



News from the Nest

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2008-6

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Recruit, Recognize & Retain Volunteers

President's Top 100 Chapters

MEMPHIS, Tenn. February 27, 2008 – The President's Top 100 are among Ducks Unlimited's elite chapters throughout the nation. Every year, this list is reserved for the 100 chapters that raise the most grassroots dollars for DU's habitat conservation work. The following local DU chapters have earned a spot on the President's Top 100 list.

To become a President's Top 100 chapter, a chapter must raise at least \$53,000 of grassroots contributions within one year. In 2007 the top 100 chapters collectively raised more than \$8 million.

San Jose, Calif

Oroville, Calif.

Placerville, Calif.

Honey Lake, Calif.

Antelope Valley, Calif.

Milpitas, Calif.

Congratulations to these dedicated and hard working committees!

For a complete list of committees click [here](#)

Fresh News From The WRO

U.S. Conservation by DU About to Top 4 Million Acres

Ducks Unlimited along with our many partners is about to pass the 4 million mark for acres conserved in the U.S. Throughout North America over DU's 71-year history DU and sister organizations in Canada and Mexico have conserved over 12 million acres. Following are the vital statistics through December 31, 2007.

United States

(Cumulative since 1984)

Completed Projects: 54,355

Acres Enhanced/Restored: 3,371,076

Acres Protected: 1,347,212

Total Acres Conserved: 3,939,110

Canada

(Cumulative since 1937)

Completed Project Segments: 23,270

Acres Enhanced: 4,914,573

Acres Protected: 5,191,421

Total Acres Conserved: 6,575,416

* An additional 1,900,000 acres have received long-term protection (>10 years) through DUC's Boreal Program, and almost 32 million additional acres of the Western Boreal Forest have received interim protection through partnership agreements.

Mexico

(cumulative since 1974)

Completed Project Segments: 225

Total Acres Conserved: 1,769,345

TOTAL NORTH AMERICA ACRES CONSERVED: 12,283,871

Research on Breeding Ecology of Eastern Washington Mallards Nears Completion

This project radio-marked female mallards during the 2006 and 2007 breeding seasons to estimate what limits the size and success of mallard breeding in eastern Washington. The work is being conducted in cooperation with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State University. Researchers affixed radio tracking devices to 60 mallard hens in each breeding season to estimate five vital rates; 1) clutch size, 2) nest success, 3) hen success, 4) duckling survival, and 5) survival of females during the breeding period. These vital rate estimates are being used to identify the factors that limit growth of mallard populations. This work will also provide information on habitat selection of mallards during the breeding and brood rearing periods. A final report is scheduled for spring of 2008.

New DU Projects

Warner Wetlands Restoration and Enhancement Project – Oregon

The objective of the project is to enhance approximately 1,200 acres of semi-permanent wetland north of Hart Lake in the Warner Valley by providing a dependable water supply. The project will primarily benefit waterfowl by providing extensive breeding and migration habitat. The land is owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the project will greatly simplify the management and maintenance of the area. The project area is an old wetland restoration project completed approximately 20 years ago. However, the wetlands have been dry for most of the past several years due to current management constraints. These issues include the lack of a required fish screen on a pump that pumps water out of Hart Lake into the wetlands, problems with the position of the pump intake, large amounts of sediment discharged by the pump has filled water delivery ditches, and problems with water impacting the neighboring landowner. The project will address these problems.

Completion of the project will provide a variety of benefits to waterfowl, wetland managers and the public. Installation of a new properly screened pump station and pipeline will allow managers to supply water to the wetlands as desired. Given all the existing problems, this has happened in only one of the last six years. Wetland dependent wildlife will benefit from 1,200 acres of dependable, high quality wetland habitat. The project will also allow the BLM to control the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Warner Wetlands, a factor that is increasingly important in these times of budget shortfalls.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge - Track 33 Wetland Enhancement, Glenn County, CA

The project site is owned and operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex. This unit of the refuge has deteriorated in quality with invasive vegetation limiting waterfowl use and water management capabilities. Existing levees require rehabilitation and one needs to be removed entirely. The project will enhance approximately 86 acres of seasonal wetlands by removing and rehabilitating existing levees and creating pond bottom relief. Project work will include the reconstruction of 1.25 miles of interior levees, the removal of 0.25 mile of existing interior levee, excavating channels and potholes and replacement of a deteriorated water control structure. New channels and potholes will diversify the unit to provide improved waterfowl habitat and water management capabilities. This unit is also used as a seasonal wetland to provide summer water management and is located in the refuge's public hunting area where the increased waterfowl use should contribute to improved hunter opportunity.

Thank You,

Rudolph "Rudy" Rosen, Ph.D.
Director
Western Regional Office

Some DU Dates To Remember

- March 29, 2008** District Chairman Training - Bird Haven
- April 18, 19 & 20** California DU State Convention – Sacramento
- April 24 to 27, 2008** California Gold Rush Continental Shoot – Lone
- May 21 to 25, 2008** Ducks Unlimited National Convention – Baltimore, MD

What Is Sodsaver?

Have you ever wondered what is "Sodsaver"? It is a term that you, as a Ducks Unlimited supporter and volunteer, should know intimately. Please take the time to watch the video found [here](#) and read the complete article found [here](#) to gain the important information necessary to speak to this important conservation. Miss the "good old days" of plentiful Sprig over your blind? Sodsaver is the answer to the restoration of this great waterfowl's nesting habitat (as well as other species).

Peter Mathios named Ducks Unlimited International Artist of the Year

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 20, 2008 – Renowned wildlife artist Peter Mathios of Albany, Oregon, is the Ducks Unlimited 2009 International Artist of the Year. His painting, "Evening Sprig," earned him the top honor. [More](#)



Peter Mathios' "Evening Sprig" earned him the recognition of being named Ducks Unlimited 2009 International Artist of the Year.

Thank you for all that you do for wetland conservation and the ducks!