MESSAGE FROM THE STATE CHAIRMAN
Eric Rudgers

California Ducks Unlimited has entered into its new fiscal year bringing with it new senior volunteers and improved forms of communication to all valued DU members and volunteers. In this revised publication of the News from the Nest, I would like to introduce myself as the new Ducks Unlimited California State Chairman and tell you a little about myself so you can see my volunteer history.

I have been involved with DU for almost 50 years, 40 of those have been spent as an active volunteer. I started in the bay area with the Palo Alto and De Anza Chapters before moving to Vacaville and working with that committee in 1981. In the years that followed, I helped start the Three County Sponsor Dinner, the Vacaville Couples Dinner and also helped put on a Marsh Day Event for Greenwings. I retired in 1998 from my paid job and moved to Lake Almanor where I have been involved with the local committee ever since. I have also served as a District Chairman, State Sponsor Chairman and Assistant State Chairman. I believe my history with DU and all the time in the different positions will help me to grow Ducks Unlimited in California.

I am very fortunate to have an outstanding group of volunteers joining me on my two year term as California State Chairman. These senior volunteers working together with me will make up the California Ducks Unlimited State Committee, commonly referred to as the board and/or senior volunteers. This body of appointed members will jointly oversee the activities of California Ducks Unlimited.

Why is your DU membership important? Prior to the Gold Rush, an estimated 4-5 million acres of wetlands were present in California. Now, more than 95% of the historic wetlands and over 90% of the riparian corridors have been destroyed or grossly modified. These wetlands once hosted one the largest concentrations of wintering waterfowl in the world. Now, waterfowl numbers have declined almost in-step with a human population that has surpassed 34 million. Ducks Unlimited is investing in habitat in regions, such as the Boreal Forest and Prairie Potholes, where the vast majority of California’s wintering ducks are produced. To date, Ducks Unlimited has implemented more than 1,300 conservation projects conserving over 638,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands in California alone. Your membership, dollars you contribute at various events throughout the state of California and your continued support help make all of this possible. We need you and more like you to continue the good work.

If you have any feedback or thoughts to share, please contact me at drudgers@frontiernet.net. Thank you again for your membership and all you do for the ducks!
DUCKS UNLIMITED MEMBERSHIP

What does it mean to be a member of Ducks Unlimited? It means you are making a difference. You are helping to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and for the future. Through your support, Ducks Unlimited conserves the most critical wetland habitat for waterfowl, other important wildlife—and you. Last year, DU invested 88 cents of every dollar donated in conservation projects. Join DU today and support the critical conservation work needed to sustain habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Need to renew your membership or upgrade your sponsorship? Click here to renew online today!

HAVE YOU ATTENDED A WATERFOWL HUNTERS PARTY?

Are you a hardcore duck hunter? If so, you will not want to miss a Waterfowl Hunters Party. These Ducks Unlimited fundraising events feature hundreds of Tanglefree decoys, bags, backpacks, gun cases and, of course, shotguns! This is a one-of-a-kind experience. The atmosphere is pure hunting. Hey, if you wear camo not only will you be dressed like most everyone else, you'll be eligible to win a shotgun! Find an event in your area.

JOIN THE DU TEAM!

Volunteer! It's a great way to have fun, meet new people and support DU's critical waterfowl habitat conservation work.

As the heart and soul of Ducks Unlimited, dedicated volunteers across our country manage and coordinate more than 4,000 local fund-raising events, energize college campuses, raise political awareness, and showcase wildlife art!

Join the California Ducks Unlimited team - become a volunteer!
JEAN HULBERT ELECTED SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 28, 2009 – Ducks Unlimited elected Jean Hulbert of Longview, Washington, to serve on its national board of directors as a flyway senior vice president. As flyway senior vice president, Hulbert will represent Ducks Unlimited’s president and board of directors in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Nevada, California, and Hawaii.

Hulbert has been a member of Ducks Unlimited since 1980. She’s served DU as an area zone and district chairman, and on the corporate relations committee. Hulbert is a major sponsor of DU’s conservation mission, and currently serves as Washington’s state campaign chairman. Hulbert also serves on DU’s development committee, is a state trustee and national delegate and serves a member of the emeritus board. Hulbert resides in Longview, with her husband, Dr. Jim Hulbert, who is a former president and chairman of the board of Ducks Unlimited. She specializes in raising cutting horses and bucking bulls, is a registered nurse, avid outdoorswoman, and enjoys dogs, gardening and hunting. Read the full press release.

CHIEF BIOLOGIST SUPPORTS INCREASING VALUE OF DUCK STAMP
Allowing more investment in conservation

WASHINGTON – May 13, 2009 – Ducks Unlimited Chief Biologist Dale Humburg recommended a change to a popular and effective conservation initiative to the House Natural Resources Committee: increase the value of the Federal Duck Stamp.

The price of the stamp has not increased since 1991, when it was set at the current level of $15. However, skyrocketing land prices have greatly diminished the buying power of the stamp in recent years, prompting several attempts to adjust the price. The most recent proposal from Congressmen John Dingell (Mich.) and Rob Wittman (Va.) would increase the price to $25 for the 2010-11 waterfowling season.

"Raising the price to $25 brings the cost of the stamp about equal with the buying power of the $15 stamp in 1991, once you adjust for inflation," said Humburg. "Compare that to the 300% increase in land values that we are seeing in Minnesota, one of the breeding hot spots.”

The Federal Duck Stamp, which is required for all waterfowl hunters age 16 and older, was introduced in 1934. Funds from sales of the stamp have conserved more than 5 million acres of waterfowl breeding, migrating, and wintering habitat across the United States.

"Waterfowlers have invested more than $760 million into the Federal Duck Stamp – and it needs to remain a viable conservation tool if we are going to protect that investment into the future," said Humburg. "In order to ensure that we can continue to protect waterfowl habitat, there must be an increase to the buying power of the Duck Stamp.”

"If we increase the stamp by, $10 we could conserve an additional 16,000 acres of prime waterfowl habitat in just the next year,” said Humburg.
DUCKS UNLIMITED RECEIVES $8.5 MILLION GRANT FOR WORK IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA – Local environment and economy to benefit

RANCHO CORDOVA, Cal., July 1 2009 – The San Francisco Bay area got a boost Tuesday with an $8.5 million grant to stimulate the economy while conserving critical wildlife habitat. The grant was awarded to Ducks Unlimited by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Ducks Unlimited will use the money to restore approximately 1,300 acres of former salt evaporation ponds to estuarine tidal marsh. The project is located at the California Department of Fish and Game Napa-Sonoma Wildlife Area.

“This is a great day, not only for citizens of the San Francisco Bay area, who will soon see $8.5 million pumped into their local economy, but also for millions of waterfowl and other wildlife, including endangered fish and shorebirds,” said Rudy Rosen, Director of DU’s Western Regional Office. “This is one of the largest grants Ducks Unlimited has ever received, and the implications of conservation are huge.”

Ducks Unlimited plans to begin work on the project immediately. It’s part of a much larger complex of restored and soon-to-be restored salt ponds in the San Pablo Bay. The former salt ponds once produced road salt through a complex process of evaporation but the high salinity prohibited aquatic species from thriving in the water. Once restored, the marshes will provide important habitat for multiple threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species, particularly Coho salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, Delta smelt, and least tern and snowy plover.

“This project also lies in the San Francisco Estuary, which is one of the most important staging and wintering habitats for waterfowl in western North America,” said Rosen. “More than 30 species of waterfowl occur here, including fifty percent of the entire flyway’s diving ducks and one of the largest concentrations of wintering canvasbacks on the continent.”

Log on to www.ducks.org/bayarea for video, photos and more information.

DU VOLUNTEERS HOST FIRST BANQUET IN IRAQ

There are more than 4,500 DU events every year, but only one has been held in a combat zone. Pennsylvania Army National Guard soldiers hosted the first-ever banquet on Iraqi soil at Camp Taji, Iraq, on June 13, 2009. Members of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team raffled off and handed out DU pocketknives, hats and even some wild game seasonings. More than 35 new and existing DU members attended the first Iraq banquet and plans to keep the chapter up and running are in place. Sgt. John Chrzanowski, 57, of Erie, Pa., is the chapter chairman and explained that the event offered everyone a link to home.

"This is certainly a first for DU and it's great to see these troops are using DU as something they can relate to home,” said Jim West, group manager of membership and fundraising for DU. "Having a son who spent a year in Iraq, I understand what it means to have something that reminds these soldiers of home, and it means a lot to us at DU to be there for them."

"Showing support for the troops is something DU has always done, whether it is a returning soldier joining the DU TV crew for a waterfowl hunt or just sending care packages to those who have supported us," West explained. "We are a volunteer organization and these soldiers are the rarest breed of volunteer, not only for DU, but also for their country. We look forward to having these soldiers return safely home and appreciate everything they do for our country and for DU."

Read the full story and view additional photos.
WOMEN FOR WETLANDS NETWORK

DU Women for Wetlands is a social network comprised of ladies who have a common interest in wetland conservation and the outdoors, and are active members of Ducks Unlimited. We sponsor events and activities for the whole family that supports DU’s critical waterfowl habitat conservation work.

Primary Goals

- Support Ducks Unlimited’s vision to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.
- Support Ducks Unlimited’s mission to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America’s waterfowl and other wildlife as well as people.
- Appreciate the part Ducks Unlimited plays in conserving and restoring the natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources of our nation’s wetlands... after all, wetlands protect our homes and other property by controlling floods and buffering erosion. They maintain and enhance water quality by filtering pollution and sediment. They provide critical habitat to fish and wildlife as well as hunting and fishing opportunities for sports men and women.

Planned Events and Activities

Wild Game Prep and Cooking Demonstration – Does this sound like fun? This event is for both the hunter and the cook. Come learn to prepare and cook wild game, enjoy a delicious salad with your cooked game, take a tour of the Viansa winery, sample great wine, and quietly stroll Viansa’s wetlands preserve taking in the natural beauty it harbors. This event is being planned now and will soon be posted to the CA website/events.

Viansa Winery
2500 Arnold Drive
Sonoma, CA
Register on line

Educational Walk in the Salt Marsh – Come walk with us at the Hayward shoreline where there will be much to learn about the salt marsh. We will meet at the Interpretive Center and be given an introduction to the ecology of the San Francisco Bay-Estuary. The Interpretive Center features exhibits, programs and activities designed to inspire a sense of appreciation, respect and stewardship for the Bay, its inhabitants and the services they provide. Meet at 2:30 PM for an overview of the park and a short introduction about marsh habitat, and then we will join a naturalist who will take us on an interpretive tour of the salt marsh from 3 to 5 PM where there is abundant wildlife and much to learn about ducks and shorebirds. Don’t forget to bring your camera, a jacket, and your family and friends.

Saturday, November 14, 2009
2:30 to 5:00 PM
Meet in the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center
4901 Breakwater Avenue, Hayward
shoreline@haywardrec.org
Link here to RSVP
**Family Day** – This event is for the whole family! Come and enjoy the outdoors, take an educational walk in the Marsh with a biologist, attend a firearm safety class, learn more about waterfowl by attending any or all of the informative seminars. There will also be a waterfowl hunters party and loads of hamburgers, hotdogs, beer and soft drink.

Saturday, April 10, 2010
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Hollister Land and Cattle Club
24189 Gun Club Road, Gustine
[Register on line](#)

Some of the seminars you and your family can attend:
- Follow a mallard through its annual cycle
- Waterfowl breeding, incubation, and migration
- Are ducks nesting in your back yard? Learn what to do!
- Spring wood duck boxes, and much more.

**Other Planned Events – Watch for Them!**

**Chili Cookoff** - a social event in which competitors prepare their own particular recipe for chili con carne and submit it for taste testing. There will be live music, beer and wine, raffle and auction, and plenty of chili. You won’t want to miss the amazing food and an all around hootin’ hollerin’ good time!

**Power of the Purse** - You have the power ladies... to have a great time with friends, pick up some exciting prizes and auction items, and learn about the incredible work of Ducks Unlimited. Exercise the power of your purse by planning to attend this fun event. Coming soon... maybe in your area.

You can make a difference by joining the Women for Wetlands Network... volunteer your time to help put on one of these fun events... or simply come and have fun.

[Visit DU Women for Wetlands on the web](#).
GREENWING PROGRAM

Junior Greenwings are younger Ducks Unlimited members. By joining DU, they participate in the conservation, restoration and management of wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

Greenwing Privileges

A contribution of $10 makes you a Greenwing member of Ducks Unlimited. As a DU Greenwing member, you can be proud to know that you are one of more than 60,000 young people who love the outdoors and care about protecting wetlands across North America.

A Greenwing membership is for children age 17 or younger and entitles the recipient to:

- A DU membership card and certificate
- Greenwing decals (age 11 and younger)
- Two unique DU decals (one duck head and one DU shield for ages 12-17 years)
- Four issues of Puddler online magazine (ages 11 and younger)
- Six issues of Ducks Unlimited magazine (ages 12-17 years)

GRASSLAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARDS

Dr. Fritz Reid the J. Martin Winton Conservation Award

At the GWD annual landowner meeting, Grassland RCD President William Parham presented the J. Martin Winton Conservation Award “for outstanding achievement in National Resource Conservation” to Dr. Fritz Reid of Ducks Unlimited. The GRCD represents over 170 duck clubs in the San Joaquin Valley of California and the largest remaining wetland/grassland complex in California. The award is named for long-time conservationist J. Martin Winton who for nearly 60 years battled to protect rivers, wetlands and water of the San Joaquin Valley.

Speaking at the award were Grassland Water District Directors Pepper Snyder and Doug Federighi (also a member of Ducks Unlimited Conservation Program Committee), as well as District Manager Dave Widell. Federighi spoke of Reid’s effort throughout the flyway, from Barrow to Baja. He spoke of the effort to
educate duck hunters to the challenges and potential solutions for habitats across the flyway. Most especially, he remarked to the recent efforts with Ducks Unlimited and Pew’s International Boreal Conservation Campaign in helping conserve the entire Canadian Boreal Forest and helping guide full protection for at least fifty percent of this critical waterfowl habitat. This is critical for a wintering ground such as the Grasslands where principal harvest includes greenwinged teal, American widgeon, ring-necked duck, and northern pintail.

Upon accepting the award, Reid said “I am humbled to accept this award because of the great efforts of Grasslands RCD and Water District to protect the integrity of these critical wetlands, but also because of who J. Martin Winton was. Martin joined Ducks Unlimited in its founding year of 1937 and went on to serve as a national trustee from 1967 to 1980. Martin was tireless in his pursuit to conserve the entire Pacific Flyway for ducks, geese and shorebirds.”

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH**
**Plum Duck Lettuce Wraps**

Serving Size: 4 Servings

**Ingredients:**
- 1 - 8 oz Can Crushed Pineapple, well drained
- 1/3 Cup Chinese Plum Sauce
- 2 Tablespoons Sugar
- 1 Tablespoon Rice Wine Vinegar
- 1/2 Teaspoon Red Pepper Flakes
- 1 Teaspoon Toasted Sesame Oil
- 2 Cups of Cooked Duck, chopped or shredded
- 1/2 Cup Green Onions, chopped
- 1 Medium Cucumber, peeled, seeded & chopped
- 2 Fresh Plums, seeded & chopped
- 2 Tablespoons Sesame Seeds, lightly toasted
- 10-12 Large Iceberg or Other Crisp Lettuce Leaves
- 1/2 Cup Fresh Mint Leaves

**Directions:**

1. Prepare your favorite duck, then chop or shred meat.

2. In a large saucepan over medium heat, blend together drained pineapple, plum sauce, sugar, vinegar, red pepper flakes and sesame oil, stirring occasionally, for about 5 minutes. Add duck meat and onions, stirring until well mixed and heated through. Remove from heat. Add cucumber, plums, and sesame seeds, tossing to blend.

3. Before serving, spoon the duck mixture into a serving bowl. Surround with lettuce leaves and mint leaves. To eat, spoon the duck mixture into lettuce leaves and wrap. Add mint leaves as desired.

Recipe and photo provided by Maple Leaf Farms

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