Meadowlarks, Ducks, and Coneflowers

Who cares if they never hear a meadowlark sing its melody on a fence post in ND again? Does anyone care if duck numbers plummet? How about not seeing any more prairie flowers like the coneflower?

I care deeply. My mother does. Many of my friends do. My boss does too. My wife cares as do some of her friends. My co-workers do. A young man from Medina cares, even though lacking an understanding that a meadowlark and blue-wing teal we see in ND also shares the same thrill with another boy his age in Mexico where the birds spend their winter.

It seems there is an endless supply of people here in ND that care enough to slow down just a little and enjoy what lives on the prairie. Ranchers and other landowners feel the tie to the earth and what the prairie brings. But the questions remain, if there were no more meadowlarks, would anyone miss them? If duck species were so low, there could be no waterfowling opportunities available, who would miss them the most? If the grasslands were gone and you didn’t have the chance to see the blooming flowers on a warm July day while out for a hike with your dog, would you long for the days it still remained? Would the only people that care about the absent meadowlarks care that the coneflowers or ducks were disappearing? Or what about duck hunters not really caring that meadowlarks’ populations were declining? Or birdwatchers caring that prairie birds no longer flit about the

continued on page 6
The National Wildlife Refuge System’s - Small Wetlands Program

A Half Century of Conserving Prairie Habitat

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will celebrate and highlight its Small Wetlands Program during calendar year 2008, the 50th year of its existence. The Small Wetlands Program had its birth on August 1, 1958, as an amendment to the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of 1934 (also known as the Duck Stamp Act), and authorized the Service to acquire Waterfowl Production Areas, small wetland and pothole areas and interests for the benefit of migratory waterfowl. The Service has focused its acquisition efforts on the breeding grounds in the Prairie Pothole Region of the Upper Midwest.

The Prairie Pothole Region, a 300,000-square mile area in the Upper Midwest and adjacent Canadian provinces, contains some of the most important waterfowl and grassland bird species habitat on the continent. The wetlands and virgin grasslands in this glacially-created landscape are among the most endangered habitat in the country. While the region accounts for just 10 percent of North American waterfowl breeding habitat, it produces nearly half of the continent’s total waterfowl. Additionally, the FWS estimates that nearly 30 percent of waterfowl produced in the U.S. portion of the Prairie Pothole Region are tied to habitats permanently protected by the Small Wetlands Program.

The Prairie Pothole Region also provides valuable habitat for a large proportion of the total U.S. populations of many grassland bird species that are concentrated in the area during the breeding season, such as Sprague’s pipit, chestnut-collared longspur, Baird’s sparrow, LeConte’s sparrow, and Nelson’s sharp-tailed sparrow. Grassland bird species are in trouble, if not in significant decline, pressured by habitat loss, predators, changing farming and ranching practices, and fire suppression.

More than half of the wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region have been drained for agriculture or development. Wetland losses escalated dramatically in the late 1950’s as a result of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) subsidized wetland drainage program. Many farmers took advantage of the cost share offered by the USDA to drain the “nuisance areas” from their fields.

During the program’s history, FWS Wetland Acquisition Offices have purchased more than 36,000 separate fee and permanent easement tracts that make up the lands administered as Waterfowl Production Areas, as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These include more than 29,000 permanent easements, covering 2.1 million acres, and approximately 7,000 fee tracts, totaling over 677,000 acres.

The FWS has identified an additional 1.4 million acres of priority wetlands and an additional 10.4 million acres of priority grasslands that need to be protected in order to maintain the current waterfowl production capability of the Prairie Pothole Region. If these conservation goals are not met, the region stands to lose 40 percent of its productivity.

Today, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep pace with the loss of the prairie wetlands and grasslands because of new incentives to landowners to convert grasslands to cropland—particularly row crops that can be converted to bio-energy products—which in turn is having a negative impact on breeding waterfowl. Research indicates that waterfowl breeding success drops by more than 50 percent when grasslands are converted to cropland. Current land use pressures have further increased the need to conserve wildlife resources in the region.

In August 2008, the Small Wetlands Program will celebrate half a century of successfully conserving wetlands and grasslands in the Prairie Pothole Region and nurturing and sustaining waterfowl, other migratory bird species, wildlife, and other environmental resources.

What can you do to help make this celebration a success? Buy a Federal Duck Stamp. And more importantly, tell people how important Federal Duck Stamps are in ensuring healthy populations of all migratory birds. Encourage them to buy a Federal Duck Stamp and support our nation’s fish and wildlife heritage.

Last Day Honkers

Mark Sandness, owner of Capital City Sporting Clays in Bismarck, proudly holds up his limit of Canada geese taken on the last day of the 2007 season. The surprising thing is not that the goose had a strange orange coloration on the breast feathers, but that he actually went three for three on the birds as they were coming into the decoys that morning. Last year, shooting the plain uncolored geese proved troublesome for him. Mark is happy this new variety of orange and black Canada goose have been discovered as he states, “I can relate my clay shooting to these birds, maybe the birds last year were too close. I like these birds better!” Mark says to watch for the DU Fun Shoot that is held in the spring each year. Come on out and enjoy a great time.

GREAT PLAINS DIRECTORY SERVICE
Jamestown, ND
Proulding County Plat Book/Directories showing rural land ownership and residents for most counties in North Dakota and some northern counties in South Dakota
For further information, please call (701) 251-1612
www.greatplainsdirectory.com

Last Day

Enjoy the beauty and atmosphere of a classic family resort. Relax at our enclosed sand beach, play tennis, sand volleyball, ride our pontoon, hydro-bikes or sailboat. Choose from our 17 deluxe private individual cabins from 1-8 bedrooms. All the amenities of home. 2 miles west of Detroit Lakes on Long Lake

LAKECREST RESORT
Detroit Lakes MN
1-800-435-5459
www.lakecrestresort.com

Also Available – county or customized laminated wall maps showing rural residents within map area.

Also Available – county or customized laminated wall maps showing rural residents within map area.
BISMARCK, ND, January 24, 2008

Ducks Unlimited says the amount of carbon that will be released in the Prairie Pothole Region the next four years from plowing up Conservation Reserve Program grassland will equal 15 million new cars on the road.

Nearly 820,000 acres of CRP grassland disappeared in the Dakotas and Montana in 2007. But DU says this is a drop in the bucket compared to what will be lost over the next four years. New US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency data shows that nearly 5.6 million acres, or two-thirds of the current CRP in these states, will expire by October 2012.

“This magnitude of CRP loss hurts more than waterfowl populations, it will have a large impact on efforts to fight global warming,” said Scott McLeod, Farm Bill specialist with DU’s Great Plains Regional Office. “This is an absolutely staggering amount of grassland to be losing in such a short period of time and impacts on wildlife will be disastrous.”

CRP grasslands have the ability to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in the soil. The 5.6 million acres of expiring CRP will have removed and stored more than 172 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over the past 10 years. Conversion of CRP to cropland releases stored carbon back into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.

“Tillage of these acres makes no sense, especially at a time when now, more than ever, the world is focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” McLeod said. “Conservation and sequestered carbon will be lost in an unsustainable rush to produce more ethanol.”

North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana will lose nearly 2.3 million, 1.1 million, and 2.2 million acres, respectively. Portions of these three states make up the bulk of the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) in the US, an area renowned for its importance to breeding waterfowl.

The US Fish and Wildlife Services credits CRP with producing more than 2 million ducks a year. Habitat loss of this magnitude will mean significantly lower production of ducks that migrate through or winter in all of the contiguous 48 states and provide an important part of the hunters’ bags in those states. Ring-necked pheasants and other grassland dependent wildlife will suffer significant declines as well.

Continued high commodity prices driven by demand for ethanol production, low CRP rental rates and no new CRP general sign-ups have Ducks Unlimited and other conservation groups convinced that a “perfect storm” is leading to the demise of the most successful conservation program ever in the U.S.

“Rental rates for enrolling in CRP are too low and need to better reflect the market. Right now, farmers can make more money by farming those acres, and CRP won’t be a viable option for farmers until rental rates are competitive with cash rent,” McLeod said.

McLeod says that a general sign-up was not held in 2007, and the USDA has indicated that one will not be held in 2008 either. General sign-ups offer the best opportunity to enroll a large number of acres to replace some of the expiring CRP. “If this trend holds beyond 2008, it will be nearly impossible to maintain the population levels that many wildlife species are experiencing today and we’ll go backwards on many other fronts also,” he said.

Carbon Dioxide released will be equivalent of 15 million more cars on the road.

Interpretative trail dedicated in memory of Georgia conservationist.

At a North Dakota ceremony in October, Ducks Unlimited honored a devoted Georgia staff member by dedicating the Dan Denton Memorial Nature Trail. The nature trail is located on Ducks Unlimited’s Coteau Ranch, southeast of McClusky, N.D.

The Denton family (from left to right): Dan’s wife Pat, son Jason, sister in-law Julia, brother Don, and niece Catherine Denton, who passed away in June 2004, was a resident of Snellville, Georgia. He served Ducks Unlimited for 32 years in Georgia and had a keen interest in the waterfowl breeding grounds of the Dakotas.

During his life, he encouraged others to contribute to waterfowl conservation throughout North America.

“Dan worked hard to create an awareness of the connection between waterfowl that breed in the Dakotas and waterfowl that winter in the southeastern United States,” said Jim Ringelman, director of conservation programs for the Dakotas and Montana.

The Denton Trail is open to the public and features interpretive panels that describe the importance of wetlands and grasslands to wildlife and people. The Coteau Ranch is also open to walk-in hunting. Hunters can obtain a permit and map of the property from permit boxes located on the two main access roads to the ranch.

“The trail will provide an opportunity for the community to visit the Coteau Ranch and learn about prairie grasslands, range management and waterfowl,” said Paul Bultsma, Ducks Unlimited regional biologist and manager of the Coteau Ranch.

The Coteau Ranch is nearly 2,500 acres of native grassland, pasture and fallow cropland interspersed with small and large wetlands. Nearby landowners lease the property for grazing and haying. Ducks Unlimited plans to use the ranch as an outdoor classroom to educate people about prairie ecology.

Additionally, Ducks Unlimited will conduct research on grazing and haying rotations that could improve wildlife habitat and cattle production. Additional research plans include evaluating best management practices for grassland restoration and weed control.

The Dan Denton Trail memorializes Denton’s contributions to the ducks and provides a lasting monument for his family to visit and remember his life. Ducks Unlimited and the people he influenced will always remember his impact on waterfowl habitat conservation.
State Chairman’s Message
By Charlie Franzen

With all the hunting seasons closing and the holidays over most of us have a few spare minutes to sit back and dream of the season gone past and the great hunts we had with our families, friends, and retrievers. That’s a great feeling, now we need to think of how we can preserve this feeling in the future. This is an important time for North Dakota and wildlife, we have new farm bills that are going through and with the price of grain there is more pressure than ever to till every available acre. We have enjoyed bountiful number of birds in the past years whether it is ducks or pheasants, but with the pressure on farmers in this economy to produce as much as possible CRP and other wetland programs are going to be suffer. What does that mean in the long run? Well, without the areas for birds to reproduce, the numbers will fall. The current CRP acreage adds about two million birds to the fall flight. So as we sit and ponder this fact, we must ask ourselves...what can I do about it as an individual? It is easy to say, “The problem is so big that I can’t make a difference”. That’s where Ducks Unlimited comes into play. Being part of a bigger organization, and one that is big enough to make a difference in Washington, DC, the answer is right here and now. HOW do I take action? Here are some ideas, and remember, this is not only for ducks, it is for pheasants, deer, any other wildlife, and YOUR hunting traditions. If the wildlife isn’t there, hunts like in the photograph with my son just won’t happen.

Get involved NOW, there are many ways to get involved. Helping with your local chapters is the first to come to mind.

Call your Representatives in the Congress and Senate when the bills are at the critical stages, if you are involved with DU they send out requests when action is needed.

We need help not only locally, but at the state level in DU, become a volunteer at a higher level, it is easy, just let me know at flecks@ndsupernet.com.

If you don’t want to get to the level of volunteering, it is as simple and bring 2-3 or even more people to you local banquet with you, it’s a fun time and you are aiding the conservation effort.

There are other varieties of activities such as youth programs, banding, habitat cleanup projects, university or college chapters, ladies chapters and more. Call Jeff Essler at 701-224-8270 or email at jessler@ducks.org if you would like to find out how you can help.

There are a lot of new things happening in North Dakota Ducks Unlimited. Besides starting new banquets in new areas and restarting banquets, we have waterfowler’s parties that are being put on by universities and Colleges all over the state. The waterfowler parties are a fun time and it is exciting to see that many young guys and gals getting involved with wildlife and Ducks Unlimited. If you see one advertised in your area, be sure that you go, there are a lot of decoys to be won.

We are also putting together the structure for a leadership team in North Dakota; this team will help to assure our success in North Dakota as a DU team for years to come. This is an area where we definitely need as many volunteers as we can get, I ask all of you to consider stepping up to the plate and taking the next step to volunteer. The volunteers make DU. That is why DU is as efficient as they are with the money that is raised.

Our state convention is coming up on May 16th, in Jamestown at the Gladstone Inn, I invite everyone to come and have fun. We have a room called the “Goosepit” that is a fun time. I also have a State Chairman’s raffle where we will be giving away a $7000.00 Can-Am 400 4x4 ATV; if you would like a ticket for this ($25.00), please email me at flecks@ndsupernet.com and I will make sure you get one. Better yet, if you would like to help me sell some tickets in your area let me know and I will send you a pack of them, remember, it’s all for the ducks!! You can learn more and register for the state banquet at www.ducks.org, and remember invite all your friends. One of the contests that we are going to have is whichever DU chapter registers the most volunteer attendees will earn a gun to be used at their event.Get your friends and plan on a GREAT time. See you there.

I thank you and appreciate all that you do for the ducks.

Charlie Franzen
Ducks Unlimited Duck Biography

**Who Lives in the Duck Factory?**

**Mallard**

**Latin:** Anas platyrhynchos  
**Average length:** M 24.7”, F 23”  
**Average weight:** M 2.7 lbs., F 2.4 lbs.  
**Description:** The mallard is one of the most recognized of all ducks and is the ancestor of several domestic breeds. Its wide range has given rise to several distinct populations. Male: The male mallard’s white neck-ring separates the green head from the chestnut-brown chest, contrasts with the gray sides, brownish back, black rump, and black upper- and under tail coverts. The speculum is violet-blue bordered by black and white and the outer tail feathers are white. The bill is yellow to yellowish-green and the legs and feet are coral-red. Male utters a soft, rasping kreet. Female: The female mallard is a mottled brownish color and has a violet speculum bordered by black and white. The crown of the head is dark brown with a dark brown stripe running through the eye. The remainder of the head is lighter brown than the upper body. The bill is orange spotted with brown and the legs and feet are orange. Female is especially vocal with the characteristic series of quacks.  

**Breeding:** Mallards have one of the most extensive breeding ranges of any duck in North America, extending across the northern one-third of the USA, and up to the Bering Sea. The highest mallard densities occur in the prairie pothole region of Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, and North Dakota, with nests placed in upland habitat near wetlands on the ground, or in tree holes or nest boxes. Female mallards lay an average of 9 eggs.  

**Migrating and Wintering:** Mallards migrate along numerous corridors, but the greatest concentrations move from Manitoba and Saskatchewan through the Midwestern USA to the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. Mallards winter throughout the USA, with highest densities typically recorded during winter surveys along the Mississippi Flyway from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to the Gulf of Mexico. Among the dabbling ducks, mallards are one of the latest fall migrants. They also have the most extended migration period, which lasts from late summer to early winter. Mallards are found in a variety of habitats including, dry agricultural fields, shallow marshes, and oak-dominated forested wetlands. Mallards are vagrant to Central America and the Caribbean. There are feral breeding populations on Bermuda, introduced in 1960, and the Cayman Islands, introduced in 1983. (Scott and Carbonell, 1986)  

**Population:** The mallard is the most common duck in the USA, with greatest abundance between the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains. The 2007 estimate of 8.3 million breeding mallards was a 14% increase from last years estimate of 7.3 million, and 11% above the long-term average. Mallard populations have benefited greatly from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and other grassland restoration efforts in the northern prairies of the USA, where populations have increased by nearly 100%. However, expiration of CRP and continued conversion of native grassland threaten the future of mallards and the other ducks that breed here.  

**Food habits:** Mallards dabble to feed on seeds, rootlets, and tubers of aquatic plants, seeds of swamp and river bottoms.

**ND Project Profile**

**Ducks Unlimited’s new Coteau Ranch provides hunting and hiking opportunities.**

Ducks Unlimited’s Coteau Ranch is southeast of McClusky, N.D. about an hour from Bismarck. The Ranch property was donated to DU and is located in the heart of the Missouri Coteau. The property will serve as a demonstration property showcasing prairie management techniques, waterfowl research and native prairie grassland habitat.

The Coteau Ranch is nearly 2,500 acres of native grassland, pasture and fallow cropland interspersed with small and large wetlands. Nearby landowners lease the property for grazing and haying. DU plans to use the ranch as an outdoor classroom to educate people about prairie ecology. This will be a place to take prairie visitors and show them ideal grassland habitat and how management, research and conservation techniques benefit the ducks.

The Dan Denton Memorial Nature Trail is located on the Ranch. The trail is open to the public and features interpretive panels that describe the importance of wetlands and grasslands to wildlife and people. The Dan Denton Trail memorializes Denton’s contributions to the ducks and provides a lasting monument for his family to visit and remember his life.  

**Proposed research includes investigation into on grazing and haying rotations that could improve wildlife habitat and cattle production. Additional research plans include evaluating best management practices for grassland restoration and weed control. The Coteau Ranch is also open to walk-in hunting. Hunters can obtain a permit and map of the property from permit boxes located on the two main access roads to the ranch.**

Wildlife on the ranch include sharptail grouse, pheasants, ducks, geese, whitetail deer, fox, coyote, songbirds, hawks, reptiles, and more.
**Meadowlarks, Ducks, and Coneflowers**  
Continued from front cover…

Since 1937 Ducks Unlimited, formed by duck hunters, the caring has been tremendous. Over 12 million acres of habitat conserved in Canada, US, and Mexico by Ducks Unlimited alone. Those same duck hunters purchased duck stamps that have conserved nearly another 5.2 million acres since 1934.

It’s time we work harder than ever before. It’s time that you become involved with Ducks Unlimited in a very meaningful way. Meadowlarks, ducks, and coneflowers need your help. The best way you can help is to volunteer or support Ducks Unlimited’s conservation initiatives financially. Go to www.ducks.org/support to find out how you can help.

**Sweet Ride**

Send your picture of your Sweet DU Ride and it just might show up in the next issue of the ND DU Duck Factory!
Wal-Mart Helps Conserve ND Duck Habitat

Through the Acres for America Program, in just three years, Wal-Mart has surpassed its goal by conserving three times the amount of acreage originally planned.

BENTONVILLE, Ark. - January 22, 2008 – Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., (NYSE: WMT) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced today a $1 million dollar grant to Pheasants Forever, Inc. (PF) and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) to help protect more than 10,785 acres of important habitat for birds in North and South Dakota. The grant was selected through a competitive grant process managed by NFWF and was awarded through the landmark Acres for America program. As a result of this most recent donation, nearly 400,000 acres of land across the United States will be conserved through the Acres for America program.

“At Wal-Mart, we are committed to giving back to the local communities we serve,” said Bill Wertz, community and media relations director of Wal-Mart’s Central Division. “We are excited that our partnership with Acres for America will allow us to work with PF and DU to accelerate the conservation of these vital habitats.”

The grant, which included $700,000 from Wal-Mart and $300,000 in federal funds from NFWF, will help conserve land in the Prairie Pothole Region of both states. The Prairie Pothole Region plays a vital role as a home and breeding ground for nearly 200 species of songbirds, waterfowl, raptors and game birds. In fact, between 50 and 80 percent of North America’s waterfowl population is hatched in this region.

“This project means a great deal to me, because I grew up in South Dakota and I know just how important these prairies are to waterfowl and other birds,” said Jeff Trandahl, executive director of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. “By purchasing easements on these private lands, we are also helping farmers and ranchers hold on to their families’ land and operations.”

In 2005, NFWF and Wal-Mart launched the Acres for America program with the goal to permanently protect one acre of important wildlife habitat in the United States for every acre of land developed by Wal-Mart. The program was designed to completely offset the company’s corporate land footprint. Pledging $35 million over 10 years to the project, Wal-Mart committed to protecting enough land to account for its stores’ current land-use and development through 2015. In just three years, the program has already surpassed Wal-Mart’s goal by conserving three times the amount of acreage originally planned. Wal-Mart is the first major retail store to offset its land development footprint with permanently protected conservation lands.

“These dollars from Wal-Mart will help us permanently protect grasslands and wetlands in the Missouri Coteau, the continent’s best of the remaining waterfowl habitat, which is part of the Prairie Pothole region,” said Jeff Nelson, director of DU’s Great Plains Regional Office. “We’re grateful to Wal-Mart and NFWF for helping us keep intact this 10,000-year-old native prairie that is so important to ducks, pheasants and other wildlife.”

South Dakota rancher Wendi Rinehart sees firsthand what the country is losing in the escalating destruction of one of the world’s most endangered ecosystems.

“I’m glad to know that one of America’s largest corporations is working to protect the prairie,” Rinehart said. “I hope their efforts will get others to take a look at what we’re throwing away.”

Through the Acres for America program, Wal-Mart has helped permanently conserve land in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, North Dakota, Oregon, and South Dakota.

“The greatest threat facing the critical habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region is the conversion of the native grasslands and wetlands to croplands,” said Howard Vincent, Pheasants Forever, Inc.’s national president and CEO. “Wal-Mart and the NFWF must be commended for their roles in continuing to make the Prairie Pothole Region a point of conservation interest.”

NFWF manages a semi-annual, competitive process for selecting projects to be funded through the Acres for America program. To learn more about Acres for America, visit www.nfwf.org or www.walmartfacts.com.

About Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) - Every week, millions of customers visit Wal-Mart Stores, Supercenters, Neighborhood Markets, and Sam’s Club locations across America or log on to its online store at www.walmart.com. The company and its Foundation are committed to a philosophy of giving back locally. Wal-Mart (NYSE: WMT) is proud to support the causes that are important to customers and associates right in their own neighborhoods, and last year gave more than $270 million to local communities in the United States. To learn more, visit www.walmartfacts.com, www.walmartstores.com, or www.walmartfoundation.org.

About the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) - A nonprofit established by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation sustains, restores and enhances the Nation’s fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Through leadership conservation investments with public and private partners, NFWF is dedicated to achieving maximum conservation impact by developing and applying best practices and innovative methods for measurable outcomes. Since its establishment, NFWF has awarded nearly 9,500 grants to over 3,000 organizations in the United States and abroad and leveraged – with its partners – more than $400 million in federal funds into more than $1.3 billion for on-the-ground conservation. For more information, visit www.nfwf.org.

ATTENTION HUNTERS
Give your dog the premium food they deserve!

- Locally manufactured - SAFE!
- High quality, easily digested, meat based - no soy.
- Non-flavor enhanced to help maintain healthy weight.
- Balanced nutrition for optimum health for your dogs
- Approximately 1/2 the price of comparable quality foods.

HANK’S PET FOOD
Center, ND     www.hanksdogfood.com
701-794-3183    henrym@westriv.com

www.ndducks.org
THERE’S ONLY ONE REASON
TO LET A DOG LICK YOUR FACE
(it’s not to share your lunch)

It’s loyalty. There’s no place on earth you’d rather be than with your hunting partner, celebrating another day in the marsh. Join people with the same passion; people who make DU events happen. Put your passion into practice, Volunteer!

DISCOVER THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND DUCKS UNLIMITED
Call 1-800-45-DUCKS or visit ducks.org/volunteertoday
Junior Duck Stamp Contest

Ducks Unlimited’s Great Plains Regional Office hosts the 2008 ND Junior Duck Stamp contest in Bismarck on March 20th 2008. Young artists from ND compete for the title in ND each year. Last year Best of Show winner was Megan Gilbertson.

If you would like information about the event, please contact:

Jackie Jacobson
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Audubon National Wildlife Refuge
3275 11th St. NW
Coleharbor, ND  58531
701/442-5474 ext. 17

Goose Band Bonanza

Montana hunters Jason Votava (left) and Richard Votava pose with their goose bands that they have collected throughout the years of hunting with their family. The collection includes a bird that had a radio transmitter. The total number of bands they have were from 92 Canada geese, 20 snows, and 3 ducks. The bands started accumulating even way back when the Canada goose limit was just 1 bird. The oldest Canada goose harvested was 20 or 21 years old. Another notable bird was a female that was at least 18 years old. Other banded birds that they shot many years prior had sequential numbers before and after this old gal. Imagine the number of times she must have been over their decoys in past years. See the related story about Ducks Unlimited 2007 duck banding totals in ND.
It pays to conserve habitat these days. Literally. In an unprecedented conservation agreement, Ducks Unlimited, Equator Environmental, LLC and New Forests Inc. are helping landowners conserve grasslands and store carbon on their property – and make money doing it.

“This is a totally novel approach to habitat conservation,” said Jim Ringelman, Ducks Unlimited’s Director of Conservation Programs in the Great Plains. “DU’s highest priority is protecting the grasslands of the Prairie Pothole Region from destruction, and one way we do that is through conservation easements. When landowners agree to an easement that prohibits plowing that land, they’re also ensuring that the carbon in that soil won’t be released. So, we thought ‘What if DU could offer landowners money for the conservation easement, and money for the carbon credits on their land?’

It sounds complicated, but according to Dan Spethmann, Manager of Investment Programs for New Forests, it’s not.

“The prairies of North and South Dakota, millions of acres of grassland plants are storing, or ‘sequestering,’ a huge reserve of soil carbon. If that land is plowed, the soil carbon is exposed to oxygen, decomposed and released as carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas contributing to global warming. In the process, vital waterfowl breeding habitat is destroyed,” says Spethmann.

New Forests and Equator saw an opportunity to link carbon sequestration to DU’s conservation work in the U.S. Prairie Pothole Region, where some of the world’s best waterfowl breeding habitat is under imminent threat of destruction, primarily from cultivation of land, especially for corn production. Beneath those grasslands lie millions of tons of sequestered carbon.

“The Prairie Pothole Region project is a great example of how conservation can generate profits. The burgeoning carbon market is opening doors for new types of environmentally friendly yet financially sound deals,” said Jeff Bortniker, chief executive officer of Equator Environmental. “We are delighted to partner with Ducks Unlimited and New Forests on this unique environmental credit transaction. This landmark deal will allow investors to address the critical issue of climate change and support conservation.”

Under the agreement, Equator will provide financing to help DU purchase easements and carbon credits in the Prairie Pothole Region. Equator will then sell the credits to investors who want to reduce their carbon footprint. Equator and New Forests will ensure that credits generated from these activities are accredited to the highest market standards and represent a quality product for the voluntary carbon market. The voluntary carbon market is expected to double in size in 2007.

“It’s a win-win like never before,” said Ringelman. “The landowner gets additional revenue for their conservation stewardship, DU conserves more habitat, the investor can generate returns from conservation, and we prevent more carbon from being released into the atmosphere.”

Equator Environmental, LLC specializes in the generation and management of high-quality carbon credits and environmental assets derived from reforestation projects, forest conservation and sustainable land management.

Equator uses state-of-the-art financial structuring techniques to create diversified revenue streams that benefit governments, timberland owners and local communities who make up its client and partner base. Equator advocates policies that support the development of ecosystem markets and create sustainable cash flows related to the protection and enhancement of the world’s ecosystems. For more information, please see HYPERLINK “http://www.equator.net/” www.equator.net

New Forests is a forestry asset management and advisory services firm with offices in Washington D.C. and Sydney. The company’s investment thesis is unique in seeking assets that deliver traditional timber returns, as well as returns from emerging environmental markets and preferences, such as certified timber, carbon, biodiversity and water. In addition to world-leading forestry investment expertise in the areas of acquisitions, modelling, operations, silviculture and ecosystem services, New Forests is at the forefront of developing and commercializing environmental products and evaluating opportunities from emerging environmental markets. The company holds an Australian Financial Services License. For more information, please see HYPERLINK “http://www.newforests.com.au/” www.newforests.com.au.

Since November the program has gotten off to a tremendous start with 13 landowners signing up close to 6,000 acres of native prairie and expired Conservation Reserve Program restored grasslands. “Every landowner we have worked with has been extremely positive” said Randy Renner, Manager of Conservation Programs for Acquired Easements in the Great Plains. “We are working through the waiting list of landowners interested in easements and the funding provided by this program has allowed DU to secure more easements than would have been possible with traditional funding sources.”

For more information contact:
Randy W. Renner
Manager of Conservation Programs - Easements
Ducks Unlimited, Inc
Great Plains Regional Office
2525 River Road
Bismarck, ND 58503
Phone 701-355-3526

Don’t Compromise Get a Cub Cadet

CUB CADET UTILITY VEHICLE
• 4-wheel fully independent suspension
• 8” of suspension travel
• 1300 lb. payload capacity, 1300 lb. towing capacity

MANDAN EQUIPMENT INC
1121 EAST MAIN
MANDAN, ND (701) 663-3714

North Dakota’s #1 Pheasant Hunting Co.
Pat Candrian, Manager
Box 163 • Regent, ND 58650
701-563-4411 • 1-800-920-4910
www.cannonballcompany.com
Ducks Unlimited Grasslands for Tomorrow program has protected with perpetual easements more than 316,000 acres in North Dakota. These acres provide nesting habitat for some 37,000 pairs of ducks, while sustaining the livelihood of hundreds of ranching families.

Ducks Unlimited works with the Fish and Wildlife Service to complete these easements. Together they’ve spent about $28 million in North Dakota. DU contributors alone have invested about $12 million on North Dakota easements.

Inspired by DU’s Grasslands for Tomorrow initiative, philanthropic property owners have donated over 4,300 acres of land to Ducks Unlimited in support of our conservation mission. With generous land donations, DU has established the Coteau Ranch in North Dakota, nearly 2,500 acres of native grassland, pasture and fallow cropland interspersed with small and large wetlands. DU will use the ranch to conduct research on how best to meld wildlife habitat and cattle production and use the ranch as an outdoor classroom on prairie ecology. The entire property is open to walk-in hunting.

Over 650 hunters per year enjoy recreating on the 17,366 acres of land owned by Ducks Unlimited in the U.S. grasslands.

Research has documented the importance of large tracts of grasslands to duck reproduction and the ongoing loss of native prairie grasslands. DU’s research crews in the Dakotas monitor more than 2,000 duck nests a year. These findings also provide the scientific foundation for public policies to restore and protect grasslands that produce millions of ducks annually.

High commodity prices, driven up primarily by the push to produce biofuels, have put pressure on landowners to convert grassland to cropland. In 2007 alone, the Prairie Pothole Region lost 64,000 acres of native grassland and over 794,000 acres of CRP-restored grassland. DU is promoting a Sodsaver provision in the next Farm Bill to slow down this loss. Sodsaver would remove federal farm program safety nets on newly converted prairie.

The concern over global climate change has created a new opportunity for Ducks Unlimited to protect more grassland. DU recently launched a program that uses investor capital to help pay for perpetual grassland easements and purchasing carbon rights. The easements prohibits plowing, which prevents the carbon that is sequestered by plants in the soil from being released into the atmosphere.

Grasslands for Tomorrow: providing habitat for waterfowl and waterfowlers

Kimble’s Guns & Repair

COWBOY SHOOTING ENTHUSIASTS

Check our selection Cowboy Action
Revolvers & Rifles
We customize or fine tune Ruger & Colt
Revolvers & Marlin Rifles for Cowboy
Action Shooting.
We Accurize 1911 Semi-Automatic Pistols

LEFT HAND SHOOTERS

Check our selection of
left handed rifles,
center fire and rimfire
plus shotguns.

We will buy your used firearm or we
do trade-ins on new firearms. Bring in
your used firearm for a free appraisal.

• Hunting Supplies • Scopes • Binoculars • Knives
• Cleaning & Gun Repair • Rifle, Shotgun & Pistol Ammo

Hours Mon-Sat. 9:30-5:30 - Extended hours during hunting season
201 W. Hickory Ave., Linton, ND • 701-254-5502
www.kimblesguns.com

Show your support

Get your ND Ducks Unlimited license plate NOW!

Go to nd.ducks.org and click on the “NDDU License Plate” link on the left side. Download the application and mail it in! It’s that simple!

If you can’t download the form, just email jessler@ducks.org and one will be emailed to you.

For only an extra $25 you can be sporting a new plate and $15 of the proceeds go to the ducks.
One ticket for $5 or three tickets for $10!!!

If you win this raffle at this event, you will receive two dinner tickets to the prize party sponsored by ND Coors Distributors in Jamestown on May 17th 2008 and guaranteed to win one of seventy prizes!

Win and you’re in! Guaranteed!

Grand Prize - Yamaha 700 Grizzly DU Edition ATV, Echo power tool set, case of federal shells, Primos calls, Avery hunting items, Mad Dog waders, and Whitewater jacket!

2nd Prize - $1500 Shopping Spree at Scheels. Donated by ND Scheels stores.

3rd Prize - Remington 11-87 20 gauge 2006 Dinner Gun
4th Prize - Winchester SuperX-2 12 gauge 2005 Dinner Gun
5th Prize - Franchi 912 camo 12 gauge DU Edition
6th Prize - Benelli Super Nova 12 gauge DU Edition
7th Prize - Remington DU 870 Express Super Mag 12 gauge
8th Prize - Stoeger Condor 0/U 12 gauge (thank you Scheels!)
9th Prize - Benelli Nova 12 gauge (thank you Scheels!)
10th Prize - Remington 870 Express (thank you Scheels!)
11th Prize - Remington 870 Express (thank you Scheels!)
12th Prize - Ruger 10/22 Carbine DU Edition
13th Prize - Ruger 10/22 Carbine (thank you Scheels!)
14th Prize - Custom Duck Call by Jacobson
15th Prize - Gale Winds Bronze
16th Prize - Upland Game Feather Collection
17th Prize - Terry Redlin Print “Morning Retreat”
18th Prize - Waterfowl Carved Feather Collection
19th Prize - Flying Mallard Pair
20th Prize - “Antique Decoy” Collection
21st Prize - DU Chess Set
22nd Prize - DU Chess Set
23rd Prize - Canada Goose Decoy
24th Prize - “Birds of a Feather” Mirror
25th Prize - Canada Goose Decoy
26th Prize - DU Optics Set
27th Prize - DU Optics Set
28th Prize - Greenwing Still Life
29th Prize - 1 kt diamond bracelet
30th Prize - DU Flatware Set
31st Prize - Mallard Decoy
32nd Prize - Pintail Pair
33rd Prize - Canada Goose Decoy
34th Prize - Flying Wood Duck
35th Prize - “High Country” Deer Sculpture
36th – 42nd Prizes - Aluminum Gun Case
43rd Prize - “On your Mark” Sculpture
44th Prize - Canvassback Decoy Display
45th Prize - “American Mallard” Decoy
46th Prize - Clock Side Table
47th Prize - Pencil Sketch print
48th Prize - 2006 Federal Ducks Stamp
49th Prize - “Caught in the Middle” Puppy Sculpture
50th Prize - “Caught in the Middle” Puppy Sculpture
51st Prize - 2002 Federal Duck Stamp
52nd Prize - Naughty Dog Sculpture
53rd Prize - Men’s Fossil Watch
54th Prize - Leather Letterman Jacket
55th Prize - Leather Letterman Jacket
56th Prize - “Friends” Sculpture
57th through 70th Prizes - DU items, decoys, and accessories!!!

Prizes subject to availability and may be substituted for similar prices of equal or greater value. Winner of firearms must be 18 or older and pass FFL background check to obtain guns. Any taxes and licenses responsibility of winner.

2008 Grand Prize Winner - Could it be you?
2007 Grand Prize Winner - Dennis Bossert from Velva
2006 Grand Prize Winner - Jason Riepel from Fargo
2005 Grand Prize Winner - Dennis Lampert from Crosby

Be the next Lucky Duck!

Say THANKS to our sponsors who make this possible every year and to all of you that try to be the next LUCKY DUCK in North Dakota Ducks Unlimited!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/25/2008</td>
<td>University of Mary Waterfowler’s Party</td>
<td>Bismarck</td>
<td>Doublewood Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/02/2008</td>
<td>Beulah Dinner Banquet</td>
<td>Beulah</td>
<td>Grand View Steak House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/16/2008</td>
<td>Waterfowl Hunters Party</td>
<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>Gladstone Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/21/2008</td>
<td>West Fargo Banquet</td>
<td>West Fargo</td>
<td>VFW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/23/2008</td>
<td>Dickinson DU Game Feed</td>
<td>Dickinson</td>
<td>Eagles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/28/2008</td>
<td>Wahpeton “Southern Valley” Banquet</td>
<td>Wahpeton</td>
<td>Prante’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/01/2008</td>
<td>Medina Banquet</td>
<td>Medina</td>
<td>Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/07/2008</td>
<td>DU Leadership Conference - March 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/08/2008</td>
<td>Larimore Dinner</td>
<td>Larimore</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/12/2008</td>
<td>Mandan Banquet</td>
<td>Mandan</td>
<td>Seven Seas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/13/2008</td>
<td>Burke County Banquet</td>
<td>Burke</td>
<td>109 Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/15/2008</td>
<td>Valley City Banquet</td>
<td>Valley City</td>
<td>Eagles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/20/2008</td>
<td>ND Junior Duck Stamp Contest</td>
<td>Bismarck</td>
<td>GPRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/24/2008</td>
<td>Western Walsh Dinner Banquet</td>
<td>Park River</td>
<td>Alexander House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/25/2008</td>
<td>Mouse River Dinner Banquet</td>
<td>Mouse River</td>
<td>VFW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/28/2008</td>
<td>NDSU Waterfowler Party</td>
<td>West Fargo</td>
<td>Speedway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/29/2008</td>
<td>Crosby Banquet</td>
<td>Crosby</td>
<td>Moose Lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/29/2008</td>
<td>Kulm Banquet</td>
<td>Kulm</td>
<td>Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/04/2008</td>
<td>Stanley - Coteau Lakes</td>
<td>Stanley</td>
<td>2 Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/05/2008</td>
<td>UND Waterfowler’s Party</td>
<td>Grand Forks</td>
<td>Best Western</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/11/2008</td>
<td>Waterfowl Hunters Party</td>
<td>Minot</td>
<td>Grand International Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/11/2008</td>
<td>Grafton Dinner</td>
<td>Grafton</td>
<td>Market Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/??/2008</td>
<td>Garrison Dinner</td>
<td>Garrison</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/??/2008</td>
<td>Dunn County</td>
<td>Kildeer</td>
<td>Buchskin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/07/2008</td>
<td>Jamestown Sponsor Dinner</td>
<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/16/2008</td>
<td>ND Ducks Unlimited State Convention</td>
<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>Gladstone Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/17/2008</td>
<td>70/70 Coors Prize Party</td>
<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>Gladstone Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/18/2008</td>
<td>ND DU Fun Shoot</td>
<td>Bismarck</td>
<td>Capital City Sporting Clays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/21/2008</td>
<td>National Convention May 21-25</td>
<td>Baltimore MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/09/2008</td>
<td>Grand Forks Dinner</td>
<td>Grand Forks</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/11/2008</td>
<td>Jamestown Banquet</td>
<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>Civic Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/11/2008</td>
<td>Minot Dinner</td>
<td>Minot</td>
<td>Grand International Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/15/2008</td>
<td>Marion Banquet</td>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/16/2008</td>
<td>Bismarck Dinner</td>
<td>Bismarck</td>
<td>Ramkota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/01/2008</td>
<td>Rugby Dinner</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
<td>Eagles Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/04/2008</td>
<td>Harvey Banquet</td>
<td>Harvey</td>
<td>Eagles Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11/2008</td>
<td>McIntosh County Dinner</td>
<td>Ashby</td>
<td>Dakota Family Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15/2008</td>
<td>Bowman Dinner Banquet</td>
<td>Bowman</td>
<td>Pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/17/2008</td>
<td>Gackle Dinner</td>
<td>Gackle</td>
<td>American Legion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/18/2008</td>
<td>Braddock Dinner</td>
<td>Braddock</td>
<td>Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/31/2008</td>
<td>Elgin Banquet</td>
<td>Elgin</td>
<td>Our Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/05/2008</td>
<td>Maddock Dinner</td>
<td>Maddock</td>
<td>Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/06/2008</td>
<td>Hettinger Dinner</td>
<td>Hettinger</td>
<td>Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/13/2008</td>
<td>Pingree Dinner</td>
<td>Pingree</td>
<td>281 Stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/14/2008</td>
<td>Velva Banquet</td>
<td>Velva</td>
<td>Legion Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/15/2008</td>
<td>Pekin Game Feed</td>
<td>Pekin</td>
<td>Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/04/2008</td>
<td>Kenmare DU Banquet</td>
<td>Kenmare</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/02/2009</td>
<td>NDDU State Convention</td>
<td>Dickinson</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many events are not listed here, there are more events being scheduled all the time. All dates and places are subject to change, check nd.ducks.org to see most current list of events in ND.
ND Duck Banding

The Central Flyway Council and North Dakota Game and Fish Department provided funding for two duck banding crews in 2007. One crew is located at Audubon NWR and WMD near Coleharbor and the second crew was located at Lake Ilo NWR near Killdeer. Duck numbers on Lake Ilo were below normal this year and it was exemplified in numbers banded, especially with blue-wing teal bandings. The mallards at Audubon were keyed in on field feeding, particularly in pea fields, so were difficult to entice into corn-filled swim-in traps. It was another successful banding season. The duck banders completed work on September 19. The following are final numbers for ducks banded at the two banding sites in 2007:

**Audubon NWR**

- Mallards: 373
- Pintails: 335
- Scaup: 161
- Blue-winged Teal: 3,303
- Green-winged Teal: 64
- Shovelers: 4
- Canvasbacks: 2
- Gadwalls: 49
- Wigeon: 46
- Redheads: 51
- Wood Ducks: 11
- Ring-necked Duck: 1
- Unknown Teal: 1

**Total**: 4,401

**Lake Ilo NWR**

- Mallards: 422
- Pintails: 35
- Blue-winged Teal: 489
- Green-winged Teal: 81
- Gadwalls: 118
- Wigeon: 6
- Shovelers: 2
- Redhead: 1
- Wood Ducks: 19

**Total**: 1,173

NDSU DU Parading Around

DSU chapter volunteers got into the DU spirit last September. They created a float and got in the parade. The float attracted a lot of attention with duck and goose calling, decoys, and filled with an excited group of diehard DU fans. Keep looking for NDSU DU to keep reaching out to waterfowl hunters everywhere!
Welcome to “The Great Indoors for those who love the Great Outdoors.”™

FARGO
4901 13th Avenue SW
(701) 281-7000

www.sportsmanswarehouse.com
Chevy’s eco-friendly vehicles won’t just take you to mother nature. They’ll also keep you both on speaking terms.