the country), and articles about each, so I don’t want to unduly dwell on them here. Just let me say that though we are very pleased with attendance (we had some of the best participation in the country), we know many of our volunteers were unable to attend. If you are one of them, let me thank you here for your unfailingly contribution of time, energy, talent, ingenuity and resources that you and your family make each year that makes possible the conservation work that Ducks Unlimited does in North Carolina and around the country.

We know that there are many causes worthy of your time and talents and appreciate that you consider one of them to be Ducks Unlimited’s events to pass on to future generations a natural world replete with wetland habitats and all that they support. DU is a volunteer-driven organization. Without you, our lofty goals and aspirations don’t get off the ground!

By Lloyd Goode
State Chairman

I do need to remind everyone that our State Plan calls for 12.9% growth and 70% efficiency. The goals of Sound CARE were set with our State Plan goals. Hopefully this means every chapter in North Carolina will qualify for the new Presidential Citation! How great would that be!!!!

Thank you again and keep it rolling!!!!
‘Do it for Sound CARE and North Carolina’

Lloyd Goode
State Chairman
2038 Wraylawn Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27608
office - (919)781-1919

www.nc.ducks.org

Spring 2006

Spring 2006

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North Carolina Ducks Unlimited/www.nc.ducks.org
6
In the newsletter last Fall, I told you all how great DU was doing here in Eastern North Carolina coming out of a very successful summer of workshops and the state convention.  

Well, the Fall fundraising campaign just got better and better as the days and weeks went by.  As of this day, Eastern NCDU is up $66,000 or 22.6% over this time last year.  As I look forward thru the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2006, it looks like our numbers will continue to improve.  

We just got the news that 3 of our chapters here in Eastern North Carolina made "The National Top 100 Chapters" list for calendar year 2005.  They are Clinton, Fayetteville and Harnett County.  Clinton made it last year but Fayetteville and Harnett County are new this year.  Congratulations to all these chapters and to all of their volunteers and supporters for their effort for the ducks.

Volunteer Appreciation Day was Saturday, February 4, 2006, in Kinston.  Almost 300 volunteers from all across Eastern North Carolina came and really enjoyed themselves.  I am looking for a new location for next year's event as I think we will have 500 next time.

The buy, sell and trade swapshop was a hit and will be bigger next year.

Sponsors, Greenwings, and Major Donors have all been on the rise this year.  Pamlico County and Wilmington are leading the way in Sponsorship with over 100 each.

North Carolina Welcomes Collin Smith - Regional Biologist

In a first for North Carolina Ducks Unlimited, we now have our own regional biologist who works and resides in the state.

NCDU welcomes Collin Smith, Regional Biologist to its team.  Collin comes to us from the Missouri Department of Conservation where he created and restored wetlands in the Mississippi River Alluvial Valley.  Collin was also involved in the restoration and management of coastal rice fields and brackish water in South Carolina.  His past experience includes working with the USFWS in Virginia, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Collin is originally from Fredericksburg, Virginia and grew up hunting waterfowl and fishing around the Chesapeake Bay and northeastern North Carolina.  When he worked earlier for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, he lived in Edenton where he currently works.  In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, archery, sporting clays, and working with his Labrador retriever.  Collin attended Unility College in Maine and Eastern Kentucky University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management and Natural Resources Analysis.

North Carolina Ducks Unlimited/www.nc.ducks.org

Spring 2006

HELP WANTED

NCDU ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Are you in Sales, Advertising, or Marketing and have experience selling advertisements?  NCDU needs you to help sell advertising in FIRST FLIGHT, the NCDU Newsletter.  If you are interested in selling advertisements on a commission basis, contact Joe Clendenin, 910/692 2538 or joeclendenin@earthlink.net.  

North Carolina Ducks Unlimited/www.nc.ducks.org

Spring 2006

Duck Notes from Eastern NC

By Don Manley
Sr. Regional Director

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Duck Dates

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Winter Habitat Conditions in Canada

Winter has been unseasonably mild and dry in many regions of the country. As such, previously good conditions in many regions have been downgraded this month.

With the exception of the coast, conditions are generally below average in British Columbia. The coast region recently received 27 consecutive days of rain and ditches and wetlands are now full. Good numbers of waterfowl are present in the region and they continue to feed on forage and cover crops. The majority of the snow geese that were in the Fraser River Delta have now moved south with approximately 4,000 remaining in the area. In the Interior, snowfall has been below average to average and temperatures have been unseasonably mild. Snow pack is minimal at lower elevations in the Interior, and increases at higher elevations. The Peace is experiencing a record dry period.

In Alberta, areas south of Red Deer have received average to above average precipitation since the beginning of September. For the same period, areas in the north, including Edmonton and Grande Prairie have below average precipitation totals. However, precipitation totals from November to present are below average to extremely dry for all of Alberta except the extreme southwest. Mean temperatures this winter have been 2-5°C above normal for all areas of Alberta. The extreme northwest (Saskatchewan) currently has 6-10 inches of accumulated snow, which is slightly below average for this time of year. The northwestern parklands have fairly good moisture levels due to the abundant precipitation they received this past fall. In the prairies, conditions have been drier and unseasonably warm and fields are generally bare and dry. Areas near Melfort and Saskatoon received a good amount of snow in the past week.

Conditions in southwestern Manitoba now range from good to excellent with snow accumulations increasing towards the northeastern limit of the region. Since the beginning of November, precipitation has been well above average north of Brandon and average to well above average south of Brandon. The area around Deloraine and Killarney has received very little snow and large amounts of soil are visible in fields. The area including Neepawa and Dauphin has good snow accumulations and the area is now rated as excellent.

The NCWRC partnership with Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands. The U.S. government needs to act to protect and restore wetland habitats that benefit waterfowl, other wildlife and people in North Carolina. Sound CARE’s goal is to protect and restore 64,000 acres in North Carolina and on the breeding grounds over the next five years. This work will cost $22 million.

With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands. The NCWRC partnership with Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands.

Field Contacts:
British Columbia – Bruce Harrison
Alberta – Ian McFarlane
Saskatchewan – Michael Hill
Manitoba – Mark Francis

Western Boreal Forest – Darcy Falk
Ontario – Scott Muir
Quebec – Patrick Harbour
Atlantic Canada – Wade Lewis

Prepared by Stacey Hay
January 30, 2005

The NCWRC partnership with Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands. The NCWRC partnership with Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands. The NCWRC partnership with Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands. The NCWRC partnership with Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands. The NCWRC partnership with Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands.
This report is a quarterly update for the North Carolina Wetland Restoration Initiative that is funded in part through the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission’s Environmental Enhancement Grant Program in the amount of $413,000. The initiative will restore 741 acres of wetlands on the Fort Bragg Military Installation, Roanoke River Wetlands Game Lands (Conoho Farms), and the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge (Askew-Tract). Along with the N.C. Attorney General’s Office additional partners including: Ducks Unlimited, Smithfield Foods, Inc., Murphy Brown LLC, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North American Waterfowl Conservancy in the U.S. Department of Defense have committed resources towards this restoration initiative. Current progress on the projects outlined in this grant is as follows:

**Fort Bragg Military Installation**
**IN-PROGRESS**
Restoration of 281 acres of wetland habitat and former aging rural fields on the Fort Bragg Military Installation was to begin in spring 2006. Ducks Unlimited has completed the survey and design of the project and is in the process of finalizing project agreements with the Department of Defense. The Department of Defense is currently working on construction permits for the project. Completion of this project should take place by no later than July 2006. These wetlands will improve the water quality within the wetland system by reducing sediment and nutrient loading from agricultural runoff. Additionally these managed wetlands will provide wetland habitat for waterfowl and other birds migrating and wintering in North Carolina.

**Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land (Conoho Farms)**
**COMPLET-ED**
Construction on the Askew Tract project is complete except for final grading of the levee roads, which has been delayed due to weather conditions. This project will benefit 120 acres of bottomland hardwoods within the Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge.

Construction details included construction of 1,750’ of levee. Owners Vance Forbes and Bob Hester are raising Major Sponsor dollars through the North Carolina Wetland Restoration Initiative that is funded in part through the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission’s Environmental Enhancement Grant Program. Wild Wings Farms in Fairfield is contributing Major Sponsor dollars to do a Major Sponsor Project in Eastern Canada. This project(s) will be funded by Major Sponsor dollars to do a Major Sponsor Project in Eastern Canada. They are also soliciting other Major Sponsors through their club membership and friends for this endeavor. Sixty-two percent of banded birds recovered in North Carolina come from Eastern Canada (Atlantic Canada and Lower Ontario). Bob Hester wanted to raise some funds for projects in the specific areas where North Carolina could benefit more directly. When he learned that Major Sponsors of Ducks Unlimited whose pledge is for four years or less can direct where they would like their money to be spent, he had the vehicle for which he had been looking.

The Lower court properly recognized that the Clean Water Act was intended by Congress to broadly protect America’s waters, he said. “If the Supreme Court reverses the lower court findings, we risk reverting three decades of progress in protecting and slowing losses of wetlands. What a sad legacy to leave our children.”

The Supreme Court case combines two cases, Carabell v. United States and United States v. Rapanos, which are on appeal from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The lower court upheld Clean Water Act protection of headwater streams and wetlands. An Army Corps of Engineers official has stated that the lower court ruling is not upheld, well over half of the remaining U.S. wetlands and streams would lose protection under the Clean Water Act.

The coalition filing the brief is supporting the Bush administration’s position that Congress intended to protect headwater wetlands and tributaries under the Clean Water Act when it was passed in 1972. Joining Ducks Unlimited and the National Wildlife Federation in the amicus brief are the American Fisheries Society, American Sportfishing Association, Bass Pro Shops, Boone & Crockett Club, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Orvis, Phasianus Forever, The Wildlife Society, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited and Wildlife Management Institute.

Contact: Scott Yachh
Ducks Unlimited Director of Conservation Programs
901.775.2000
syach@ducks.org

With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world’s largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands- nature’s most productive ecosystem- and continues to lose more than 100,000 wetland acres each year. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear a case in February that could dramatically affect the number of more than half the 100 million acres of wetlands remaining in the United States. Today, Ducks Unlimited joined other conservation organizations and two of the world’s largest outdoor gear retailers in filing an amicus brief addressing whether the Clean Water Act protects wetlands adjacent to small tributaries that flow into larger bodies of water.

This brief describes for the court how these wetlands and small tributaries are vitally important to the future of fish and wildlife conservation, and to the more than 82 million hunters, anglers and wildlife-watchers who spend $108 billion annually in the United States pursuing their outdoor passions. The brief describes for the court how these wetlands and small tributaries are vitally important to the future of fish and wildlife conservation, and to the more than 82 million hunters, anglers and wildlife-watchers who spend $108 billion annually in the United States pursuing their outdoor passions. The brief describes for the court how these wetlands and small tributaries are vitally important to the future of fish and wildlife conservation, and to the more than 82 million hunters, anglers and wildlife-watchers who spend $108 billion annually in the United States pursuing their outdoor passions. The brief describes for the court how these wetlands and small tributaries are vitally important to the future of fish and wildlife conservation, and to the more than 82 million hunters, anglers and wildlife-watchers who spend $108 billion annually in the United States pursuing their outdoor passions. The brief describes for the court how these wetlands and small tributaries are vitally important to the future of fish and wildlife conservation, and to the more than 82 million hunters, anglers and wildlife-watchers who spend $108 billion annually in the United States pursuing their outdoor passions.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission will increase its contribution to Ducks Unlimited, in support of wetland and waterfowl conservation in the Maritime provinces of eastern Canada. The North Carolina Wetland Restoration Initiative is to target those breeding areas known to produce birds that migrate to North Carolina; eastern Canada is one of those areas.

This area is intensively farmed and wetlands and riparian areas, threatened by agricultural and urban expansion, need to be protected. The AWRP aims to work with farmers, and encourages them to use farming practices that conserve wetlands, promote biodiversity and improve waterfowl habitat. The AWRP will be matched at least four-fold by DU, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to support the Wetland Restoration Project. The AWRP will be matched at least four-fold by DU, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to support the Wetland Restoration Project. The AWRP will be matched at least four-fold by DU, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to support the Wetland Restoration Project. The AWRP will be matched at least four-fold by DU, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to support the Wetland Restoration Project. The AWRP will be matched at least four-fold by DU, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to support the Wetland Restoration Project.

Contact: Scott Yaich
Ducks Unlimited Director of Conservation Programs
901.775.2000
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For more than 30 years, the Clean Water Act has protected these kinds of wetlands and waters and the fish and wildlife that depend upon them. The federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that these adjacent wetlands are protected by the Clean Water Act, but that could change if the Supreme Court overturns their ruling.

This is a serious issue for all duck hunters and the millions of other people who depend on healthy wetlands and waterfowl for food, recreation and enjoyment.

GUARDING WETLANDS IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has issued a Notice of Public Hearing giving the public a chance to voice their opinions:

**Notice of Public Hearing**

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the proposed rulemaking to amend 17NCR 060-0500-3300 for the purpose of establishing and implementing a financial assistance program to encourage wetland restoration and maintenance of existing wetlands within the state. The hearing will be held at the Divi
er New Hope Church, 4501 N. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28208, on December 12th, 2006, at 1:00 PM. Interested parties are invited to attend the hearing and to present comments, oral or written, regarding the proposed rulemaking.

For more information, contact John Farley, NCDU Major Sponsor Chairman, 252-756-9975. If you would like to contribute to or become a Major Sponsor for the Wild Wings Farm Project, contact Bob Hester at 252-926-0831.

Every year sportsmen and tourists travel to Hyde County to experience quiet and beauty and a place where time moves at a slower pace. To many, it seems that changes simply do not occur. In truth, they have been occurring all the time and continue to do so. If you have to be a keen observer for many changes as they occur gradually and over a considerable period.

One of these gradual changes has been the tremendous reduction of the region's Canada goose population, a species which only recently reigned supreme, and the subsequent rise of the tundra swan, the new king. The reasons for these changes are many but likely include changing farm practices, climate change, and hunting pressure as well as many other factors, each of varying degrees of importance.

Recently, a new change has been observed - one which may have equally profound implications for waterfowl in the region as well as other wildlife populations. The basic foundation of life in Lake Mattamuskeet - the aquatic plants - are disappearing. The west side of the lake - supposedly the best in terms of the causes of the disappearance - range from cotton production to tundra swan, however, only rigorous research can provide accurate answers. Recently, Mathews Waters, a PhD student at UNC Chapel Hill, initiated a study which will hopefully unravel this mystery.

Another big change for area waterfowl will be the dramatic increase in impoundments at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. Currently, only 20% of the refuges 2,400 acres of impoundments are utilized to produce wetland soil for the lack of pumping stations which are now managed by Ducks Unlimited.

However, within the next two years five new pumping stations will be installed which will allow 80% of the impoundments to be managed. These three pumping stations will provide waterfowl with engineering and construction oversight provided by Craig Letchek and Bilby Webster of Ducks Unlimited's South Atlantic Field Office in Charleston, SC. They also secured a grant of $170,000 from the NC Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant Program. This grant will contribute to the full cost of the project and will be utilized to provide funding for a variety of projects. DU members can be reassured that their efforts to support their organization are making a difference on the ground.

For our local committee recruitment efforts and pre-selling tickets to the banquets. I want to conduct a committee recruitment meeting with each chapter this year. I will call the chairman to set one up with the chapter. Keep adding new committee members and pre-selling those tickets and DU will continue to grow.

Great job guys!! Committee recruitment really does work!!

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**North Carolina Ducks Unlimited Snapshots**

Bob Berg, Senior Vice-President for the Great Plain Region, presents a Corporations for Conservation plaque to Sal Roseland, R&R Pheasants Hunting, on behalf of NCDU for Sal’s support of the Band the Billfish Tournament.

Members of the Hoke County Committee with plaques for winning the Wood Duck Flight Award.

The Biltmore Estate in Asheville donated a Canada Goose Hunt on the estate to the Mountain Chapter Banquet in September.

Through your philanthropic commitments NCDU will fund its strategic initiative to protect, restore and enhance an additional 12,000 wetland acres in North Carolina, plus 42,000 acres of waterfowl breeding habitat within the next five years. North Carolina Sound CARE contributes to Ducks Unlimited’s goal of conserving, within the coming decade, an additional ten million acres of habitat in North America that is critical to waterfowl and people.

**Diamond Legacy Sponsor - $1,000,000**

North Carolina Attorney General Office/Smithfield Foods, Inc.

**Platinum Legacy Sponsor - $750,000 - $999,999**

**Gold Legacy Sponsor - $500,000 - $749,999**

**Silver Legacy Sponsor - $250,000 - $499,999**

**Benefactor Roll of Honor - $100,000 - $249,999**

**Honorary Roll of Honor - $1,000 - $24,999**

North Carolina Ducks Unlimited www.nc.ducks.org

District Chairman Larry Marler and the Kernersville Ducks Unlimited conducted their annual “committee hunt” at Hatteras with guide Ken Dempsey. After a good duck in December, they returned for some stringer fishing.

**Ducks Unlimited (DU)** qualifies under the provisions of Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization created for charitable, educational, scientific, and conservation purposes. Donations to DU are deductible by the donor(s) as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes.
Volunteer Appreciation Day Photo Album