MESSAGE FROM THE STATE CHAIRMAN
Mark Low

Hello DU Members and DU Volunteers,

Spring was a very busy season for California Ducks Unlimited. We put on 30 banquets and one golf tournament and volunteers and members attended our state convention in Rohnert Park and the DU national convention in Portland, Oregon.

The state convention was a great venue for hard-working volunteers from across our state to meet and share good times with other California DU supporters. We kicked off the weekend with a fun-filled Sportsman’s Night Out dinner party followed by hospitality central. Saturday’s business meeting was informative and well attended. I had the pleasure of summarizing our past two years journey together and discussed our state’s plans moving forward. Larry Lundberg, State Major Donor Chairman, and Anne Hansen, Director of Development in DU’s Western Region, shared information about the DU Major Donor Program; Jon Rich, DU National Director of Gift Planning, gave us a grand overview of DU’s gift planning and endowment challenge; and Zsolt Halmos from ReminderCall Inc. provided an overview of his company’s automated appointment reminder calls and text messaging programs.

Jeff McCreary, Director of Conservation Programs in DU’s Western Region, discussed DU’s national business goals, fundamental plans and vision as it relates to program delivery, policy and science. Jeff shared information about DU’s landscape conservation priority areas and North American projects. He also showed an informative video regarding California DU projects – where your California DU dollars are being spent. It was an amazing video. If you would like to see the full video, containing Jeff’s segment, visit http://www.youtube.com/user/DucksUnlimitedIncWRO?feature=watch.

Dr. Fritz Reid, DU Director of Boreal and Arctic Conservation, gave us another amazing presentation on the key threatened landscapes across the border in Canada, and discussed the cumulative effects of arctic warming on tundra and boreal wetlands. Fritz also talked about protected areas of Canada and sustainable development zones. Amazing information and, as always, very informative!

The DU national convention had more than 800 attendees and I’m pleased to say that it was a great opportunity to hear from some of the most influential people in the conservation arena. In addition to tours and outings with DU friends, there was good food and celebration, and a one-day business session that treated attendees to speeches from Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Portland resident and Columbia Sportswear CEO Tim Boyle, among many others. Convention-goers also witnessed a changing of the guard with the election of a new president and other board of directors’ members. You will read more about the national convention further down in this newsletter!
In closing, I want to thank you for giving me the honor of being your DU California State Chairman for the past two years. The work that our state board members, our volunteers and all of our DU supporters have done on our journey together brings DU one step closer to fulfilling its vision of skies full of waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. We stayed focused on DU’s mission. More importantly, we stayed focus on our state goals. The goals, key objectives and action plans we set two years ago gave us a compass to direct our path – a path to continually increase the income we raise to support DU’s habitat goals. We have succeeded in accomplishing what we set out to accomplish, but we still have more work to do.

I’m pleased to share that I will be staying on as your state chairman for another year to mentor and groom my replacement. Our state board has documented enhanced goals to stay the course, and we plan to focus on creative solutions to meet a few key goals and objectives. One key goal is to restructure our state so we can achieve long-term success and effectiveness that will optimize our efficiencies and bottom-line profitability for grassroots fundraising.

Following is our new state structure:

Please feel free to contact me any time at (530) 249-3286 or lowdownm@msn.com. I welcome your input and feedback.

Thank you for your continued support, and remember to take a kid hunting,

Mark Low
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ATTENDEES AT THE DU STATE CONVENTION IN ROHNERT PARK - HAVING A GOOD TIME
The national convention held in Portland, Oregon, this past May was a roaring success. More than 800 DU supporters were in attendance. The opening act was a very festive celebration of Native American culture from all over the country, featuring music and dancing from the Painted Sky Northstar Dance Company, based in Portland.

During the festivities, president elect George Dunklin Jr. shared his story of growing up near Stuttgart, Arkansas, the Duck Hunting Capital of the World, and how he became involved with DU. George’s friends - including Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe - also discussed the lifelong commitment to conservation that led George to become president of the world's leading wetlands and waterfowl conservation organization.

There were a number of guest speakers including Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Portland resident and Columbia Sportswear CEO Tim Boyle and Bass Pro founder John L. Morris, to name a few.

During his remarks, Johnny Morris presented DU CEO Dale Hall with a check for $76,000 to celebrate DUs 76th anniversary was presented to DU. Display models of the racecar and truck were also on site to show a mockup of the DU logo and overall skin for the Daytona and Talladega races.

There were a number of video presentations. You can experience what it was like at the convention by clicking here to watch a series of Youtub video presentations. All videos and guest speakers are featured on this site. One in particular showcases DU’s plan to ensure a strong future for ducks and geese and their wetland habitats, as well as the people who enjoy and depend on them. The State of the Ducks report and video highlights some of these challenges and DU's solutions.
A one-day business session was held on Friday, which allowed folks to go out on their own all day Saturday before the evening’s gala and auction.

Those who attended convention participated in a host of activities in the Portland area, which are still listed at http://www.ducks.org/nationalconvention. Everyone who attended got several great discounts to local shops and restaurants, including a generous 30%-off coupon for Columbia and Mountain Hardwear for outdoor apparel and gear.

GEORGE DUNKLIN JR. ELECTED 42ND PRESIDENT OF DUCKS UNLIMITED

During DU’s annual convention, our organization’s leaders proudly welcomed 30-year volunteer, George Dunklin Jr., of Humphrey, Ark., as DU’s 42nd president. George succeeds John Newman, who now serves as chairman of the board.

“I am honored and humbled beyond words to become president of Ducks Unlimited,” George told convention attendees who were gathered in Portland, Oregon. “So many great leaders helped bring me to this place in my conservation career, and I am determined to make them proud during my presidency. And far beyond that, I am committed to continuing to grow and shape this great organization, strengthen our bonds as Team DU and reach or exceed all our goals over the next two years.”

George’s plans for his presidency include ensuring the ongoing success of DU’s fundraising event system, building on the more than 13 million acres of habitat conservation work, growing DU’s youth and education program to recruit and train tomorrow’s conservationists and working to meet the objectives laid out in the organization’s national business plan.

“George is the very model of not only a DU volunteer but the finest order of waterfowl and wetlands conservationist,” said DU CEO Dale Hall. “He has made conservation his life’s work and is committed to ensuring a strong future for waterfowl across the continent. He sees the big picture and the importance of conserving not only waterfowl habitat in his home state, but critical prairie breeding grounds to the north and Gulf Coast wintering areas to the south.”

George has built a lasting legacy within the Ducks Unlimited family, beginning as a grassroots volunteer more than three decades ago. From there, he moved through the ranks to become Arkansas state chairman, an at-large member of DU’s board of directors, senior advisory vice president for conservation and finally the organization’s first vice president before becoming president this year. He is also a DU major sponsor and a member of Wetlands America Trust, the foundation arm behind Ducks Unlimited.

George has reinforced his commitment to Ducks Unlimited many times throughout the years, including when he was selected in 2009 as the Budweiser Conservationist of the Year. This award allowed him to select DU to receive a $50,000 grant from Budweiser and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support a conservation project at Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area, a popular public hunting area east of Pine Bluff.
PAUL R. BONDERSON JR. ELECTED FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF DUCKS UNLIMITED

During Ducks Unlimited’s annual convention held recently in Portland, Oregon, Sacramento native Paul R. Bonderson Jr. was elected first vice president.

For the past four years, Paul has led the Conservation Programs Committee, and under his watch, DU reached a milestone 76 years in the making when DU surpassed 13 million acres of waterfowl habitat conserved.

As first vice president, Paul will advise and represent DU’s president. He will also work directly for the president on special assignments and represent the president at functions he is unable to attend.

“Paul is one of the most conservation-minded people I know,” said DU President George Dunklin Jr. “His commitment to and passion for the outdoors are unsurpassed. He’s a dedicated leader and true friend to DU. I’m excited to help continue the significant progress we’ve made under his leadership as Conservation Programs Committee chair.”

Paul has been a member of DU’s board of directors for the past seven years, serving as regional vice president, senior flyway vice president and senior advisory vice president for conservation. He is also a member of the Wetlands America Trust board. He is married with two children and is the retired founder and chief technology officer of Brocade Communications.

Ducks Unlimited will visit the top two NASCAR superspeedways in the coming months thanks to a new partnership with Bass Pro Shops. The No. 14 Sprint Cup Series car driven by Tony Stewart will race under the lights at Daytona International Speedway on July 6 and the No. 3 Camping World Truck Series truck driven by Ty Dillon will race at Talladega Superspeedway on Oct. 19. Both vehicles will have DU logos displayed prominently for their respective races.

The special logo wraps came as a surprise during Bass Pro founder John L. Morris’ speech to national convention-goers in Portland, Oregon.

Ducks Unlimited and Bass Pro Shops are teaming up again this August for Ducks Unlimited Conservation Month. With every $2 donation made to DU's conservation efforts through Bass Pro’s website, donors will be entered to win one of 10 $500 Bass Pro Shops gift cards.

"We have been proud partners of Bass Pro Shops for many years, and this month-long tribute to DU's wetlands and waterfowl conservation mission is a great way to celebrate that bond," said DU CEO Dale Hall. "We are grateful to Bass Pro and its loyal patrons for their generosity and dedication to the future of the resource and our hunting heritage."

Bass Pro Shops is one of America's premier outdoor retailers with destination outdoor retail stores across America and Canada, serving more than 75 million sportsmen and women each year. To learn more about Bass Pro's Ducks Unlimited Conservation Month or to make a donation to DU's conservation mission, please visit www.basspro.com/du or visit your local Bass Pro Shops.
WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECTS

DU Projects – Pacific Flyway

The Pacific Flyway stretches 4,000 miles north to south and 1,000 miles east to west. From the Arctic to the west coast of Mexico and the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, this flyway encompasses the most varied waterfowl habitats in North America.

The westernmost U.S. flyway includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington; portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming west of the Continental Divide; and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta; and the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

DU’s top conservation priority areas in this flyway include the Central Valley and Pacific coast of California, the Pacific Northwest and the Western Boreal Forest.

DU and its partners have conserved more than 984,000 acres of waterfowl habitat in the U.S. portion of the Pacific Flyway alone.

DU Receives $1 Million Grant for Conservation Work in Northeastern California

By Wendy Hopkins, Regional Communications Manager, DU Western Region

Ducks Unlimited was recently awarded a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant to conserve 6,460 acres of habitat in northeastern California. DU's Western Region staff will collaborate with federal, state and local partners and private entities to deliver the Fall River Valley-Big Valley Wetlands Project. Approximately $2.5 million in partner funds will be paired with $1 million in NAWCA grant funds to underwrite wetlands restoration and enhancement activities. This is the first NAWCA grant project to be implemented in this focus area.

The Fall River Valley and Big Valley region overlaps the Southern Oregon-Northeast California (SONEC) region, which has been identified as one of the most important areas in North America for spring migrating waterfowl. SONEC is comprised of seven primary sub-basins, with the Fall River Valley-Big Valley region corresponding to the northeast California sub-basin. This region annually supports approximately 7.7 million waterfowl-use days during spring migration and is critical to migrating shorebirds and water birds.

Federal funding will allow DU and its partners to restore or enhance 4,921 acres of seasonal wetland, wet meadow, emergent marsh and riparian wetland habitats, as well as 1,103 acres of associated uplands. Project-related actions have already permanently protected 436 acres on a private working ranch that includes 161 acres of wetland and riverine/riparian habitats and 275 acres of mixed deciduous-coniferous uplands.
"The Fall River Valley-Big Valley region is a major link for migratory birds, connecting the Klamath Basin and Oregon Closed Basin in the north to southern wintering grounds in the Central Valley," said John Ranlett, regional biologist for DU. "Wetland and upland habitat improvements provided by this project will benefit numerous waterfowl, shorebirds, other water birds and songbirds that use the area in fall and spring migration, including northern pintails, mallards, American wigeon, green-winged teal; white-fronted, snow, Ross's and Canada geese; sandhill cranes; and long-billed curlews.

More than a dozen partners have worked with DU over the past two years to develop the project proposal and apply for the NAWCA grant: Fall River Ranch Partnership, Kramer Ranch, Shasta Land Trust, Western Agricultural Services, Fall River Resource Conservation District, Todd Sloat Biological Consulting, Steve Gaines, California Natural Resources Agency, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and North American Wetlands Conservation Council.

DU JUST ONE OF MANY OUTDOOR ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSING AB 711
Banning Traditional Ammunition Would Kill Conservation Funding, Jobs and Economy
By Wendy Hopkins, Regional Communications Manager, DU Western Region

Ducks Unlimited is just one of dozens of conservation organizations opposing California Assembly Bill 711, legislation that would ban the use of traditional ammunition for hunting.

The collective group, including the Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Boone and Crockett Club and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, recently submitted a joint letter to California’s Senate Natural Resources Committee citing numerous reasons for defeating the bill: “AB711 would be devastating to the thousands of Californians that participate in hunting and recreational shooting, the firearms and ammunition industries as well as the vital conservation programs they fund. Shooting sports participants and manufacturers are the largest financial supporters of wildlife conservation throughout the United States, having contributed over $5.4 billion to habitat conservation, recreational shooting and wildlife management through Pittman-Robertson excise tax payments since 1991.”

The letter also noted “…reduction in hunting opportunities would serve as a significant threat to the many economic benefits that sportsmen and women currently generate in California. For example, in 2011, the 394,471 California hunters alone paid nearly $153.3 million in state and local taxes and employed 20,640 people that paid more than $758 million in salaries and wages. Further, hunters were responsible for over $1.1 billion in retail sales, which had a multiplier effect of nearly $2.17 billion. AB711 would threaten all of these astounding totals to the severe detriment of the state’s economy.”

From a conservation perspective, DU’s Western Region Director Mark Biddlecomb says AB 711 would also have a critical impact on funding.

“The ban on the use of lead ammunition is one waterfowlers addressed many years ago; we haven’t used lead shot since the 1990s,” he said. “But AB 711 could seriously impact wildlife conservation efforts because the excise taxes firearms and ammunition industry members pay on their products is a major source of revenue for our conservation projects.”

The full contents of the letter to the Senate Natural Resources Committee can be viewed at www.ducks.org.
DU STATEMENT ON FIREARMS

DU knows that many of you have been following the recent debate on potential gun-control legislation. The potential for new firearms regulations or legislation is a complicated and divisive issue, and while there are no simple answers to the problem of reducing violence in our country, DU will continue to remain steadfast and focused on our mission of wetlands and waterfowl conservation, and in our support for hunters and a continued strong waterfowling tradition.

Ducks Unlimited was founded by hunter-conservationists 76 years ago, and conservation remains our mission. DU is first and foremost an organization dedicated to conserving wetlands for waterfowl, and the majority of our members are hunters. DU strongly supports the right to bear arms and believes that with that right comes a responsibility to use firearms lawfully and safely. The ownership and use of firearms is intertwined with wildlife management and conservation in North America, and we strongly support hunting. Without hunters and recreational shooters and their financial contributions through hunting licenses and excise taxes on sporting arms, national conservation funding would be decimated. We will continue to hold ourselves to the highest standards of gun safety, hunting ethics, and responsible firearms ownership and use.

NEW SEASON OF DUCKS UNLIMITED TV BEGINS JULY 1

The world's leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation teams up with the Outdoor Channel to bring you Ducks Unlimited Television. DU-TV celebrates a legacy of conservation and DU's rich waterfowling heritage. Travel with host Field Hudnall as he hunts and explores the flyways of North America. DU-TV will be back this summer. Beginning July 1, DU-TV will air three times a week—Mondays at 12:00 pm, Saturdays at 8:00 pm, and Tuesdays at 10:00 am (all times Eastern).

In addition to great hunting action each week, pick up useful tips on shooting and hunting from expert Wade Bourne while you learn more about waterfowl, waterfowl habitat, and conservation. Don't miss an episode! Show descriptions coming soon. Contact Eric Keszler at (901) 758-3793 or ekeszler@ducks.org.

Host Field Hudnall went on his first duck hunt when he was 8 years old. He has been hooked ever since. Field is not only a designer and builder of hunting calls, he is also one of best callers in the world. He is the only caller ever to win a world goose calling title and a world duck calling title in the same night, and is the only caller ever to win the prestigious International Goose Calling Championship back to back.

"Having grown up watching Ducks Unlimited Television and supporting Ducks Unlimited, I could not be more proud to be a part of this show," said Field. "I am proud to be supporting Ducks Unlimited and their mission to conserve wetlands and waterfowl across North America. After traveling all over the US and Canada, and having the opportunity to see the work that DU is doing, I am confident there is no better way to ensure the future of our waterfowling heritage than to support DU."
WHY WETLANDS ARE CRITICAL WATERFOWL HABITAT

Every species of duck, goose and swan in North America depends on wetland habitat throughout their life cycle.

DU's programs reach from the arctic tundra of Alaska to the tropical wetlands of Mexico and South America. We are restoring native grasslands in the Great Plains, restoring bottomland hardwood forests in the lower Mississippi River Valley, protecting and enhancing the Chesapeake Bay watershed and protecting and improving wetland habitats in the Central Valley of California and the Coastal Prairies of Texas, just to name a few.

HOW DO I START A DU PROJECT ON MY LAND?

The first test is to assure that the proposed project fits the DU mission and objectives of DU's Priority Areas and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Next, DU's staff needs to determine whether it is viable from biological and engineering standpoints. Once these hurdles are cleared, the project is placed in priority order for funding. Higher priority goes to projects where the landowner will cost-share or contract with DU to deliver the project.

HOW DOES DU DETERMINE WHERE TO DO A CONSERVATION PROJECT?

With limited funds available, DU must make every effort to assure that conservation dollars are expended as wisely, competently and efficiently as possible. Conservation priorities are defined in DU's International Conservation Plan. Proposed projects must fit the objectives of this plan and must be feasible from biological, engineering and financial standpoints.

WHY DOES DU CONDUCT CONSERVATION RESEARCH?

DU's research focuses on issues of fundamental importance to the design and effectiveness of wetland and waterfowl conservation programs. This research is conducted through DU Inc.'s regional offices, and DU Canada's Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research (IWW). Each DU regional office has a Director of Conservation Planning who coordinates DU research in that region. DU typically enlists the expertise and cost-sharing of university partners and government agencies. Private foundations are also important partners in supporting DU research. DU catalyzes these joint efforts and ensures that more of the research done by universities benefits DU’s mission and conservation programs. Read more about IWW research on the DU Canada website.
JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
By Dawan Lee, California DU State Treasurer

You can join California Ducks Unlimited on Facebook. Simply visit http://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaDucksUnlimited and become a fan today! Once you join, you’ll be part of California state social networking community. Catch up on California DU news, read national and state updates and alerts and stay on top of our statewide banquets and special events. All this is just a mouse-click away! We promise we’ll make it worth your while and you may find that you enjoy communicating with fellow DU volunteers through private or public messages or the Facebook chat feature.

Since joining Facebook in 2012, California DU’s fan base has grown to nearly 1,300. I personally try to keep everyone informed about projects that are going on and/or coming out of the Western Region Office. Every state banquet/event is recognized on our page to advertise the events and help boost ticket sales. I also keep our Facebook members updated on topics like the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Western Boreal Forest and Prairie Pothole Region.

Our goal is to reach 2,000 Facebook friends by the end of the summer and the start of the California waterfowl season, as well as creating a photo album for each chapter. We will be adding more videos of events and projects around California and we will keep our Facebook page up to date.

Be part of the California Ducks Unlimited network. Join us and keep up with DU news from across our state and the nation. Stay informed about Ducks Unlimited issues and projects. But, more importantly, stay connected to the people who share your love for the outdoors and interest in protecting and preserving our precious wetlands.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!
CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

Gilroy Chapter – April 27
By Doug Kalpakoff, State Chairman Elect

The Gilroy Chapter’s 36th Annual Dinner was held April 27 at the picturesque Gilroy Lodge on the Hill. Chef Dave Bozzo catered the event and served BBQ ribs, chicken and tri-tip with all the fixings. If you are looking for an ideal location with a peaceful surroundings, excellent service and delicious cuisine for your wedding reception, anniversary celebration, family reunion, memorial, off-site business meeting, prom or dinner fundraiser, consider the Gilroy Lodge on the Hill. They did an outstanding job for our event! They offer a spectacular view from their Valley View room, which can make your event special.

More than 160 DU supporters were in attendance, including 18 Greenwings and seven Sponsors.

There was a group of Wounded Warriors/Freedom Hunters that were sponsored by Gilroy Committee member Jim Tonkin. Each was recognized and given a DU Military Coin.

Attendees had a great time and some of the previous DU committee members were very happy to be back at the former Elks Lodge, where it all started 36 years ago.

In addition to the many lovely DU items in the raffle and auctions, there were donated duck, turkey and pig hunts. These hunts were a big hit and helped the chapter generate more than $30,000 for the ducks!

Greenwing chairman Bill Culbertson did an excellent job ensuring the Greenwings were kept busy and had a good time. Every Greenwing in attendance won a prize and went home with a goody bag.
MODOC COUNTY SPORTSMAN’S EXPO JR. DUCK CALLING CONTEST

The Modoc Outdoor Recreation and Tourism held its annual Sportsman's and Outdoor Expo on June 22-23. It was hosted by the Desert Rose Casino Event Center in Alturas. This two-day event was free to the public, and the intent was to market and promote northeastern California (Modoc County) as a premier outdoor recreation destination area.

There was a special display showcasing decades of trophy mule deer, pronghorn antelope and Rocky Mountain elk, taken only in Modoc from the early 1900 to the present. Other activities included a 3-D archery shoot and the ever-popular youth duck calling contest, atlatl throw, hang-gliding simulator, bird-watch walk, fly-fishing demonstrations and much more. There was also a variety of displays, vendor booths, raffles and prizes.

DU was present and hosted the Jr. Duck Calling contest on Saturday. DU set up an attractive display showcasing the organization’s great conservation work and provided duck calls for all of the participants. Regional Director Jim Giampaolo was present to judge the contest. According to Jim, “It was a great event and there were some awful cute kids.”
The Rodgers family has been involved with Ducks Unlimited for more than 30 years, when Jim Rodgers put on the first Milpitas Chapter banquet. I have had the pleasure of knowing this family and the great work they've done for Ducks Unlimited during the past three decades.

Jim was the Mayor of Milpitas back in 1983 and was concerned about our continent’s wetlands. He felt that conservation needed more leaders with commitment to support DU’s wildlife habitat work. As a result, Jim put on the first Ducks Unlimited banquet at the senior center in Milpitas, with 75 people in attendance.

Two years later, he had to move the banquet to a bigger facility to accommodate the 200 people who wanted to attend. The move brought the banquet to the Milpitas Community Center (the Mayor’s town hall). Three years later, Jim was forced to move again to the Napredak Hall to accommodate 300 DU supporters. The Milpitas banquet continues to be held at Napredak today, even though more and more people want to attend and many are turned away because the hall cannot accommodate them.

Jim Rodgers believed it was important for children to understand the value of wetlands and the many species of wildlife that depend upon them. To Jim, recruiting the next generation was critical to the future of the resource, so he took his son, Steve, under his wing and coached and mentored him until he was ready to take over the Milpitas Chapter. That was 18 years ago!

The Milpitas Chapter was honored in 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2012 for being one of the Top 100 chapters in the nation. They have raised more than $1 million for Ducks Unlimited to date. Next year Steve and his committee will put on the chapter’s 30th annual banquet. Steve hopes to make it the biggest and best fundraiser ever!

Steve and his wife, Beckie, have a son, two daughters and one 4-year-old grandson. Like his father, Steve believes that today’s youth are tomorrow’s conservation leaders. It’s up to all of us to instill an appreciation of wetlands and waterfowl in our children and grandchildren so they will grow up to share our conservation ethics and continue DU’s conservation work. According to Steve, “One of the best investments we can make is to educate future generations about the importance of wetlands and waterfowl habitat.”

When I started the Greenwing event at Coyote Sporting Clays 16 years ago, Steve provided the meals through his catering company. After five years, I stepped down and Steve took over as Chairman of the event. Steve served in that position until he too stepped down. The event is no longer a DU event. It is now a South County Sportsman’s affair that is a sell-out every year, with 150 kids attending with their parents. Steve was there this last month to help out once again!

It is no surprise to me that Steve is now grooming his son, Christopher, in the food department for his Milpitas banquet. My guess is the Milpitas Chapter will have a Rodgers at the helm to carry the torch for the next generation!

Congratulations to the Rodgers family for 30 years of outstanding DU support!
NORTH STATE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY - SATURDAY, JULY 27

The north state volunteer appreciation day will be a time to celebrate and recognize those who unselfishly pledge their time, commitment, dedication and skills to Ducks Unlimited. It is a time for sharing successes, honoring individuals and chapters, spending time with other DU supporters, eating a good meal and sharing a little fun and camaraderie. We hope you will join us to see some examples of the great work DU is doing in California and meet many dedicated DU volunteers, staff and biologists that all work together to save our wetlands.

The north state volunteer appreciation day will be held Saturday, July 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Rolling Hills Casino in Corning. A complimentary lunch will be provided. Volunteers are encouraged to register online at www.ducks.org/california. For additional information, please contact Dave King at 530-347-6555.

The Mission of Ducks Unlimited

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America’s waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.
UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

Attend a local event in your area and take part in the fun while supporting the mission of Ducks Unlimited. Traveling or vacationing? You can find an event on the California Ducks Unlimited website. Traveling out of state? Simply select the state you will be visiting in the dropdown menu at the top of the California DU webpage and that state’s upcoming events will be listed for you to browse. Don’t miss an opportunity to show your support and have fun at the same time!

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<tr>
<th>Chapter/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tri-Valley Banquet</td>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>John Faires Jr. @ 510-331-8971</td>
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<td>Oroville Sponsor Event</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Dan Daniluke @ 530-534-8126</td>
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<td>Half Moon Bay Banquet</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>David Costa @ 650-888-4229</td>
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<td>Region 1 Volunteer Appreciation, Corning</td>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>Jim Giampaolo @ 530-510-3651</td>
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<td>Anderson Banquet</td>
<td>Aug 3</td>
<td>Leonard Brumana @ 530-347-6459</td>
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<td>San Jose Sponsor Event</td>
<td>Aug 14</td>
<td>John Baker @ 408-377-7647</td>
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<td>San Gabriel Valley Banquet</td>
<td>Aug 23</td>
<td>Jack Weleba @ 626-446-9246</td>
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<td>Beach Cities Banquet</td>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Howard Hull @ 714-546-4480</td>
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<td>Palo Alto Banquet</td>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Jack Dolan @ 408-203-9647</td>
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<td>Greater Redding Waterfowl Hunter Party</td>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>Bob Richardson @ 530-243-0595</td>
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<td>San Diego Banquet</td>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>Zach Reyes @ 818-402-3336</td>
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<td>Hollister Banquet</td>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>Daniel Novack @ 408-315-6195</td>
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<td>Auburn Banquet’</td>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Bill Eisley @ 530-984-3073</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Jose Banquet</td>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Mike Putz @ 408-489-0044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno Clay Shoot</td>
<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>Jon Wills @ 559-301-6445</td>
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Whether you are a longtime DU supporter, or a first-time member, News from the Nest is YOUR California DU newsletter. For any aspiring writers and photographers, what makes News from the Nest truly ours are stories and photos by California DU members. Please take the time to send me a story or photos of your events, members, conservation projects, Greenwing activities, trips, or whatever you feel is important to share.

It is my goal to provide articles relating to national and local conservation news, events, outdoor adventures, hunting, regulations, and much more. With your help, we can make News from the Nest a publication that we all look forward to reading.

Rich Dengler, California Ducks Unlimited Newsletter Editor
rich.dengler@sbcglobal.net