



Picture courtesy of
ElizaBeth Crook Photography

Special Interest Articles:

- 2010 Delaware Conservationist of the year – Bob Edgell
- Great Cypress Swamp Restoration 426 acres Strong...and Growing
- Committee Spotlight : Brandywine Chapter
- Delaware DU: Land Protection and You

Individual Highlights:

DE DU State Officers	2
7 th Annual Greenwing Day	3
Rescue the Acres: Strategies	4
Rescue the Acres: Update	4
Where does your donation go?	5
Message from Tony Senn	6
Delaware DU Calendar	7
2010 State Awards	9
15 th Annual Blue Hen Classic	12

DU has conserved more than 14,000 acres in Delaware and has plans to restore nearly 1,000 acres of wetlands within the Delaware and Chesapeake Bay watersheds over the next two years. Ducks Unlimited has invested \$2.4 million in Delaware conservation programs.

From the desk of our Chairman

Welcome to the second edition of the First State Conservator. Many thanks to Don Robitzer for his leadership with the newsletter and Jason Crook for his assistance. There is a lot of time and effort that goes into this publication, so I hope you will take the time to tell Don or Jason what you think!

It's been an eventful year for DEDU since the last edition. The economy continued to rear its ugly head over the last twelve months, putting unusual pressure on our event system and the dollars we work so hard to raise towards DU's conservation mission. That being said, DEDU continues to lead the way in fundraising for the ducks and receive accolades across the country.

In May, Delaware DU had a strong showing at the national convention in Texas where we learned that the Brandywine Chapter ranked #6 in the country!! If you read this in last month's edition of the DU Magazine, you will see this was no small task when you look at the other states they were up against. Congratulations again to Brandywine. Rumor has it from the Columbus Inn that they are shooting for a top five finish next year, but let's keep that to ourselves!!

Brandywine's ranking was followed up by two Presidential Citation awards by Tidewater and Appoquinimink! For a chapter to receive a citation, they must increase in almost every fundraising category from the prior year. Congratulations to both these chapters!

Finally, our own Pete MacGaffin was appointed by DU president John Pope to a Senior Vice President position, a great honor and testament to Pete's passion for the DU mission. Congratulations to Pete and his family on this honor. Everyone in Delaware is proud of you! Other notable local volunteers also took national leadership roles for the coming year. Bill D'Alonzo will continue his work on the National Wetlands America Trust Board, Jim Dodd will continue on the Emeritus Board, Howard Wilkins will return to his national committee position on the Conservation Programs Committee, Clif Bakhsh will continue on the youth and education committee and yours truly was appointed to the national board of directors as an at-large director. Having so many of us working nationally is a testament to the strength of all volunteers in Delaware and what we accomplish for the wetlands.

In closing, thank you! Thank you for the time you spend, the dollars you donate and the passion you have. Delaware DU continues to rank among the top states because of your hard work as dedicated volunteers. Keep up the great work for the coming fundraising season. I hope to see everyone in the blind this fall!

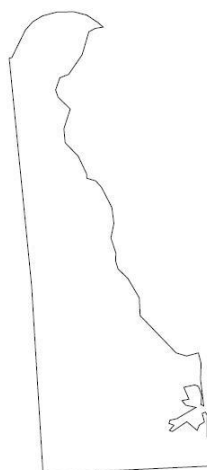


Scott Crawford
Delaware State Chairman

Delaware DU State Officers

State Chairman	Scott Crawford
Preceding State Chairman	Howard Wilkins
Zone Chairman – North	Lou Caputo
Zone Chairman – South	Clif Bakhsh
State Secretary	Christy Willis
State Treasurer	Clif Bakhsh
Major Gift Chairman North	Richard Corkran
Major Gift Chairman South	Richard Corkran
Major Donor Chairman	Jim Dodd
State Auction Chairpersons	Herb & Debbie Kenton
Shoot Chairman	Dave Waters
State Media Chairman	Don Robitzer
Volunteer Recruitment Chairpersons	Lou Caputo Cindy Scuse Brown
Website Design Chairman	Jason Crook
DU Tag Chairman	Howard Wilkins
Planning and Events Co Chairmen	Bill Baker Matt Brickley
National Development Committee Member	Peter MacGaffin
Greenwing Co Chairmen	Kenny Hopkins Jason Crook Ed Montague
National Youth and Education Chairman	Clif Bakhsh
Director of Fundraising and Volunteer Relations	Joe Rowan
Regional Director	Tony Senn

**2010 Delaware Conservationist of the Year
Bob Edgell**



As a native and lifelong resident of Delaware, Bob Edgell is as reliable as his favorite feathered quarry. Each winter, waterfowl rely on the First State to rebuild their energy reserves, rejoin kin, and rest in preparation for spring. And so, too, does Bob. He spends countless hours with friends and family on his 1,400-acre Woodland Beach farm in pursuit of deer and ducks, which only serves to reignite his passion for the sporting tradition, the resource and the conservation mission of Ducks Unlimited.

Delaware Ducks Unlimited owes much of its identity to Bob Edgell. Bob has not only served as State Chairman and Kent County Chapter Chairman, but remains an active member of the Kent County Chapter and Old Drakes Club. He is a Heritage Sponsor and National Trustee. Furthermore, Bob serves on the Board of Directors for Delaware Wild Lands, an important partner of Ducks Unlimited conservation programs in the Great Cypress Swamp and beyond.

Perhaps Bob's biggest and longest-lasting legacy, however, is his mentorship of Ducks Unlimited members and supporters. For example, Bob was instrumental in the life of Delaware State Chairman, Scott Crawford. "Since the untimely passing of my father, Bob has offered me instruction and support. He instilled upon me the importance of Ducks Unlimited, and inspired me to continue supporting their cause," said Crawford.

Thank you, Bob, for everything you do for Delaware and Ducks Unlimited. Both are indebted to your exemplary service and outstanding commitment toward conserving wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.





7th Annual Greenwing Conservation Festival Dates announced!!

by Jason Crook, Greenwing Co-Chairman

Today's youth are the conservationists of tomorrow. Delaware Ducks Unlimited recognizes an important resource in their continued pursuit of the Ducks Unlimited mission. This precious resource is found not just in grassroots fundraising, but is found in the education of today's youth. Every year, the Delaware chapters of Ducks Unlimited come together and host a weekend dedicated to youth and conservation. Now in its seventh year, the Delaware Greenwing event is going to be held at Owens Station Preserve in Greenwood, Delaware on April 2.



Mrs. Delaware, Amanda Shepard, sings the national anthem in the opening ceremonies at the 2010 Greenwing Youth Festival

Plans are already in progress to continue this critical event in the education of our youth. The theme of this year's event will be more of a festival theme, in hopes to attract more youth to attend across the state, with many activities to keep them busy in the outdoors. Youth will be able to participate in the duck and goose calling contest, decoy carving competition, second annual conservation photography contest, archery, sporting clay target shooting, and casting/fly fishing activities. In addition to outdoor related activities, state agencies including DNREC and other exhibitors will be on hand to provide educational information specifically focused on conservation and preserving Delaware's open spaces.

The Delaware Sr. and Jr. Duck Stamp finalists will also be judged at the event as in years past. Local artists and carvers will be in attendance to display their art focused on wildlife and decoy carving. In addition to all the activities, a trick shooter will be on hand from Beretta, DU biologists will give presentations.

This is a **FREE** event to all youth who participate. Fundraising provided by local business contributions help register each child as a Greenwing so that they receive continued education throughout the rest of the year.

So mark your calendars and be sure to pre-register so we know you're coming to the 2011 Delaware Greenwing event on April 2 and the fundraising shoot on April 3.

Register online at: <http://www.ducks.org/Page4254.aspx>



Past DU National President and current President of DU de Mexico, John Tomke, welcomes crowd to annual Delaware DU Greenwing Youth Festival



Northern Zone DU Chairman Lou Caputo demonstrates the art of decoy burning on his custom carved walking stick



Archery Instruction at the 2010 Greenwing event with a focus on safety and experiencing outdoor activities



DE state police were on hand to help with youth fingerprinting.

"Today's youth are the conservationists of tomorrow."



HAIL CALL: If anyone is interested in participating in the Greenwing committee, this is a very rewarding experience and is the foundation for all we do in DU... please contact Jason Crook – 302-218-5503 or jasoncrook@gmail.com to get involved!!

Rescue the Acres through Three Key Strategies

by Lou Caputo, Northern Zone Chairman

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer; as usual, it is moving very fast and the fall hunting season will be upon us. The fall also marks the time for DU dinners, sporting clay shoots, special events and committee meetings all throughout the state.

There are three important things we need to focus on starting right away to ensure the success of "Rescuing the Acres" and raising those valuable acre-saving dollars.

RECRUIT BRONZE SPONSORS

The foundation and lifeblood of major donor giving starts with the \$250 Annual Bronze Sponsorship. You now can be a bronze sponsor for \$20.84 per month for 12 months. Save an acre of land for pennies a day. Look for this option at all DU events or contact Tony Senn at 302.422.5068 for details.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

The gift of time is another generous way of helping the cause. Ask your friends or relatives to volunteer to work on your committee with you. Everyone brings a unique set of talents to the table when they get involved. The volunteer experience is a rewarding one. For more information on volunteering, contact Lou Caputo at 302.429.2727.

Please don't rely on someone else to volunteer-we need **you**.

EVENTS-THE GRASSROOTS WAY TO RAISE DOLLARS

Everyone likes to attend a DU event and Delaware has events of all kinds. People enjoy our events because they are well-run, are fun, are well attended, bring good people together for a common purpose and raise dollars for the ducks. Eighty-eight percent of the money raised by DU goes to the cause. That is an incredible number that helps to save an incredible amount of wetlands. Selling tickets to your events will insure the success of your event.

For the continued success of our mission, please concentrate on these three important parts of our mission that will continue to build a strong foundation of giving and insure the success of our fundraising efforts as we navigate our way into the future.

Fill the Halls - Fill the Skies

Rescue the Acres Campaign – Update

by Clif Bakhsh, Southern Zone Chairman

We all know and understand the mission statement of Ducks Unlimited, to protect and preserve waterfowl habitat throughout North America. Delaware has a long standing tradition of being one of the top states in the nation supporting this mission and setting an example for others to follow.

Fundraising efforts are tied directly to the economy, which has seen a downturn dating back to 2005. Since then, we have lost the ability to preserve 2,500 acres of nesting, feeding and resting habitat that is critical to maintaining a healthy and viable waterfowl population.

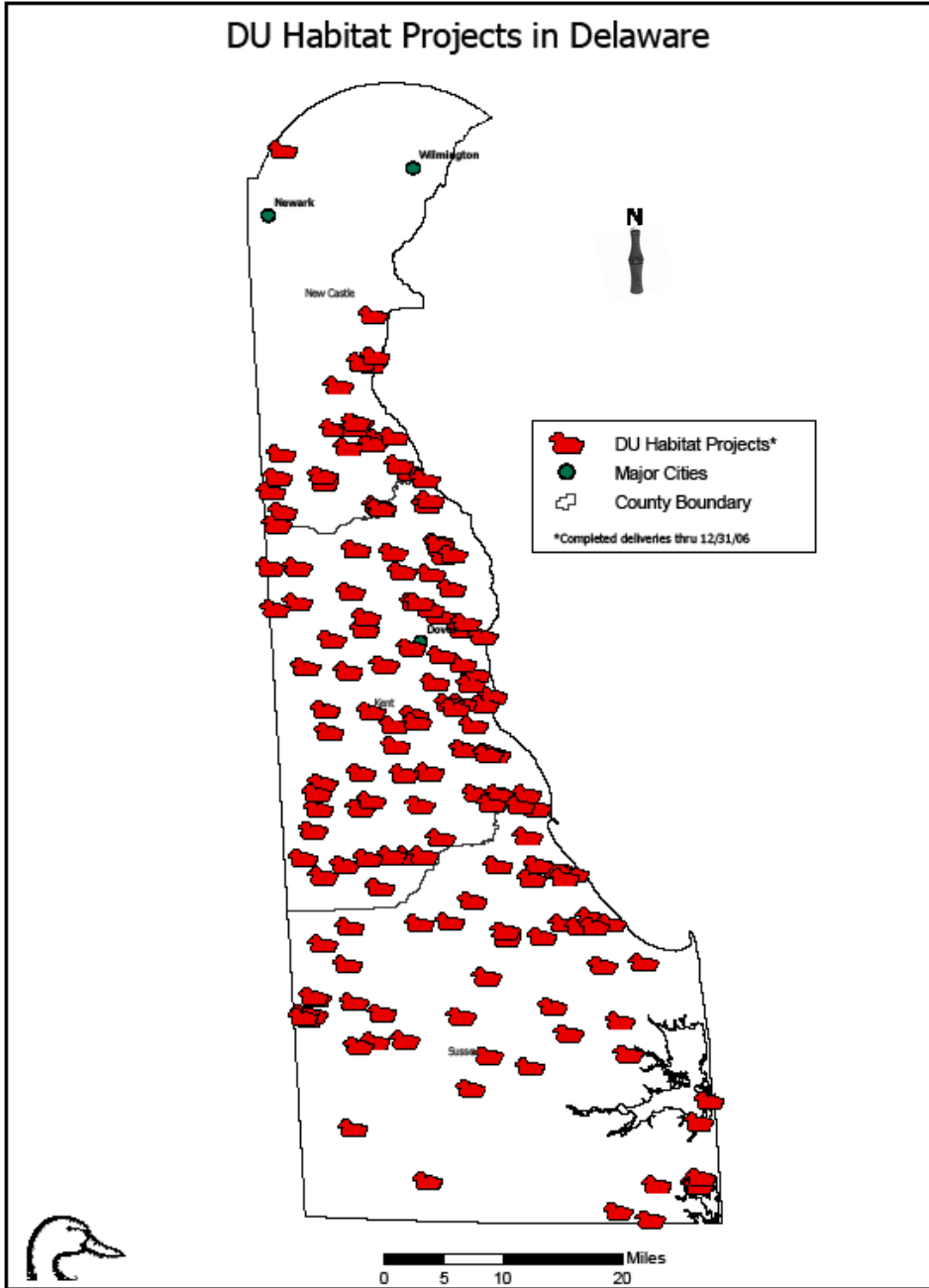
Delaware Ducks Unlimited has set a goal to "Rescue the Acres" lost by 2012, the 75th Anniversary of Ducks Unlimited. To help keep our chapters focused on this effort, we will award a specially-designed logo and vest to each area chairman whose committee has increased their contributions by at least \$1.00 over the previous year.

Those of you who attended the awards banquet on August 28, 2010, saw six area chairs receive a vest that we hope they will proudly wear at their upcoming events. We will continue this practice until the program ends.

So that everyone is kept up-to-date on our progress, charts will be provided that can be displayed at events. Fiscal Year 2009-2010 got us off to a great start and so far Fiscal Year 2010 - 2011 is better yet thanks to our dedicated volunteers and DU membership. Keep up the good work and let's award thirteen vests at next year's banquet.



Where does your donation go?



Core Values

The core values and guiding principles of Ducks Unlimited's team of staff and volunteers are:

Waterfowl and wetland
We conserve North America's waterfowl and wetlands.



Ethics
We act to uphold the reputation of DU, treating people and wildlife with respect



Science-based decisions
we evaluate our programs to guide us and ensure credibility.



Team DU
We work together as volunteers and staff.



Waterfowling
We value and enjoy the sport and heritage of hunting.



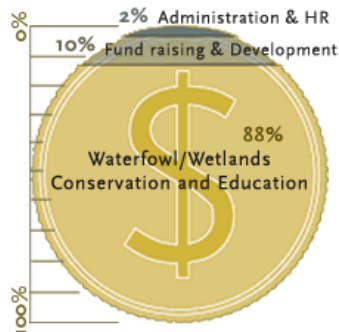
Collaboration, not confrontation
We partner with those who share common goals and values.



Wise investments
We commit at least 80% of our resources to conservation.



Passion and commitment
We celebrate the culture of DU as we serve our members.



During the past fiscal year, **88 percent** of DU's expenditures were converted directly to conservation work. This habitat is needed desperately by ducks, geese and other wetland-dependent wildlife to survive.

Message from Delaware DU's Regional Director

Well, we are well into the first Quarter of the fiscal year. And I am extremely happy to report that we are starting off with a BANG!! We have had five events since the beginning of the year, July 1, and it gives me great pleasure to report that three of those five were up considerably from last year. With that in mind, I am cautiously optimistic about what we have to look forward to between now and the end of the year on June 30, 2011.

We will be focusing the majority of our fundraising efforts this year on a few very important items that we think can be the catalyst to carry us to a very positive year. Those few things are Bronze Sponsor Recruitment, continued Volunteer Recruitment and Retention and last but certainly not least, FILLING THE HALLS!! Following these three tried and true objectives, we can do our part in conserving, protecting and restoring America's waterfowl habitat.

We have a full calendar of events again this year, and as always, we start right off in the fall with some very important events that set the tone for the rest of the year. As I mentioned before, we have set a very positive tone and are getting right into it.

I would like to take just a minute and personally thank all of those dedicated volunteers who have stepped up to lead this very important effort here in Delaware and especially those who have taken on the leadership/ Chairman's role in their particular chapters for this upcoming fundraising season: Wayne Hutchison/Kent County, Adam Furry/Central Delaware, Curtis Wright/ Eastern Sussex, Ed Montague/ Nanticoke, Jason Crook/ New Castle County, Ian McConnel and Matt Dinneen/ Brandywine, Rod West and Donnie Holladay/Indian River, Mark Breeding/ Delaware Hunters, Dave Rodenheiser/Appoquinimink, Linda Berry/Quack Pack, Anthony Molitor/Naamans Creek, Jon Whitt/Tidewater and Tim Thompson and Tina Miller/Flight line. Without their dedication, time commitment and leadership, DEDU would not and could not function.

So...THANK YOU all for what you have done, are doing and will continue to do for the DUCKS and especially DEDU!!!

Tony Senn
Delaware Regional Director

Great Cypress Swamp Restoration 426 acres Strong...and Growing

By Kurt Anderson, DU Biologist

The Great Cypress Swamp is located in the southernmost portion of Sussex County, DE. Blanketing more than 13,000 acres, it is the largest remaining tract of contiguous forest on the Delmarva Peninsula and is one of its most unique wetland resources. Sadly, while portions of the Great Cypress Swamp are still partially inundated during wet years, its natural hydrology has been dramatically altered. A vast network of drainage ditches excavated to accommodate agriculture and timber harvest have disrupted complex drainage patterns and diminished both the extent and ecological function of the area.

Several years' worth of concerted effort culminated in the 2009 restoration of 426 acres in the Great Cypress Swamp. Delaware Wild Lands (DWL), which owns and manages more than 11,000 acres there, joined forces with Ducks Unlimited, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Delaware Bay Estuary Project and Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Center for the Inland Bays, and others to strategically install six water control structures and five ditch plugs aimed at retaining outflow and lengthening the hydro period, thus effectively rewetting vast portions of the Great Cypress Swamp.



But their work didn't stop there. DWL and others planted more than 33,000 Atlantic white cedars, which have declined significantly and are identified as a "Habitat of Conservation Concern" in the Delaware Wildlife Action Plan. Furthermore, Ducks Unlimited spearheaded submission of a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant in 2009 which proposes a similar restoration on an adjacent 343 acres. With support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Center for the Inland Bays, and others, Ducks Unlimited and DWL are committed to the long-term restoration of the Great Cypress Swamp to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

Water control structures like this one installed during the 2009 Great Cypress Swamp restoration will enable land managers to hold water in ditches longer, thereby reestablishing a more natural hydrologic regime.

Upcoming Delaware DU Events

TYPE	DATE	HOST CHAPTER / EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
	September 16, 2010	New Castle County Fall Sportsman Hunter Party	Hockessin Fire Hall Hockessin, DE	Jason Crook (302) 218-5503
	October 14, 2010	Brandywine Annual Sportsman's Dinner	Vicmead Hunt Club Centerville, DE	Ian McConnel (302) 655-2930
	October 23, 2010	Kent County Clayton Dinner	Clayton Fire House Clayton, DE	Wayne Hutchison (302) 242-6713
	November 6, 2010	Central Dinner	Carlisle Fire House Milford, DE	Adam Furry (302) 245-4369
	November 6, 2010	Indian River Dinner	Millville Firehouse Millville, DE	Rod West (302) 537-4551
	November 7, 2010 50 Targets	Delaware Hunters Pre-Goose season Shoot & Sponsors Event	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Mark Breeding (302) 632-0747
	November 20, 2010 50 Targets	Quack Pack Casino Theme Dinner	Smyrna Opera House Smyrna, DE	Ed Montague (302) 258-9115
	November 21, 2010 50 Targets	Nanticoke Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Ed Montague (302) 258-9115
WHP	November 21, 2010	State Committee Waterfowl Hunter's Party (WHP)	Leipsic Fire Hall Leipsic, DE	Scott Crawford (302) 222-2470
	December 3, 2010	Eastern Sussex Sponsor Event	Rehoboth Beach Conv. Ctr Rehoboth Beach, DE	Curtis Wright (302) 236-6302
	December 5, 2010 81 Targets	New Castle Co. 3-Bird Covey Rise Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Jason Crook (302) 218-5503
	December 7, 2010	Naamans Creek Shrimp Feast	Giordano's Restaurant Kennett Sq., PA	Anthony Molitor (302) 383-3357
	January 2011	Appoquinimink Businessman's Lunch	Burris Lodge Middletown, DE	Dave Rodenheiser (302) 312-3188
	January 2011	Kent County Muskrat Dinner	Leipsic Fire Hall Leipsic, DE	Wayne Hutchison (302) 242-6713
	February 2011	Appoquinimink Pheasant Release	Burris Lodge Middletown, DE	Dave Rodenheiser (302) 312-3188
	February 2011	Kent County February Dinner	Modern Maturity Dover, DE	Wayne Hutchison (302) 242-6713
	February 2011	Naamans Creek Theme Dinner	FOP Lodge Wilmington, DE	Anthony Molitor (302) 383-3357
	February 20, 2011 50 Targets	Central Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Adam Furry (302) 245-4369
	March 2011	Eastern Sussex Sponsor Event	Rehoboth Beach Conv. Ctr Rehoboth Beach, DE	Curtis Wright (302) 236-6302
	March 2011	Appoquinimink Pheasant Release	Burris Lodge Middletown, DE	Dave Rodenheiser (302) 312-3188
	March 5, 2011	Nanticoke Dinner	Seaford Fire House Seaford, DE	Ed Montague (302) 258-9115
	March 6, 2011 50 Targets	Kent County Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Wayne Hutchison (302) 242-6713
	March 20, 2011 50 Targets	Quack Pack Clay Shoot	TBD	Linda Berry (302) 679-9758
	March 26, 2011	New Castle County Spring Chairman's Recognition Dinner	Clarion Belle New Castle, DE	Jason Crook (302) 218-5503
	March 27, 2011 50 Targets	Tidewater Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	John Whitt (302) 242-2092

TYPE	DATE	HOST CHAPTER / EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
	April 2011	Delaware Hunters Chapter Annual Banquet/Auction	Felton Fire Hall Felton, DE	Mark Breeding (302) 632-0747
	April 2011	Appoquinimink Sponsor Picnic	Burris Lodge Middletown, DE	Dave Rodenheiser (302) 312-3188
	April 2011	Central Sponsors Dinner	Tall Pines Hunt Club	Adam Furry (302) 245-4369
	April 2, 2011	State Committee Green Wing Event	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Jason Crook (302) 218-5503
	April 3, 2011 50 Targets	State Committee Green Wing Fundraising Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Jason Crook (302) 218-5503
	April 17, 2011 50 Targets	Eastern Sussex Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Curtis Wright (302) 236-6302
	May 2011	Appoquinimink Family Picnic	Burris Lodge Middletown, DE	Dave Rodenheiser (302) 312-3188
	May 15, 2011 50 Targets	Delaware Hunters Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Mark Breeding (302) 632-0747
	May 16, 2011	Brandywine 1st Annual Golf Tournament	Bidermann Country Club	Ian McConnel (302) 655-2930
	May 26-29, 2011	Ducks Unlimited National Convention	Canada	Tony Senn (302) 494-0988
	June 2011	Appoquinimink Spring Fling Raffle	Harrington Race Way Harrington, DE	Dave Rodenheiser (302) 312-3188
	June 5, 2011 50 Targets	Eastern Sussex Blue Hen Shoot Warm-up	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Curtis Wright (302) 236-6302
	June 11-12, 2011 200 Targets	DE State Committee 15th Annual Blue Hen Classic	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Dave Waters (302) 463-4548
	June 16, 2011	New Castle Co 8th Annual Golf Tournament	Deerfield Golf/Tennis Club Newark, DE	Jason Crook (302) 218-5503
	July 2011	DE State Committee Northern Zone Meeting	Burris Lodge Middletown, DE	Lou Caputo (302) 429-2727
	July 2011	DE State Committee Southern Zone Meeting	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Clif Bakhsh Jr. (302) 378-9833
	July 2011	Kent County Luau	Hartly Fire Hall Hartly, DE	Wayne Hutchison (302) 242-6713
	July 2011	Tidewater Poker Run	Nanticoke River	John Whitt (302) 242-2092
	August 2011	Kent County Sponsors Event	Leipsic Fire Hall Leipsic, DE	Wayne Hutchison (302) 242-6713
	August 2011	Central Crab Feast	Carlisle Fire House Milford, DE	Adam Furry (302) 245-4369
	August 10, 2011 50 Targets	DE State Committee Lame Duck Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Dave Waters (302) 463-4548
	September 15, 2011	New Castle County Fall Sportsman Hunter Party	Hockessin Fire Hall Hockessin, DE	Jason Crook (302) 218-5503
	October 3, 2011	Appoquinimink 27 th Annual Dinner	TBD	Dave Rodenheiser (302) 312-3188
	November 6, 2011 50 Targets	Delaware Hunters Pre-Goose season Shoot & Sponsors Event	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Mark Breeding (302) 632-0747
	November 20, 2011 50 Targets	Nanticoke Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Ed Montague (302) 258-9115
	December 5, 2011 81 Targets	New Castle Co. 3-Bird Covey Rise Clay Shoot	Owens Station Greenwood, DE	Jason Crook (302) 218-5503

Delaware Chapters Recognized – 2010 State Awards

by Jason Crook, New Castle County DU

On August 28, 2010 the Delaware DU Chapters were recognized for their 2009 efforts at the State Awards event held annually. This year's event was held at the Liepsic Fire Hall in Liepsic, DE. In addition to all you can eat crabs, clam strips, corn, burgers, hotdogs, and cold beverages; the Delaware State Committee was recognized for their leadership efforts during the 2009-2010 fiscal years. There were committee members from Kent Co., Central Delaware, Eastern Sussex, Nanticoke, New Castle Co., Brandywine, Indian River, Appoquinimink, Quack Pack, Naamans Creek, and Tidewater in attendance, making this year's State Awards a nice gathering with family and friends. State Chairman Scott Crawford thanked the chapters for their dedication to the cause and hard work over the past year even in the tough economy and congratulated all those who received recognition at the event.

Below are the individual Chapter awards recipients that helped make the 2008-2009 year another success for Delaware Ducks Unlimited. Congratulations to all the award recipients and their hard working chapters!!

AREA CHAIRMAN OF THE YEAR!! : Jonathan Whitt – Tidewater Chapter

HIGH CHAPTER INCOME: Brandywine- Ian McConnel/Matt Dinneen

HIGH DINNER NET: Brandywine- Ian McConnel/Matt Dinneen

LARGEST % DOLLAR INCREASE: Tidewater-Jonathan Whitt

LARGEST DOLLAR INCREASE: Nanticoke-Ed Montague

MOST EVENT SPONSORS: Brandywine- Ian McConnel/Matt Dinneen

GREATEST INCREASE IN SPONSORS: Eastern Sussex-Curtis Wright

MOST EVENT MEMBERS: Appoquinimink-Dave Rodenheiser

GREATEST INCREASE IN MEMBERS: Nanticoke-Ed Montague

BEST NET TO GROSS: Appoquinimink-Dave Rodenheiser

BEST SBA PROGRAM: Delaware Hunters-Mark Breeding

NEW EVENT AWARD: Tidewater-Jonathan Whitt

HIGH NET SHOOT: Eastern Sussex-Curtis Wright





Committee Spotlight: Brandywine Chapter Celebrates 40 Years

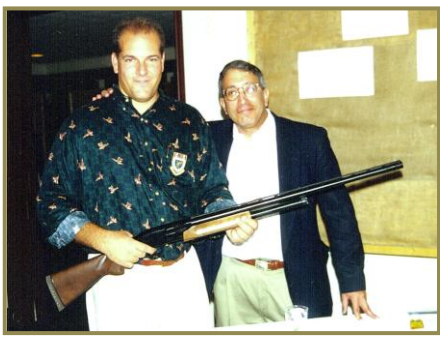
By Don Robitzer, Brandywine DU

On October 14, 2010, the Brandywine Chapter of Ducks Unlimited will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its Annual Sportsman’s Banquet at the Vicmead Hunt Club in Centreville, Delaware. This drakes-only event, has consistently positioned the Brandywine Chapter as a Presidents 100 Top Chapter every year since the awards inception, placing as high as #6 in the nation last year. Chapter Co-Chair Ian McConnell attributes the success to the chapter’s dedicated committee, the ongoing support of its vast sponsor base and an unflappable contingency of businessmen and conservationists. “The Brandywine Chapter was excited to learn that it was recently recognized as one of the top DU chapters in the nation,” says McConnell. “Building off of this momentum, as we enter the 40th anniversary of our chapter, we have a great platform to continue to raise money for the ducks this year and hope to celebrate this milestone by breaking into the top five.”

In the mid 1960’s, the Sportsman’s Banquet began as a small event held at the Nur Temple off Old Capitol Trail Road. This dinner soon became affectionately known as the “Drunks Unlimited” dinner, as it wasn’t uncommon for the patrons to get a little unruly during the course of the night. Longtime DU’er Dick Dobbs recalls an evening when the then-current mayor started to get a little too political in his speech and was chased from the stage by a barrage of dinner rolls. The dinner moved to Wilmington Country Club for a short time in the early ‘70’s but that venue proved to be a bit conservative for the band of revelers and soon thereafter was moved to the ballroom of the Hotel DuPont. In the 1990’s, with event numbers shrinking and committee membership declining, the decision was made to redefine the dinner as a less formal affair and the move was made to Vicmead Hunt Club.

With a new venue and reenergized committee, the team sought dedicated local business sponsorships to help underwrite the cost of the event and with their help, began the climb into the Top 100. “Much of our success is due to multigenerational support from families who want to ensure that children and grandchildren can enjoy the same experiences as their parents and grandparents had, ” said Co-Chair Matt Dinneen. “Equally so, our chapter benefits from the involvement of local companies that take a long-term view and are committed to supporting their communities and surroundings.”

The Brandywine Committee is proud to be a part Delaware DU and applauds the efforts of every chapter in the state that makes Delaware such a uniquely successful and powerful example for the rest of the nation.



Committee member Ken Musi with another satisfied patron in 1996



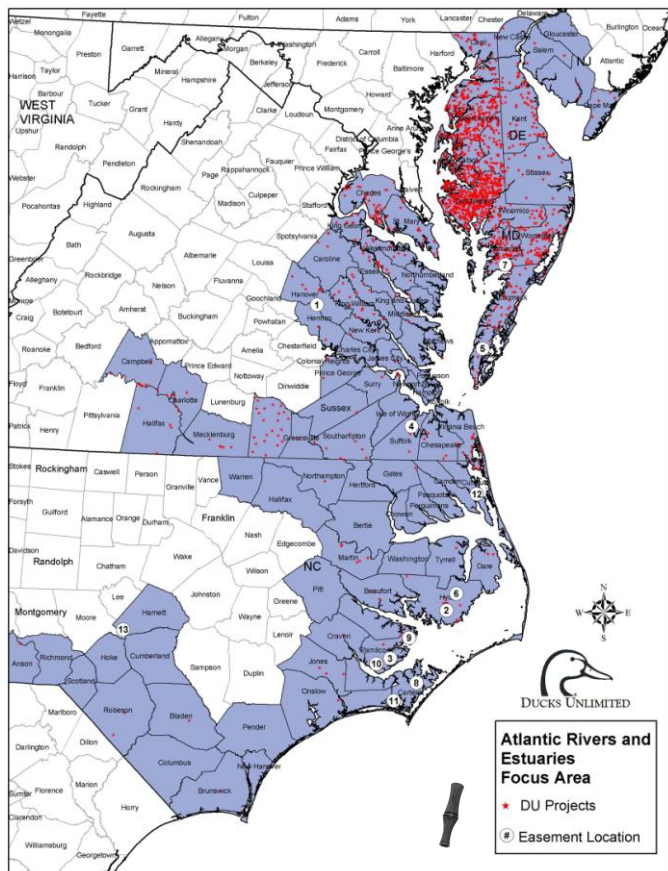
Current Chapter Chairman
Ian McConnell
Matt Dinneen



The Billy Lee Cox Band has been entertaining at the dinner since 1992

Delaware DU: Land Protection and You

by Kurt Anderson, DU Biologist



Delaware is an integral part of the Atlantic Flyway. Though small, it lies nearly equally within the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay watersheds and plays an oversized role in sustaining migratory bird populations in both. Delaware helps support nearly 35 percent of all migrating and wintering

the Atlantic Flyway, including several species which have exhibited significant declines such as American black ducks, canvasbacks, greater and lesser scalp, and northern pintails.

Delaware is included in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Its Chesapeake and Delaware Bay resources are also identified as "Wetlands of International Importance" by the Ramsar Convention, listed as a National Conservation Priority Area by the US Department of Agriculture, and selected by the Shorebird Reserve Network as one of only two "Sites of Hemispheric Importance" on the Atlantic Coast (the other being the Bay of Fundy).

Furthermore, Delaware is included in the Mid-Atlantic Coast Priority Area of the DU International Conservation Plan and the Atlantic Rivers and Estuaries (ARE) Land Protection Focus Area (Figs. 1, 2). As land use changes and associated impacts accelerate, expanding land protection activities in Delaware will help DU meet its mission by more effectively conserving wetland complexes important to waterfowl, other wildlife and people. Land protection will also help DU accommodate sea-level rise and inland marsh migration, foster new and continued conservation partnerships and increase the potential for alternative revenue generation opportunities.

Because nearly three-quarters of wetlands are located on private land, working with landowners is an integral part of DU's conservation programs. There are many ways in which DU members and volunteers can contribute to our wetland protection efforts in Delaware. For instance, landowners can donate or sell conservation easements to DU, ensuring that their property remains open as wildlife habitat in perpetuity while still allowing use for economic gain or recreation. In addition, landowners can donate or sell their property to DU, allowing us to reinvest its inherent value toward future conservation in Delaware. Additional alternatives exist as well.

If you or anyone you know are interested in helping DU satisfy its mission through land protection, please contact Kurt Anderson at (410) 224-6620 or kanderson@ducks.org for more information. Make a difference today!

First State Conservator

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COMEBACK CALL CONTEST

Here is your chance to **WIN** a **DU decoy** with very little effort.

Hidden throughout this newsletter are Duck Calls that look like this:



(not including this one)

All you need to do is count them and visit us at the following web location to enter your guess

<http://www.ducks.org/Page5123.aspx>

One lucky winner chosen from those who enter the correct count will win the DU Decoy.

GOOD LUCK

HAVE FUN!!

We're on the Web!

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Delaware DU Shoot Program: "Getting out in front" of grassroots fundraising

by Dave Waters, DE DU Shoot Chairman



The 15th Annual Blue Hen Classic presented by Delaware Ducks Unlimited returns to Delaware. This year it is at Owens Station on Saturday the 11th and Sunday the 12th of June. For all us duck hunters, the event will be the Lewis Class format, giving ALL shooters a chance to win a gun and try a two-day shoot format. Guns will be the prize for HOA, Runner UP, and 1st through 3rd in all classes. There will be game and prizes on both days and a good party Saturday night.

Lame Duck shoot was a huge success with the help of our colleagues at Penco. Thanks to George Sapna for your continued support.

The All Star awards for being in the **Top Five** of Five shoots went to:

Jason Crook **New Castle**

Mark Wells **DE Hunters**

Howard Wilkins **Central**

Cliff Bakhsh **Appoquinimink**

Dave Waters **Eastern Sussex**

Bill Wolters **Eastern Sussex**

Brain Brown **Kent County**

Jamie Yoder **DE Hunters**

Charlie Harding **Central**

Chuck Smith **Appoquinimink**

Curtis Wright **Eastern Sussex**

The team with the most broken birds from all participating in the DU shoots went to Eastern Sussex accepted by Curtis Wright

Next year's program and awards will be considered by Cliff Bakhsh when he comes in as State Chairman.

Thanks for your attendance and support of the shoot program in Delaware, which stacks up to be one of the best in the country.

~ Dave

Want to see more in the newsletter?Why not contribute an article, picture or highlight from your committee!!

Contact – Don Robitzer to submit your committee content!
(302) 472-7200 or drobotzer@commonwealthtd.net

Ducks Unlimited Vision...

The vision of Ducks Unlimited is wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

Ducks Unlimited Mission Statement...

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