MESSAGE FROM THE STATE CHAIRMAN
Mark Low

Hello DU Members and DU Volunteers,

Summer has come to a close and it is almost time for chilly mornings, wet dogs and cupped wings. I’m excited – and not just for the change in weather! DU California’s summer was filled with very successful fundraising events. We established a number of new chapters, our attendance and revenue numbers are up, and our fall calendar is filled with banquets and other fun activities.

There is more good news – according to DU biologists, the Pacific Flyway waterfowl breeding numbers are up. In 2011, an estimated 4.3 million breeding ducks were surveyed across the Prairie Pothole Region of the Alberta province. This year's breeding duck population in southern Alberta was up 66 percent from last year and was similar to the long-term average. Several species posted significant increases, including pintails (+171 percent), green-winged teal (+112 percent), redheads (+85 percent), scaup (+80 percent), American wigeon (+61 percent), blue-winged teal (+60 percent), and mallards (+57 percent).

Far to the south, in the western contiguous United States, waterfowl habitat conditions have improved in many areas. An estimated 559,000 ducks—including 315,000 mallards—were surveyed in California this spring, and estimates of both total ducks and mallards were statistically similar to those of the previous year and the long-term average. It’s going to be a great year for waterfowl hunting.

Waterfowl hunters are a special breed of sportsman, and DU volunteers are a special breed of waterfowl hunters. DU’s critical habitat conservation and public policy efforts help preserve our waterfowl hunting heritage. Attendance at fundraising events is crucial for DU’s mission of conservation and protection of key waterfowl habitats. Your attendance and support is vitally important to the welfare of our Ducks. Please check out the events in your area by visiting the California DU website at www.ca.ducks.org. We have listed the upcoming events in this newsletter so look and see if there is an event being planned in your area. Don’t forget to call a friend and invite them to join you and become a Ducks Unlimited Member.

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

Take a kid hunting,

Mark Low
YOUR CALIFORNIA DU STATE COMMITTEE

State Chairman
Mark Low
Susanville, CA
(530) 249-3286 (cell)
lowdownm@msn.com

Treasurer
Dawan Lee
San Jose, CA
(408) 644-4872 (cell)
dawanlee@iname.com

Leadership Development Chairman
Doug Kalpakoff
Morgan Hill, CA
(408) 858-1234
dkalpakoff@yahoo.com

Greenwing Chairman
John Dunn
Scotts Valley, CA
(831) 438-6683
johndunnDU@hotmail.com

Communications Chairman
Ann Bakey
Cupertino, CA
(408) 737-7410 (home)
(408) 219-2578 (cell)
ann.bakey@sbcglobal.net

Major Donor Chairman
Liza Morris
Galt, CA
(916) 257-1865
Liza4074@att.net

Recruitment Chairman
Jan Young
El Dorado Hills, CA
(503) 577-5497 (cell)
jkryptid@aol.com

Sponsor Chairman
Rick McGlone
Sebastopol, CA
ducksacker1@gmail.com

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor
Rich Dengler
Cupertino, CA
(408) 737-7410 (home)
(408) 369-6018 (cell)
rich.dengler@sbcglobal.net

2011 YAMAHA PACKAGE

BY PURCHASING THIS LIVE AUCTION ITEM YOU WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE TO WIN THIS YAMAHA GRIZZLY

THE WINNER WILL ALSO RECEIVE THE ENTIRE SPORTS PACKAGE SHOWN BELOW.

CASE OF HYPERSONIC STEEL WATERFOWL LOADS

DUCK AND GOOSE CALL SET

DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON JULY 28, 2012. CHANCES OF WINNING ARE 1 IN 150.
I was recently appointed State Sponsor Chairman by the DU California State Board and I’m looking forward to making a difference for waterfowl conservation.

I went to my first DU dinner in 1975 because the guys I hunted with were DU'ers and informed me that I should give back from what I take. That sounded logical to me, so I signed up to be a DU member and started attending fundraising events. After being a DU member for awhile I began to understand what DU was all about and what volunteering meant, not only for the ducks, but for conservation in general. It was at that time I wanted to do a "little more" and joined my first committee – the De Anza Chapter in Santa Clara. In 1989, I moved to Sonoma County and volunteered to help the Sebastopol Chapter. Later, I became the Area/Dinner Chairman for that chapter where I chaired from 1995 to 2001. In 2007, I became the Area/Dinner Chairman for the Wine Country Chapter and continue to do so today. I also moved up to District Chairman, was nominated to the DU California State Board where I served as State Recorder from 2007-2009, then State Secretary from 2009 to 2011, and now I serve as the State Sponsor Chairman. By the way, I am also a DU Sponsor!

I have made life-long friends and friendships! I highly recommend joining your local DU chapter and getting involved. It is not that much work and it is personally rewarding. Making new friends and being introduced to other’s activities are the spice in life. The things you do today can have a lasting impact on tomorrow!

There's no doubt in my mind - volunteers are the heart and soul of Ducks Unlimited. They are integral in establishing DU’s profile, stewarding its reputation, and ensuring the funding; which is the lifeblood of DU’s conservation programs.

Although fundraising programs are constantly growing, it doesn't compare to the growing rate of wetland loss. If we are to reduce the depletion of natural areas and meet the habitat needs of waterfowl and wildlife, then DU’s volunteer committees need to continuously expand and DU members need to reach deeper into their pockets.

**It's a tragic fact: every 6 minutes the United States loses nearly one acre of wetlands.** And when a wetland is lost, we all lose. Each year more than 80,000 acres of wetlands disappear in the United States. These wetlands are vital not only to waterfowl and scores of other wildlife species, but also to the quality of all life on earth.

By becoming a Ducks Unlimited Sponsor, you will **save one acre of wetlands** in North America. It's no surprise that Sponsors are critical to the success of DU's mission! There are various sponsorship levels starting at $250 which can be paid in one lump sum or through a monthly giving program.

*The value of your sponsorship is greater than $250* — you will become a steward for the future of wetlands and waterfowl and preserving our beloved sport of waterfowl hunting. And you’re saving far more than just one acre—YOU are laying the foundation for other like-minded conservationists to build on with their donations and their time.

I encourage you to **become a DU Sponsor today!**

If you have questions about the DU Sponsor Program, please contact me, Rick McGlone, at ducksacker1@gmail.com. Thank you.
WATERFOWL HUNTING DELAYED ON PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS IN THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) must delay opening day of waterfowl season on Type-A state and federal hunting areas in the Sacramento Valley. Due to a delayed rice harvest, opening day will be Oct. 29, one week later than the rest of the Balance of State Zone.

2011 – 2012 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON SUMMARY

This table represents excerpted details from the full waterfowl hunting regulations (CA Code of Regulations, Title 14), as adopted by the Fish and Game Commission August 3, 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>SEASONS</th>
<th>DAILY BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Coots &amp; Moorhens</td>
<td>Concurrent with duck season</td>
<td>25/day. 25 in possession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern Zone</td>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td>Oct 8 - Jan 20</td>
<td>7/day, which may include: 7 mallards but no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scaup</td>
<td>Oct 8 - Jan 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geese</td>
<td>Oct 8 - Jan 15</td>
<td>8/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese no more than 2 Large Canada geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</td>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td>Oct 8 - Oct 30 &amp; Nov 12 - Jan 29</td>
<td>7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scaup</td>
<td>Nov 12 - Jan 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geese</td>
<td>Oct 22 - Jan 29</td>
<td>8/day, which may include: 6 white geese, 6 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado River Zone</td>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td>Oct 21 - Jan 29</td>
<td>7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scaup</td>
<td>Nov 5 - Jan 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geese</td>
<td>Oct 21 - Jan 29</td>
<td>6/day, up to 6 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern California Zone</td>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td>Oct 22 - Jan 29</td>
<td>7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scaup</td>
<td>Nov 5 - Jan 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geese</td>
<td>Oct 22 - Jan 29</td>
<td>8/day, up to 6 white geese, up to 3 dark geese. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance of State Zone</td>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td>Oct 22 - Jan 29</td>
<td>7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females, 2 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scaup</td>
<td>Nov 5 - Jan 29</td>
<td></td>
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### Geese

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL AREA</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>DAILY BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMITS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Coast</td>
<td>All Canada Geese</td>
<td>Nov 5 - Jan 26 &amp; Feb 18 - Mar 10</td>
<td>6/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt Bay South Spit</td>
<td>All species</td>
<td>Closed during brant season</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento Valley</td>
<td>White-fronted geese</td>
<td>Oct 22 - Dec 21</td>
<td>2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morro Bay</td>
<td>All species</td>
<td>Open in designated areas only</td>
<td>Waterfowl season opens concurrently with brant season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martis Creek Lake</td>
<td>All species</td>
<td>Closed until Nov 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Brant</td>
<td>Black Brant</td>
<td>Nov 7 - Dec 6</td>
<td>2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance of State Brant</td>
<td>Black Brant</td>
<td>Nov 12 - Dec 11</td>
<td>2/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperial County</td>
<td>White Geese</td>
<td>Nov 5 - Jan 29 &amp; Feb 11 - Feb 26</td>
<td>6/day. Possession limit double the daily bag.</td>
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### youth waterfowl hunting days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>DAILY BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMITS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Northeastern Zone</td>
<td>Same as regular season</td>
<td>Sept 24 - 25</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 4 - 5</td>
<td>Same as regular season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern California Zone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado River Zone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance of State Zone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
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### falconry of ducks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALCONRY OF DUCKS</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>DAILY BAG &amp; POSSESSION LIMITS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern Zone</td>
<td>Same as regular season</td>
<td>Oct 8 - Jan 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance of State Zone</td>
<td>Same as regular season</td>
<td>Oct 22 - Jan 29 &amp; Feb 4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 8 - Oct 30 &amp; Nov 12 - Feb 1</td>
<td>3/day, possession limit 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern California Zone</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oct 22 - Feb 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado River Zone</td>
<td>Ducks only</td>
<td>Oct 21 - Feb 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFERING ONE-DAY WATERFOWL HUNTING CLINICS

DFG Offers One-day Waterfowl Hunting Clinic in Northern California - October 29

The California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Advanced Hunter Education Program is offering a waterfowl hunting clinic on Oct. 29 in northern California. The clinic will be held at the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Complex from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This clinic is for hunters of all skill levels.

Two experienced instructors, DFG Assistant Chief Mike Carion and DFG Warden Aaron Freitas, will host this exciting clinic. Topics include gun safety, decoy placement, blind design, ballistics, calling, duck identification, dog considerations, equipment, game care and cooking tips.

The information offered in this comprehensive clinic should be useful for anyone who wants to successfully hunt waterfowl in the Klamath Basin. The clinic typically attracts both first-time waterfowlers and experienced hunters.

The cost of the clinic is $45 for adults. Youths 16 years and younger are free, but must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited and participants must register in advance at www.dfg.ca.gov/huntered/advanced. After registering, participants will receive an e-mail with a map to the facility and a list of items to bring.

Klamath Basin National Wildlife Complex is located approximately 18 miles west of Tulelake.

OLDEST BAY AREA SALT FLAT TURNED INTO WETLAND

San Francisco Bay just got a little bigger and so did the habitat for several endangered species. A little digging is reversing decades of damage to the Bay Area's coastline.

Amid cheers from dozens of biologists and state Fish and Game workers, a construction crew ripped through an old levee just south of the San Mateo Bridge, allowing water from Old Alameda Creek to flow into the bone-dry moonscape of a salt flat for the first time since the 1850s. Eventually a levee to the west of that flat will be breached to reconnect the 630 acres to San Francisco Bay.

"These salt ponds took away the lungs of the Bay. Today we're giving them back," said Carl Wilcox, manager of the Bay-Delta region for the California Department of Fish and Game.

Water and mud slopped into the barren whiteness that stretches over more than 1 square mile in the shoreline area known as Eden Landing. Biologists expect fish and birds to start investigating the new habitat immediately and full restoration to be complete in a decade.
The levee breach was the first salt-flat restoration in the East Bay. It is part of the 15,000-acre South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, the largest wetland restoration program on the Pacific Coast, which has so far been concentrated on the salt ponds around Alviso.

**Nature does the work**

With the Hayward addition, more than 3,000 acres around the bay have been restored. The remaining 12,000 are still in the planning process, which includes digging ditches where channels once flowed and building new levees to protect shoreline development from flooding.

But otherwise, the tides do all the work.

"We just set the table and let Mother Nature do the rest," said John Bourgeois, director of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. "Once you let the tides in, the sediment comes in, bringing the seeds, and the whole process will be set in motion."

Salt flats have been a fixture of the shoreline at least since the Gold Rush. Ohlone Indians harvested salt along the waterfront, but then commercial outfits such as Leslie and later Cargill took over. In the late 1990s Cargill sold most of its Bay Area salt ponds to the state and federal governments for wetland restoration.

What biologists discovered, though, was that over the decades some species had grown to like the salt ponds. Threatened snowy plovers, for example, nest on the salt flats because they're similar to their usual nesting spots, beaches, but with fewer dogs and people. So the project calls for the preservation of some salt ponds, although with reduced salinity, said John Krause, Fish and Game biologist.

**Economic Impacts**

Restoring wetlands isn't just beneficial for the environment, it has an economic impact as well, Wilcox said. Wetlands improve water quality and provide sediment control and protection from sea-level rise, Wilcox said. In addition, they're likely to draw more people to the shoreline to enjoy the scenery.

Wetland restoration is not inexpensive, however. Acquiring the 15,000 acres cost $100 million, and the planning and levee breaches cost millions more. The parcel opened Tuesday cost more than $4 million to restore.

"I grew up in Oakland, and to see this restored is incredible," said Austin Payne, an engineer for Ducks Unlimited, which worked with the state on the Hayward restoration. "For my kids, all these areas will be open to them."

More information on [Salt Flat restorations](#).

**CONGRESSMAN JOHN GARAMENDI MEETS WITH DU REPRESENTATIVES**

California Congressman John Garamendi knows a great deal more about the mission of Ducks Unlimited now, after recently sitting down for a working lunch with Western Regional Office Director Mark Biddlecomb and WRO Public Policy Director Chris Unkel.

Paul Bonderson, DU senior vice president and chair of the Conservation Programs Committee (CPC); Doug Federighi, DU board member and assistant chair of the CPC; John Donnelly, executive director of the Wildlife Conservation Board; John Carlin of River Partners; John Carlson, president of California Waterfowl Association; and Garamendi’s chief of staff and another staffer participated in the open discussion as well. Topics included resource allocation, Delta water, refuge water supplies and the need to maintain current
funding levels for NAWCA and LWCF.

Both Biddlecomb and Unkel described it as a "fact finding" meeting and were pleasantly surprised to find Garamendi exceptionally knowledgeable on water and conservation issues.

The pair also noted that Garamendi seemed to appreciate the chance to share viewpoints, promising to continue talks with Biddlecomb and Unkel on an ongoing basis. That's good news for DU and conservation in general, because after congressional boundaries are adjusted Garamendi is likely to represent a significant portion of California’s waterfowl habitat areas.

JULIAN PEREIRA REMEMBERED

Julian Pereira was a nineteen year old member of the DU Sacramento Valley Chapter who was tragically taken in a car accident on August 10. Julian was a cowboy at heart, loved his horse, farming, fishing, and taking care of his animals. He especially liked DU and would show up to meetings and attend both the annual crab feed and pig feed to help. He was a strong asset to the committee and always had a smile on his face. Julian had a quiet disposition but extremely honest and hard working. He loved his Sacramento Valley DU committee shirt and wore it proudly.

The committee invited Julian’s family to come to the Pig Feed which was held on September 17. They were presented with a framed portrait of Julian signed by each committee member. The committee also presented the family with a Ducks Unlimited bird feeder that was engraved "Julian you will always be remembered and never forgotten." It is true... Julian will always be remembered and never forgotten!
THE PASSING OF DAVID L. WIDELL

It is with great sorrow that we inform you of the passing of David L. Widell, General Manager and Director of Governmental Affairs of Grassland Water District. Dave touched countless lives through his unyielding efforts to protect and conserve the Grasslands. Undoubtedly, he also touched the lives of others who did not know him personally. His efforts to defend the Grasslands and its water supplies will be cherished by waterfowlers for generations to come. The impact of Dave’s work will continue to stretch far beyond the District, reaching every organization and every person that appreciates the importance of the Grasslands as one of the most valued wetlands ecosystems.

Dave spent a large part of his life devoted to conservation organizations. He first came to work at the Grassland Water District in 1992 as assistant general manager. In 1998, he left the District to spread his wings at California Waterfowl Association where he served as Chief Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs. After leaving CWA, Dave moved on to serve as Assistant Secretary at the California Resources Agency and then as Director of Conservation Policy for Ducks Unlimited, before coming back to the District in 2007 to serve as General Manager.

The unique combination of knowledge, political resolve, and dedication that Dave brought to the District will remain unmatched. As we reflect fondly on the relationships Dave made and the partnerships he formed in his ever-successful efforts to defend the Grasslands from harmful impacts, we also remember the person he was and the unique ways in which he touched each of our lives.

A celebration of life is pending upon notification from Dave’s family. We will notify you as soon as we have a date and time. Cards and letters may be sent c/o Grassland Water District, 22759 S. Mercey Springs Road, Los Banos, CA 93635. In lieu of flowers, that family asks that donations be sent to the Grassland Fund, 22759 S. Mercey Springs Road, Los Banos, CA 93635 or to your favorite charity.

DU MEMORIAL GIFTS

A Memorial Gift to Ducks Unlimited will support continuing efforts to help wetlands and associated wildlife through habitat management, research and education. It is a thoughtful means of expressing sympathy for someone loved that will help the natural world. It means you share the burden of grief and want to continue your memories of the person departed. A memorial card is sent to the family of the deceased with the name of the person honored and the name of the donor(s). The amount of the gift will not be disclosed.

To establish your Memorial Gift, please contact Becky Paysinger, DU Manager of Membership Records and Services at 901-758-3841 or e-mail: bpaysinger@ducks.org.
CHAPTER SPOTLIGHTS

North State Sponsor Event – July 22

The Oroville Chapter sponsored their annual North State Sponsor dinner on July 22. They were again fortunate to have John Bessolo host the event at his Centerville Estate outside of Chico. It was a relaxing, gourmet dining experience in a garden atmosphere. Wine tasting was provided by Renaissance Winery and Outback Stake House catered a wonderful meal consisting of jumbo grilled prawns, bacon wrapped filet mignon, asparagus spears, salad, and cheesecake.

Pictured left to right: Jeff McCreary (DU WRO Director of Conservation), Jason Rounsaville (DU Director of Fundraising), John Bessolo (host), Rebecca O’Connor (DU WRO Director of Development), and Jim Giampaolo (DU Regional Director).

Centerville Estate sits on 25 acres and is known for being a spectacular, natural setting for outdoor private events. What a beautiful setting for a DU sponsor event!

The Centerville Estate’s Wildlife Museum was open for sponsors to tour during the event – truly a one-of-a-kind must see private museum! Pictured on the right are Sponsor event attendees Chris and Christy Howell.
Joanne and Dick Forting, Life Sponsors and Committee Members of the Lake Almanor Chapter.

Left to Right – Jeff McCreary (DU WRO Director of Conservation), Kyle La Malfa, Senator Doug La Malfa, Jason Rounsaville (DU Director of Fundraising), Rebecca O’Connor (DU WRO Director of Development), and Jim Giampaolo (DU Regional Director).

Sponsors enjoying the event.

Sponsor event Chairman Greg Kostic (left) presenting host John Bessolo (center) with a gun case, and DU Regional Director Jim Giampaolo (right).

Centerville Estate has more than a quarter acre of lush landscaped grounds and features paved pathways through tall shade trees, flower gardens, elegant fountains, a rock waterfall and private sitting areas at the edge of Butte Creek. For more information about the estate, visit www.centervilleestate.com.

Become a [Ducks Unlimited Sponsor today](http://du.org), you'll save one acre of wetlands in North America. It's no surprise that Sponsors are critical to the success of Ducks Unlimited's mission!
Tri-Valley Chapter – July 23
By John Faries and Ken Brickwedel, Co-Chairmen

The Tri-Valley dinner was held on July 23 at the Pleasanton Senior Center and was attended by more than 240 DU members. Kinder’s Meats provided a delicious Tri Tip, chicken and rib dinner and Greg Dyson, “The Cake Dude,” made three assorted flavored sheet cakes for desert. The bartenders were courtesy of Native Sons of the Golden West #96 and our auctioneer was Matt Wolter. Award winner Taff Vidales of Favorite Feathers Taxidermy displayed his mounted game birds, Blacktail and Elk heads. In addition, the local Alameda Chapter of the NRA joined our event to show community support and to educate our guests on their important programs and efforts that preserve our rights.

We are very proud of our committee and what we accomplished! Our strategy was to start early, build the “family event” theme stronger, have fun, and set realistic and measurable goals.

In comparison to last year, our Chapter increased attendance by 40 percent, improved net/net revenue by 75 percent and our overall efficiency grew by 17 percent. Credit goes to our dedicated DU committee members, local and nationwide sponsors, and major donors who attended and/or donated. Our total revenue after expenses was more than $53,000 with 79 percent efficiency. Only one third of our auction/raffle merchandise came from the DU preferred vendor listing; remaining 70 percent of the merchandise was donated. All expenses were 100 percent paid for prior to our event. Three guests pledged to be Life Sponsors. Their pledge is not yet factored into the net/net so the total net/net revenue will be much higher!

Family theme included more than 25 Greenwings.

Tri Valley’s monthly scheduled committee meetings helped to perpetuate the friendship among our committee members and allowed time between each meeting to make real un-pressured progress in attaining our goals and planning. The momentum was so contagious that it spread to other family members too. For example, Chloe Brickwedel, Ken and Monica’s 11 year old Greenwing daughter, joined in to help. She made specialty DU dog biscuits and DU key chains, then sold each item at the dinner
making $192 for the ducks. And since the dinner, she’s taking dog biscuit orders for some very happy puppy dogs!

Left to right: Chloe Brickwedel and Katie Montgomery

Left to right: Caytlyn Velasco, Catrina Wood, Erin Gimbert, and Shannon Montgomery served as raffle girls.

John and Dee Faires’ daughters, Shannon and Katie Montgomery, were instrumental and very successful in supporting the dinner as well. Katie managed the Rose game and Pick of the Litter game sales while Shannon and her three friends provided their assistance in selling raffle tickets and displaying the raffle, progressive and live auction items.

Craig and Faris Reali provide the custom made DU gear. Once again, their oldest daughter Audra, provided her expert skills for this year’s event. Her creative designs and custom embroidery skills were on full display. She was responsible for embroidering all of the DU hats in the raffle, the DU robes/aprons and the Tri Valley DU leather jacket found in the live auction. As you can see the Tri Valley DU success is not just hard work by the committee but more importantly because of the family support and commitment to providing a quality event for all of their guests.

Highlights of the many raffle and auction items were a variety of specialties such as an autographed photo of Art Thoms, #80 Raiders pro-defensive tackle and Superbowl XI champion. A guided falconry hunt for waterfowl, a weekend wild boar hunt for two, a Cattleman’s catered lunch for 25, the first 49er helmet signed by new coach Jim Harbaugh, a private tasting event at Crooked Vine Winery for 10 complete with a DU wine holder, DU glasses, and bottles of Cabernet and Zinfandel. Also, a guided three day - six person Saskatchewan hunt, a donated taxidermy of a wall mounted moose head, and a one-day roundtrip excursion for four to Bird Haven Ranch in Butte City, CA – a 3000 acre natural waterfowl habitat – including air transportation from the Livermore airport, full day of trapshooting, tour of the property, and a BBQ lunch. The trip to Bird Haven Ranch was so popular that we sold 2 trips which raised $5,000!

Our event was attended by some of the most important and influential DU supporters in California and also nationwide. It was an honor to have our local Congressman Jerry McNerney visit our event and extend his support to DU. He’s one of California’s congressmen who supported the NAWCA bill.

The Tri Valley committee would like to thank our state Directors and state Chairman who attended and helped with the setup and preparation day of the event. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schmidt who traveled from Tennessee to attend the event. Everyone’s support was truly appreciated.
Left to right - Diane and Paul Schmidt (DU Chief Conservation Officer), Mark Biddlecomb (DU Western Regional Office Director), Congressman Jerry McNerney, Dave Hinman (Committee Member), Paul Bonderson (Advisory Senior Vice President of DU Conservation Programs), Rebecca O’Connor (DU WRO Director of Development), and Jason Rounsaville (DU Director of Fundraising).

Committee Members Dee Faires and Robert Patterson working the shotshell game.

San Jose Sponsor Event – August 10

The San Jose Sponsor Event was held August 10 at the home of Nick and Jean Salamita of San Jose – long time supporters of DU (pictured on the left).

More than 100 Sponsors were treated to a hosted open, top-shelf bar, horsd’oeuvres and prime rib dinner prepared by Leon Gervin and Steve Rodgers of The Grill Sergeant BBQ Company. Volunteers served the dinner and Ed Brown auctioned DU merchandise.

A small raffle and auction generated $9,200 for the ducks. Thank you Sponsors and Donors for your support!

Pictured here are DU Sponsors enjoying the evening filled with hosted spirits, horsd’oeuvres and BBQ and raffle, auction and friendships.
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENTS

The summer was filled with several volunteer appreciation events to celebrate and recognize those who unselfishly pledge their time, commitment, dedication, and skills to Ducks Unlimited. It was a time for sharing successes, honoring individuals and chapters and having fun.

Thank you Volunteers for your unwavering support and dedication!
UPCOMING FALL 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 Ducks Unlimited website at www.ca.ducks.org. Traveling out of state? No problem! Simply select the state that you will be visiting in the dropdown menu (on top of the California DU webpage) and that state’s upcoming events will be listed for you to browse on the state’s home page. 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>Porterville Banquet</td>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>Pam Neel @ (559) 784-4215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridgeport Banquet</td>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Jimmy Little @ (661) 619-6769</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corona Hills Fall Shoot and Banquet</td>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Rick Hoffmann @ (951) 496-8004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Sierra Banquet</td>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>Beau Tindall @ (760) 914-2497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chico State Waterfowl Hunter Party</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Alex Hunt @ (707) 267-8033</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fair Oaks Banquet</td>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>Josh Deaser @ (916) 801-5341</td>
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<tr>
<td>Granite Bay Banquet</td>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Greg McIntosh @ (916) 320-8977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Napa Valley Banquet</td>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Larry Brown @ (707) 258-9432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Bluff Banquet</td>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Pat Swithenbaank @ (530) 529-4672</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oakdale Banquet</td>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Mark Timmerman @ (209) 541-4455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yuba-Sutter Banquet</td>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>Brian Jeremiah @ (530) 300-3570</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ventura Banquet</td>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>Chuck Teague @ (805) 432-4162</td>
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<td>Placer County Banquet</td>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>Tom Jones @ (916) 645-1644</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton Banquet</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Leslie Brown @ (209) 607-0145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humboldt County Banquet</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Jim Giampaolo @ (530) 510-3651</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dixon Banquet</td>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Linda Cobb @ (707) 678-9111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Banos Banquet</td>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Chris Hildebrandt @ (209) 761-8400</td>
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<td>West Sacramento Banquet</td>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Jim Medich @ (916) 717-3975</td>
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<td>Lake Tahoe Banquet</td>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>Frank Leonardi @ (916) 984-3073</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gridley Banquet</td>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>Scott Davis @ (530) 682-0269</td>
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SAVE THESE DATES – A TIME TO CELEBRATE

You’re invited to the **DU 2012 National Convention** – come gather with your DU family to celebrate DUs 75th anniversary

**Where:** Nashville, Tennessee at the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center  
**When:** May 30—June 3, 2012  
**Hotel registration:** To book your room at the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, please [click here](#).  

More details coming soon!

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You’re invited to the **California DU 75th Anniversary Event** – come gather with your DU family to celebrate DUs 75th anniversary

**Where:** Danville, California at the Black Hawk Auto Museum  
**When:** March 1, 2012  

More details coming soon!

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You’re invited to the **DU 2012 California State Convention** – come gather with your DU family to celebrate DUs 75th anniversary

**Where:** Corning, California at the Rolling Hills Casino  
**When:** July 27 - 29, 2012  

More details coming soon!

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EDITORS NOTE

Whether you are a longtime DU supporter, or a first-time member, the *News from the Nest* is YOUR California DU newsletter. For any aspiring writers and photographers, what makes the *News from the Nest* truly ours are stories and photos by California DU members. Please take the time and 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