MESSAGE FROM THE STATE CHAIRMAN
Mark Low

Hello DU Members and Volunteers,

As I write this letter, I am reflecting back on the past three years and am very proud of the work we have all accomplished. I'm down to less than one month remaining as California's State Chairman and will soon be passing the torch to Doug Kalpakoff, who is well qualified to lead our state forward. Doug attended his first DU event in the early 1980s. In 2004 through 2009 he was a Honey Lake chapter committee member. In 2009, Doug took over the Area Chairman position for the Gilroy chapter where they earned the DU President's Award for outstanding contributions. Doug has also been a District Chairman, Leadership and Development Chairman and Assistant State Chairman as a member of the California State Board. I trust you will give Doug a huge California DU welcome.

We have had a great many successes over the past three years and I’m proud to have been a part of the great work all of our avid DU supporters have accomplished. Everyone – state board, volunteers, members, sponsors and donors – has done their part to raise the bar here in California to ensure that the most important waterfowl habitats and the birds we see are conserved for future generations.

Vital fundraising efforts begin with our volunteers, who dedicate themselves to raising money for the ducks. Our volunteer leaders stepped up their recruitment efforts and we grew by 25% bringing our total to 1,350 active volunteers working as part of a team to ensure a strong outdoor heritage for generations to come. We have 82 chapters and a total of 110 events here in California. During the past three years, our volunteers raised $5.5M for the ducks. We grew from $1.2M in FY2011 to $2.1M (projected) in FY2014. Numbers to truly be proud of!

Looking forward, I know we can raise the bar even higher as we still have much to accomplish. I’m confident we can do more because we are all connected through our passion for waterfowl and our undying commitment to seeing DU's mission carried out across North America. As I relinquish responsibilities to Doug very soon, know that I will keep a soft hand on the torch and am sure I will see you at a DU event.

If you are a volunteer or wish to be one, please consider attending our state volunteer day on Saturday, July 19 at the Rolling Hills Casino in Corning. We would welcome you in attendance.

Thank you for your invaluable support, friendship and generosity over the past three years. Please feel free to contact me anytime at (530) 249-3286 or lowdownm@msn.com. I welcome your input and feedback.

Remember to take a kid out to the marsh!
VOLUNTEERS ATTEND A LEADERSHIP WEEKEND
By Jan Young, State Recruitment Chairman

It’s often said that the reason volunteers work for free is because their contributions are priceless! All too often, volunteers and the services they provide are taken for granted because they are always there, quietly working, whether up front or behind the scenes, performing tasks important to the preservation of our precious wetlands. Volunteers are the backbone of DU and so appreciated!

More than 55 volunteers came together the weekend of March 28 to celebrate accomplishments, discuss leadership opportunities, hear from members of the state board and DU staff, enjoy some camaraderie with fellow DUers, tour the beautiful Bird Haven Ranch and its DU wetlands project and to have some fun. Our host, Paul Bonderson, Jr., generously opened his 2,520-acre private duck hunting club for the gathering.

DU California State Chairman Mark Low talked about the role of the District Chairman and the effective, challenging and rewarding volunteer leadership avenues available within California DU. Mark said, “Chapter involvement is often the springboard to other areas of responsibility and growth. The step up from Area Chairman to District Chairman does more than open doors. The same is true for individuals who sit on the state board - all are California DU’s top advocates.”

Mark believes that a well-informed volunteer is not only more likely to make a commitment to DU, but also more apt to make a significant impact on DU’s mission. He is passionate about training and leadership development. According to Mark, “California DU is fortunate to have so many committed leaders who volunteer their time and talent. We have a stellar team of volunteers that help ensure DU’s success in conserving wetlands. New leaders are always welcome and can influence others...
through leveraged and personal relationships. The act of sharing, teaching, leading, giving and working with others can bring a new dimension to one’s life. Anyone with passion for our mission can make a real difference. Both DU and volunteers get something in return!”

Will Johnson, DU Manager of Grassroots Promotions and Events Support, spoke to us about DU Varsity and Ducks University – two national programs that garner more money for the ducks and provide growth in our volunteer and membership base. Will’s presentation was very informative and I’m excited to see how we can leverage the high school and college programs here in California. One attendee, Trent Ackerman of Sebastopol, was so moved by Will’s presentation and the leadership weekend that he wants to build a high school volunteer committee and put on a conservation focused event at his school. If Trent succeeds, California will have its first DU Varsity chapter. Way to go Trent!

DU State Chairman Elect Doug Kalpakoff presented our 2014/15 goals and action plan. Doug’s plan provided clarity, direction, motivation and focus for what we still need to accomplish to see conservation dollars continue to grow. Every generation prepares things for the next and every generation has that responsibility! Our focus moving forward is more people, more fun, and more dollars for conservation!

Jon Rich, DU Managing Director of Gift Planning, discussed DU’s Gift Planning and the many ways to protect one’s estate. He shared information and strategies of wills and trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance, retirement plans and important legislation issues. The take away was that there are only three places for estate distribution – the government if you do not have a will (59% of Americans die with no will/estate plan in place), our loved ones, and charities. Anyone interested in knowing more about DU’s gift planning is encouraged to contact John Rich at (901) 758-3763 or jrich@ducks.org.

Anne Hansen, DU Director of Development, Western Region Office, discussed this year’s business plan, metrics and goals for the major sponsor and feather society programs. She emphasized the importance of annual giving participation. As a result of her passionate overview, six volunteers stepped up and pledged – three people upgraded and three people pledged a life sponsorship.

Mark Smith, the new Director of Government Relations for DU in the Western Region, also presented. Mark oversees policy and political engagement in nine western states (HI, AK, WA, OR, CA, AZ, NV, UT, ID) and in Washington DC. Mark provided insight into the nature of DU’s role in the policy arena, working with both sides of the aisle to prioritize the importance of policies protecting habitat and open spaces and efforts to secure funding for restoration and easement applications. Mark remarked that the driving policy conversations in California, and across the West this year, are all related to water. DU is a strong supporter of a balanced approach to water solutions, including increased storage, water efficiency, multiple benefit projects, and many others. If you would like more information or want to alert Mark about issues that may be happening in your region that the DU staff should be aware of, please contact Mark at (916) 355-5072 or msmith@ducks.org.

Devin Blankenship, DU Communications Specialist, Western Region Office, is new to DU and took the time to introduce himself. Devin joins DU after 14 years in the NBA with the Sacramento Kings, where he was most recently responsible for public relations efforts with the players, coaches and front office staff. As part of his duties with the Kings, he traveled regularly with the team handling high-profile issues, at the same time managing the day-to-day PR operations of the organization in terms of action on the court and working with both local and national media. At different points during his tenure in the NBA, Devin also oversaw the team website and wrote feature stories for the fan magazine. Devin will make a great addition to the Western Regional staff.

I had the opportunity to discuss why DU needs volunteers for secession and growth, and to bring in fresh fundraising ideas. I’m a strong advocate of bringing a friend to an event, someone who has not attended a DU event before because it opens the door to recruitment and more dollars for the ducks. It’s a fact that every new member brings an additional $1,000 in grassroots dollars with them. I also encourage DU supporters to tell the DU story whenever they can and show pride by wearing their DU hats and shirts, and affix a sticker on their vehicles. No matter who you talk to, share a good reason to be part of DU. Wetlands improve the overall health of our environment and support more than 900 wildlife species.
Volunteers benefit too! Volunteering allows one to promote their business, network, meet new people, and have some fun.

In addition to the informative presentations and training, we had the opportunity to shoot sporting clays (I shot terrible!) and tour beautiful Bird Haven Ranch, which is truly a showcase for Sacramento Valley waterfowl and wetlands. The area is well recognized for the large numbers of migrating and wintering waterfowl that it supports. Thank you, Paul!

Overall, it was an outstanding leadership weekend. Grassroots is a significant component to DU’s mission in California, and it is our goal to foster a higher level of understanding between the work of the DU professional staff and the role of the grassroots members in accomplishing DU goals and objectives statewide. Regardless of whether you are looking for updates on policy, membership upgrade, want to establish an estate gift plan, volunteer, or start a new chapter, contact me anytime and I will ensure you are connected with the right people.

Jan Young, State Recruitment Chairman  
(503) 577-5497 (cell), janyoungducks@gmail.com

JOIN THE TEAM: VOLUNTEER FOR DU!
HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE
By John Dunn, State Youth & Education Chairman

High school and college chapters are playing an increasingly important role in Ducks Unlimited's conservation mission. In 2013 alone there were 25 high school chapter events and 109 university events held across the nation with more than $1,165,000 in event income raised.

DU recognizes that vibrant and strong high school and college programs are the key to a healthy future for wetlands conservation, and a strong emphasis will continue to be placed on the development of what have been very successful programs.

DU Varsity

High school students across the country are starting DU Varsity chapters and attending local events. You too can join the DU Varsity team and earn your letter!

If you are a high school student looking for some new challenges that will expand your horizons and increase your skills, DU offers the opportunity to join other students who have a common interest in wetlands conservation.

Many high schools require a certain amount of community service or volunteer work of their students. Even if it is not required in your school, volunteer work is a way to build on existing skill sets, meet people, add to a resume and stand out on a college application. High school students who show extracurricular activities such as volunteer work have a leg up on the competition when being admitted to colleges and universities.

If you would like to learn more about what is involved in setting up a high school event at your school, please contact John Dunn, at (831) 438-6683 or johndunnDU@hotmail.com.
Ducks University

**College students** around the country are flocking to Ducks University events to have a great time for a great cause. We invite you to join your fellow classmates on campus and bring the fun and excitement of Ducks Unlimited to your school.

Ducks University volunteers get involved for a variety of reasons including:

- Social Functions
- School Pride
- DU Merchandise
- Networking Opportunities
- Leadership Development

Regardless of what brings you to Ducks Unlimited, the potential for growth and cultivation of a chapter and yourself is truly ‘unlimited’ and DU invites you to join in any capacity that you please.

If you would like to learn more about what is involved in setting up a college event on your campus, please contact John Dunn at (831) 438-6683 or johndunnDU@hotmail.com.

**Already have a university chapter?** Join other university chapter volunteers August 1–3 at Ducks Unlimited National Headquarters in Memphis, TN for the Ducks University Leadership Summit and find out what is new with DU and learn ways to make your university or college more successful. The meeting will be highlighted by a presentation from Ducks Unlimited CEO Dale Hall and Advisory Vice President Ronal Roberson. Numerous other speakers are scheduled to offer an in-depth look into all aspects of DU organizational operations, including conservation achievements, new programs and the fundraising efforts that drive DUs mission. There will also be dedicated breakout sessions designed to give attendees in-depth knowledge of the techniques and strategies that make Ducks Unlimited the world's greatest wetlands conservation organization.

**thirdterm**

**What:** Ducks University Leadership Summit  
**Where:** Ducks Unlimited National Headquarters (Memphis, TN)  
**When:** Friday, August 1 – Sunday, August 3, 2014  
**Who:** University Chapter Volunteers  
**Space is limited to the first 120 registrants** so be sure to book your spot early!

To register for the summit, click the Register Now button
Agenda Information

August 1
Arrivals to Memphis Hilton (host hotel)
Noon – Summit Registration in hotel lobby
6:00pm – Welcome reception at Ducks Unlimited National Headquarters
7:30pm – Group dinner at Ducks Unlimited National Headquarters

August 2
9:00am – Summit Business Session
Noon – Group Lunch
1:00pm – Breakout meetings
5:00pm – Hospitality
6:00pm – Memphis-style BBQ dinner
7:30pm – Hospitality and social event featuring raffles, games, drawings and prizes

August 3
Departures

Accommodations Information

All hotel arrangements as well as transportation to and from Ducks Unlimited National Headquarters will be provided. All room assignments will be double occupancy unless otherwise requested by the registrant. Registrants should plan to arrive by 5:00pm Friday, August 1.

Hilton Hotel
939 Ridge Lake Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38120

Thank you for all that you do for Ducks Unlimited! We look forward to seeing you in Memphis!

For additional information, contact Mark Horobetz, Youth & Education Coordinator, National Headquarters at (901) 758-3892 (Office), (901) 517-8312 (Cell) or mhorobetz@ducks.org

High school and college chapters are playing an increasingly important role in Ducks Unlimited’s conservation mission.
FEDERAL DUCK STAMPS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

The Federal Duck Stamp turned 80 on March 16.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, or duck stamp, into law on March 16, 1934. The first federal duck stamp featured a drawing completed in just one hour by Jay “Ding” Darling of two mallards – it was meant as an initial sketch but was used as the final artwork to meet a quick printing deadline.

Ding Darling wore many "hats" during his lifetime: cartoonist, conservationist, and "the man who saved ducks" among them. Although he claimed conservation as a hobby, his achievements in conservation at all levels – local, state, and national – were numerous and lasting.

The original stamp sold for $1 and the price has only been raised seven times in its history. Funds raised from federal duck stamp sales contribute to the conservation of important wetland habitat across the United States, but especially in the Prairie Pothole Region. Since its enactment, duck stamp sales have conserved more than 6 million acres of waterfowl habitat across the country.

The buying power of the federal duck stamp has never been lower over its 80-year history. It has been 23 years since the last increase to bring the price of the stamp to $15, the single longest period without a price increase in the program’s history.

Sen. Mark Begich of Alaska is the lead sponsor of Senate Bill 1865, which would raise the price of the federal duck stamp to $25. The Congressional Budget Office found that because the federal duck stamp is a user fee, such a price increase would have no net impact on federal spending.

Ducks Unlimited supports this effort to ensure that the investment waterfowl hunters have made into protecting waterfowl habitat over the last 80 years is not wasted, and to continue the conservation tradition of the duck stamp. Ask your legislators to support raising the price of the federal duck stamp, too.

ARTISTS SOUGHT TO ENTER 2014-2015 CALIFORNIA STATE DUCK STAMP ART CONTEST

Artists are invited to submit their original artwork to the 2014-2015 California Duck Stamp Art Contest. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will accept submissions from April 25 through May 23. The contest is open to U.S. residents who are 18 years of age or older as of February 19, 2014. Entrants need not reside in California. The winning artwork will be reproduced on the 2014-2015 California Duck Stamp. The top submissions will also be showcased at the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association’s art show in July.

The artwork must depict the species selected by the California Fish and Game Commission, which for the 2014-2015 hunting season is the scaup (lesser or greater). The design is to be in full color and in the medium (or combination of mediums) of the artist’s choosing, except that no photographic process, digital art, metallic paints or fluorescent paints may be used in the finished design. Photographs, computer-generated art, art produced from a computer printer or other computer/mechanical output device (air brush method excepted) are not eligible to be entered into the contest and will be disqualified. The design must be the contestant’s original hand-drawn creation. The entry design may not be copied or duplicated.
from previously published art, including photographs, or from images in any format published on the Internet.

All entries must be accompanied by a completed participation agreement and entry form. These forms and the official rules are available online at www.dfg.ca.gov/duckstamp. Entries will be judged at a public event to be held in June. The judges’ panel, which will consist of experts in the fields of ornithology, conservation, and art and printing, will choose first-, second- and third-place winners and an honorable mention.

Since 1971, CDFW’s annual contest has attracted top wildlife artists from around the country. All proceeds generated from stamp sales go directly to waterfowl conservation projects throughout California. In past years, hunters were required to purchase and affix the stamp to their hunting license. Now California has moved to an automated licensing system and hunters are no longer required to carry the physical stamps in the field (proof of purchase prints directly onto the license). However, CDFW will still produce the stamps, which can be requested by interested individuals at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/collectorstamps/. Media Contacts: Kyle Orr, CDFW Communications, (916) 322-8958 Melanie Weaver, CDFW Wildlife Branch, (916) 445-3717.

YOUTH WATERFOWL DAY HUNT SUCCESSFUL AT GRAY LODGE WILDLIFE AREA

Junior hunters and their mentors lined up like flocks of ducks at 5 a.m. at the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area check station waiting to sign in and go hunting on Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days Feb. 1 and 2. Only hunters 15 years of age and under accompanied by a non-hunting, mentoring adult were allowed to hunt waterfowl on these dates. By 6:30 a.m. they were scattered across the marshlands of Gray Lodge Wildlife Area ready to go and averaged a little over four ducks each by day’s end.

Cory Macintyre took his 10-year-old son, Alex, and 12-year-old daughter, Kate, to Gray Lodge. The Macintyres recently took up hunting and are learning the skills of duck hunting on public lands. Alex shot a Gadwall duck banded in northeast Oregon in 2007. While Gadwall ducks are very common at Gray Lodge, harvesting a banded one is rare. “This is our first full season of duck hunting and it is a blast but there is a lot to learn,” Cory Macintyre said. “I just hope there is water here next year so I can bring the kids. They are excited and we have a lot invested in shotguns, waders, camo clothes, decoys and shells.”

A successful hunt depends on habitat and in the case of wetlands that means water. Water was significantly limited this year and all irrigation deliveries to Gray Lodge ended in late December. As
drought conditions took hold and no rain fell for longer than 50 days, wildlife managers had to make tough decisions on when and where to put water to maintain wetlands for wildlife. Gray Lodge Wildlife Area’s 9,182 acres provide feeding and roosting habitat for hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese throughout the migratory season, and nesting habitat for resident ducks during the spring and summer.

With 95 percent of California’s historic wetland and riparian areas lost, Gray Lodge is vital to waterfowl and provides habitat to a vast array of native California species, both plant and animal. “It was a real challenge this year to utilize our limited water resources,” said Andy Atkinson, CDFW Senior Environmental Scientist. “Our efforts resulted in providing critical habitat for more than one million ducks and geese that stayed on and in the vicinity of the area for the vast majority of the season and resulted in excellent hunting and waterfowl viewing opportunities.”

Safety standards are of paramount consideration when establishing the number of young hunters accompanied by their mentors that can hunt on a wildlife area. Wildlife managers try to give mentored hunters more room to hunt by increasing the ratio of huntable acres per hunter. This spreads the mentored hunters out more, reduces competition and increases the likelihood of success.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days provide a unique opportunity for mentored hunts for young hunters. Statewide an estimated 20,000 out of 68,000 California waterfowl hunters purchased passes to state-operated hunting programs on wildlife areas and federal refuges in 2012. Media Contacts: Andy Atkinson, CDFW Senior Environmental Scientist, (530) 846-7500 Harry Morse, CDFW Communications, (916) 323-1478.

**DUMAC’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**
By Doug Kalpakoff, California State Chairman Elect

During the Ducks Unlimited National Convention held in Portland, Oregon in May 2013, DU de Mexico (DUMAC) invited the national constituents to join them in February 2014 to help celebrate DUMAC’s 40th anniversary of delivering waterfowl and wetland conservation in Mexico. Their anniversary celebration was held at the Occidental Grand Xcaret in Quintana Roo, Mexico, just south of Cancun. My wife, Shelly, and I had the pleasure of attending. Joining us were State Chairman Mark Low, his wife Jane and Santa Cruz Area Chairman Claudia Caudle and her husband Dan.

Festivities began with a reception and introduction by DUMAC’s President, Rogers Hoyt Jr. We were introduced to the staff of DUMAC, led by DUMAC’s Executive Director Eduardo Gonzalez, and enjoyed a wonderful dinner overlooking the island of Cozumel in the Caribbean Sea. The next day we adventured to the Mayan Ruins and took a bone fishing trip.

We also attended informational seminars that spotlighted the issues DUMAC faces in Mexico. One in particular focused on the growth of shrimp and salt farms which have reduced the mangrove forests in Mexico by 30 percent over the last 20 years. The loss of habitat has been affected by improper planning,
lack of water and, yes, even tourism (You like your hotel on the beach, don't you?).

We heard about DUMAC's Habitat programs. One in particular was the Reserva Program which is the first internationally focused, hands-on training program for natural resource professionals in Latin America. The program's function is to provide practical, fundamental skills to effectively manage wildlife and wild lands.

The grand finale was capped off with dinner and live auction that helped raise "mucho dinero" for DUMAC. All of us had a wonderful time. Many friends were made, and our group enjoyed the warm and gracious hospitality of the DUMAC organization.

CALIFORNIA WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECTS

The Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project
Ducks Unlimited recently completed a wetland restoration project along the North Coast of California, improving habitat and providing other ecological benefits for waterfowl, the Eel River salmon fishery, and people. The Riverside Ranch Restoration Project is the first phase of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project. This 400-acre property, now known as the Salt River Unit of the Eel River Wildlife Management Area, is owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project is a comprehensive, voluntary, landowner-driven effort to restore watersheds throughout the 20-square-mile Salt River basin. The Salt River and Eel River delta is the fourth-largest estuary in California. This landmark project is managed by the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District with support from several partners. Ducks Unlimited collaborated closely with the conservation district to develop, fund, and implement this multiphase project, which has been in various planning stages for nearly 20 years.

The first phase of this project restored natural tidal flows to historical coastal marshes. These restored tidal wetlands will not only provide habitat for waterfowl and fish, but also alleviate spring flooding, improving the productivity of surrounding dairy pastures. In addition, this project will help reduce impacts from grazing Aleutian cackling geese on these pastures.

Ducks Unlimited worked hard over the past three years to bring this project to completion. DU's contributions included fundraising, project development, engineering design, and construction management. In October 2013, when this project was completed, the restored tidal marshes were soon inhabited by mallards, shorebirds, and egrets, signaling the beginning of a new era in the Salt River basin.
Goose Lake Wetland Hydrology Enhancement

Goose Lake, together with Buena Vista and Tulare Lakes, was one of three major wetlands present in the Tulare Basin prior to human settlement. However, modifications to natural rivers and streams for flood control and agriculture production, caused the lakes to dry up, leaving little wetland habitat in the Tulare Basin. Indeed, most of Goose Lake is dry today, but this project seeks to change that. With the crippling drought facing California and west currently, wetland restoration projects seem far out. However, this project will increase wetlands and waterfowl habitat, while conserving and even developing vital water resources with the Tulare Basin. With major Semitropic Water Storage District canals bisecting it (see map), Goose Lake is perfectly situated to capture and store floodwaters when available from State or Federal water projects, and also allow for re-use later. In fact, this project will allow project partners to store and reuse anywhere from 5,000-6,200 acre feet of floodwaters at a given time. In a good year, the wetland could support multiple water storage and reuse events. Another complementary outcome of this project, in addition to the water development benefits, is that this water management scenario will more closely mimic natural hydrologic conditions that occurred historically, and will improve the overall health and productivity of Goose Lake wetlands by flushing out salts and other minerals that have built up over time.

The project activities will provide optimal water management infrastructure for Goose Lake by installing a 100-CFS low-lift pump structure to recover stored water back into SWSD canals for use by nearby farmers. The revenue generated from this sale of water will be used to fund a water account to acquire water to flood onsite and nearby wetlands on a long-term basis. The ability to deliver water to Goose Lake was completed in 2009 with previous NAWCA grant funding. This project completes the full water management portfolio and makes Goose Lake an extremely important floodwater storage project in southern Central Valley. Wetland swales will be excavated and efficient water control structures will be installed to promote waterfowl friendly wetland unit management and to improve water flow to the low-lift pump. Key wetland embankments and levees will be improved to provide habitat management diversity and year-round access to water control structures. By planting native grasses on improved wetland embankments, 2 acres of grassland uplands will be restored. Ducks Unlimited will be partnering with the landowner, Semitropic Water Storage District (who will be providing the low-lift pump and engineering technical assistance), and the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), who, along with NAWCA, will be providing grant funds to provide the pump structure, water control structures, and earthmoving activities. Goose Lake, one of three major wetlands that existed in Tulare Basin will once again be flooded on a more consistent basis and will increase water supply reliability for nearby wetlands and agricultural lands.

Fall River Ranch Wetland Enhancement

This project is located on the 436 acre Fall River Ranch, between Mount Shasta to the north and Mount Lassen to the south, where DU will work with Fall River Ranch Partnership (FRRP), Shasta Land Trust (SLT), and Western Agricultural Services to enhance 19 acres of wet meadow pasture and semi-permanent wetlands and two acres of riparian habitat. The work includes conducting a topographic survey and preparing an engineering design, as well as bidding and managing construction activities. Specific work includes excavating/deepening portions of a spring-fed, semi-permanent wetland to increase habitat diversity in areas being encroached by emergent vegetation, installing a water conveyance pipeline to improve irrigation capability to wet meadow habitat, installing new water control structures to provide proper drain and fill capabilities to wetlands, installing two new cattle watering troughs and associated irrigation lines so that livestock that graze on the property will no longer need to drink from the Fall River and trample its riparian habitat, and installing cattle gates at the current river access watering areas to exclude cattle from the river. DU anticipates delivering this work in 2014.

While this is a small project on private property, DU is working here because they were able to leverage the July 2009 $1.9 million conservation easement acquisition of the 436-acre property by SLT plus
$100,000 bargain sale by FRRP, without which they would have lacked sufficient match to have prepared the successful NAWCA application.

WATERFOWL IDENTIFICATION

California hosts more than 30 different species and subspecies of waterfowl and provides vital winter habitat for about 60 percent of the waterfowl population in the Pacific Flyway. Waterfowl include dabbling ducks, diving ducks, geese and swans. Identifying one species from the other can be tricky. Males and females sometimes differ in appearance, and birds’ plumage colors may vary throughout the year. There are several clues for identifying waterfowl; you will probably need to consider more than one to make a positive ID of the bird you’re observing.

Body and wing shape help to identify a bird. Both swans and geese have long necks that are easily visible when they are in flight. Dabbling ducks swim high in the water and walk around in parks and fields looking for food. Diving ducks' feet are set far back on their bodies. They look awkward on the land and have to "run" across the surface of the water to get airborne.

While shape is important, so is color. Each species of waterfowl has distinctive markings, but some are so similar you might need a close look to make a final identification.
The sound a bird makes can be an important piece of the identification puzzle, too. For example, if you're unsure whether the large white bird on the lake is a trumpeter swan or tundra swan, use your ears. The trumpeter swan honks out a low, drawn-out note and the tundra swan makes a short, high-pitched cry.

Even if you only see birds in distant flight, the way they fly can be a clue to their identity. Geese are recognized by the well-defined V pattern they form in flight. Mallards and other puddle ducks fly in disorganized flocks. Diving ducks fly in single file or irregular V patterns.

The Ducks Unlimited website can help you keep your waterfowl ID skills sharp.

**CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT – DAVIS AGGIES WATERFOWL HUNTER PARTY**

On April 19th, 2014, the Davis Aggies Ducks Unlimited collegiate chapter hosted its first Waterfowl Hunters Party at the Davis Veterans Memorial Center in Davis. The event brought together 136 guests and introduced many new faces to the Ducks Unlimited organization. The evening was hosted by the men of the Phi chapter of the Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity at UC Davis, and the Davis Aggies DU committee comprised of undergraduate students from UC Davis. Men from the AGR fraternity hosted the bar, ran the games, and helped the setup and take down of the evening. Dinner was served halfway through the event, where guests helped themselves to healthy portions of tri-tip, rolls, potato salad, country style baked beans, and green salad. The event had a staffed bar with wine, beer, and cocktails available throughout the night.

A special Davis Aggies DU t-shirt (pictured above) was worn by members of the committee and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity members who helped put on the event.

Corey Mulhair, Chairman of the Davis Aggies Ducks Unlimited chapter, a senior at UCD studying Plant Genetics and Breeding has been hunting waterfowl with his father since he was a young teen. He had this to say about the event: "It was my first DU event in a long time, and I was hosting it. I had been working on the dinner for months and was nervous the day of, but once the party started it didn't take long to realize what a success it had become. I can say that it was a great experience, an incredibly fun evening, and it was just really rewarding to see the hard work put in translated into helping the ducks."

"I've never been to one of these events but with how much fun I had, and my family, too, I will definitely be looking forward to the next one," said US Army Sergeant Daniel Vickers, a member of the AGR fraternity who was involved in the WHP from the start. "Oh, not to mention that my girlfriend was the winner of a general raffle gun!"

The event had 17 firearms, which were raffled or auctioned off, as well as over 50 pieces of hunting gear or DU merchandise items given away in raffle. The auction also featured a couple of prints, a DU engraved shotgun, the GWT decoy, the DU table and barstool set which went for $475 and a milled and painted piece of artwork by Brad Wright that he donated and ended up raising $425. There was also a 7-bottle auction in which each winner of a bottle was entered in a 1 in 7 drawing for his or her pick of a gun from the Great Gun gGiveaway poster. Games included pluck-a-duck and ducky dice, and the event in its entirety raised just under $10,000 to go back to DU for conservation efforts for waterfowl and wetlands.

The Davis Aggies DU chapter members look forward to their next event and they want to thank everyone who attended for their support. They would also like to thank everyone who helped make it possible.
To stay up to date with the Davis Aggies DU, find them on Facebook at

The first gun of the night went to Andrew Patterson of Danville who won the Pick of the Litter Raffle. Andrew went away the owner of a new Benelli Nova! Pictured left to right: Walt from FFL ‘Aim-U-Nation,’ Andrew Patterson, and Corey Mulhair, Chapter Chairman.

US Army Sergeant Daniel Vickers and his girlfriend Sierra with the Remington M597 .22LR they won in the general raffle.

Dylan Seib and Alex Lozinto of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity running the Ducky Dice Table.

Sam Ziadeh (center) of San Jose was the winner of the Ducky Dice Table Raffle for this Remington .30-06.

A lovely raffle ticket girl and merchandise presenter, Andrea Seideman, on stage with Justin Dowdle, EMCEE and Chapter Treasurer.

Left to right: Jim Giampaolo, DU Regional Director, Corey Mulhair, Event Chairman and Brad Wright, DU supporter. Brad donated a piece of hand-milled and painted metal work which sold at auction for $425.
The event featured a $100 progressive pack, which included a Mossberg Turkey THUGS gun 12ga, Jake Turkey Decoy, Turkey Box call, Red Dot sight, and a Tanglefree cooler.

An email received a few days after the event stated: “Mr. Mulhair, I am writing to express my appreciation for the recent DU fundraiser. I am a current graduate student and former undergraduate student of UC Davis and a long time waterfowler. It pleases me greatly to see a DU chapter begin in Yolo County, especially one organized and led by my fellow Aggie students. I was very impressed with the turnout and success of the event; the food was excellent, the atmosphere lively and the raffle prizes were great. I have no doubts that future DU fundraising efforts will be similarly successful and I hope to become more involved with the organization. Thanks very much for your efforts, Tyler McCubbin”.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT – BOB AND LAUNI LOGAN
By Alfred G. Montna, Dingville Duck & Social Club

Bob Logan and his lovely wife, Launi, have been organizing the Dingville DU Chapter’s fundraiser every year since 1990. That’s 25 years! When they started, Bob was the California Sponsor Chairman and Launi was the California Women’s Sponsor Chairman. Under their leadership and assistance, every member of the Dingville Duck Club is a Ducks Unlimited Life Sponsor. That’s 29 people who, together, have invested more than $290,000 into DU’s wetlands habitat conservation work. Bob and Launi are also DU Sponsors in Perpetuity and DU Grand Slam Life Sponsors.

Those funds have gone a long way and have done a lot of good. The first event raised money for the Ladies of DU because of Launi. The next year, the money went to the DU camp for Greenwings. Then club members started directing their giving to the Brooks Alberta area of Canada for Dingville Duck Club projects there. The first hundred thousand dollars went to the 40 Mile Coolie projects south of Brooks. The next area was the Jay Bartsch Marsh project west of Brooks, Alberta, where Dingville members pledged $100,000. Some of that money has rolled over into the California Wetlands Initiative as the project there was completed.

The Logans started volunteering at their local Yuba/Sutter chapter during the 1980s. It was there they learned about giving back to hunting. They have attended many state and national conventions as well as many dinners around the state. According to Launi, “We support DU year after year because we know that all efforts and dollars go to the ducks. When you volunteer with DU, you know you are involved in protecting, enhancing, restoring and maintaining the resources for future generations.”
Bob and Launi share the love of golf, taking vacations together, reading and more golf. They are especially proud of the years they spent with their grandson, Dayton Moore, and teaching him about hunting and the outdoors.

Bob is a strong supporter of DU’s Greenwing program and is well known for promoting Greenwings attendance at fundraising events.

Launi continues to encourage ladies involvement in hunting and participation at DU events.

I’d like to thank all of the Dingville DU Life Sponsors and especially Bob and Launi – it’s a wonderful way to give back to the tradition that we love and to invest in something that truly makes the world a better place – for the ducks, for us and for a lot of other wildlife, too.

Congratulations, Bob and Launi, for being in the spotlight and thank you for all you do for the ducks!

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY – JULY 19**

The state wide volunteer appreciation day will be held at the Rolling Hills Casino in Corning on July 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jim Giampaolo at (530) 510-3651 or jgiampalol@ducks.org.

In addition to volunteer appreciation awards, we will hear from our state chairman, Mark Low, and our incoming state chairman, Doug Kalpakoff, who will address participants on the state of the state and our goals for the coming year. We will also have Mark Smith, Director of Public Policy from DU Western Region Office, and a representative from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in attendance.

Lunch will be provided by California Ducks Unlimited.

There are two hotels on site:

**Inn at Rolling Hills** at the Rolling Hills Casino  
**1-888-331-6400**  
2655 Everett Freeman Way, Corning  
Conveniently located off the I-5 freeway and is across from the Rolling Hills Casino. Complimentary all-you-can-eat hot buffet breakfast

**The Lodge, Vagabond Inn at the Rolling Hills Casino**  
**1-800-522-1555**  
2655 Everett Freeman Way, Corning  
Conveniently located off the I-5 freeway

Also the website for the casino is [www.rollinghills casino.com](http://www.rollinghills casino.com) for hotel information.
MAKE A CONNECTION

Get connected with Ducks Unlimited today and get exclusive updates, tips and tricks and other insider information online. You can find DU on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn.

You can also share content from the DU website on the social web! At the top and bottom of each page, you'll see a handy toolbar that makes it quick and easy to "Like" that page on Facebook and share it with your friends across a variety of social networks.

**Facebook**

Check out [DU National’s Facebook page](#) for the latest updates on conservation, hunting and more. "Like" Ducks Unlimited today and you can join the conversation on [national’s Facebook wall](#), upload fan photos and more! While you're there, show your support by joining [DU's official Cause](#) or using one of our [DU Facebook Timeline Cover Photos](#). More than [655,000 fans](#) and growing!

Check out [DU California’s Facebook page](#) as well for California conservation projects, events, photos, videos, posts and much more. More importantly, stay connected to the people who share your love for the outdoors and interest in protecting and preserving our precious wetlands. Become a fan today! 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.

**Twitter**

If you're looking for quick tips on the go, [follow DU on Twitter](#)! You'll get updates from DU's national headquarters and across the country about the latest DU news, conservation projects, hunting and migration information and more. You can even subscribe to receive [DU tweets](#) on your mobile phone.
**YouTube**

Ducks Unlimited's official YouTube channel has a great collection of videos to help improve your shot, set up your decoys, clean your gear, train your dog and much more. Check out all these videos and subscribe to DU on YouTube today!

**LinkedIn**

Join the official Ducks Unlimited group on LinkedIn and participate in discussion with DU and other group members.

**UPCOMING SPRING 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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placerville Banquet</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Todd Reynolds @ (530) 676-1288</td>
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<tr>
<td>Verdugo Hills Banquet</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>John Wooley @ (818) 248-6106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Bragg Banquet</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Sean Leland @ (707) 367-3430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madera Bragg Banquet</td>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Robert Jones @ (559) 645-2423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contra Costa County Banquet</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>John Paxon @ (707) 580-7485</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetlander’s Banquet</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Pat Britton @ (916) 852-2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara Banquet</td>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Neil Malone at <a href="mailto:sbducksunlimited@gmail.com">sbducksunlimited@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Slo County Banquet</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Bill Rutledge @ (805) 431-2220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half Moon Bay Greenwing Event</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Gabe Tabib @ (650) 712-8308</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yreka/Siskiyou Banquet</td>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>Andy Bridwell @ (530) 459-3354</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fresno Shoot, Sun Mountain Gun Club</td>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Jon Wills @ (559) 301-6445</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half Moon Bay Banquet</td>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>Gabe Tabib @ (650) 712-8308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oroville Sponsor Event</td>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>Dan Daniluke @ (530) 996-8126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region 1 &amp; 2 Volunteer Appreciation Day, Rolling Hills Casino, Corning</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Dave King @ (530) 347-6555</td>
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**EDITOR’S NOTE**

Whether you are a long time 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.