

Hunter Participation in Waterfowl Surveys: Thousands Assist Annually

By Jamie C. Feddersen
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission
Waterfowl Management Program

It sounds pretty morbid, but waterfowl managers need to know how ducks die, either by natural causes or from hunting, in order to ensure sustainable populations. It is also important to know what species, sex, and age is most vulnerable to the blast from the muzzle of a hunter's shotgun. Why should you care about this at all? Because biologists cannot determine that type of information without conducting harvest surveys that enlist the cooperation of hunters.

Since 1952, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been collecting harvest information from hunters. The Hunter Questionnaire Survey was a mail-in survey that was issued to randomly-selected post offices throughout the country. When an individual would buy a Federal Duck Stamp at a selected post office, he or she would receive a card to return that included name, address, and an indication of whether he or she purchased the stamp for hunting or collecting. Hunters who returned their card received a questionnaire and a diary in which to record their hunting activities. The USFWS distributed approximately 70,000 questionnaires every year, but only received about 50,000 in return. In 2001, the Hunter Questionnaire Survey was replaced by the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. You know this as the HIP. The HIP is considered a better survey since it enables the USFWS to survey samples of all types of migratory bird hunters, not just waterfowlers.

In 1961 the USFWS initiated the Cooperative Parts Collection Survey, also



USFWS Biologist Ken Richkus works as a checker at the Northern Shoveler Table.

known as the Duck Wing and Goose Tail Collection Survey. Hunters from each Flyway are asked to mail in a wing from each duck or coot they harvest and the tail feathers and primary wing feathers from each goose. These hunters were selected from participants in the Hunter Questionnaire Survey. Now they are randomly selected from the HIP.

Throughout the hunting season, thousands of wings and tails are mailed to storage depots in each Flyway where they are separated by species and stored in a freezer until February. In the Atlantic Flyway, parts are sent to USFWS Patuxent Research Center in Laurel, Maryland. They are sent to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois for the Mississippi Flyway. Wings and tails go to Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge in

Hartford, Kansas for the Central Flyway, and Coleman National Fish Hatchery in Anderson, California for the Pacific Flyway.

At the end of the waterfowl season, biologists and others from USFWS, state wildlife agencies, and universities gather for three to five days at Wingbees to test their waterfowl identification skills. The challenging part is that they do this with only a wing to examine. At the Wingbee, wings are inspected for feather wear and certain feather characteristics which are used to determine the age and sex of the duck harvested.

Even the paid professionals make mistakes; fortunately, they can not receive a ticket for their error. Each table of people examining duck wings has an experi-

enced person, the checker, who has received special training in the reading of duck wings and whose accuracy has been carefully checked. The checker verifies the age and sex identification made by workers at the table for every wing. This system effectively reduces errors because each wing is looked at by more than one person. Egos are checked at the door and replaced with a copy of Sam Carney's book, "Species, Age and Sex Identification of Ducks Using Wing Plumage."

Goose wings and tails work a little different. Species can be determined fairly easily, but gender cannot be determined at all. Feather wear is used to classify geese either as hatch-year (hatched in spring of the previous year) or adult.

Other information gathered includes the name of the hunter along with the date, time, state, and county where the bird was harvested. After each Flyway has conducted their Wingbee, the data are combined and become part of the national, USFWS' Parts Collection Survey database.



USFWS Biologist Paul Padding gives instructions on how to age and sex duck wings.



USFWS Biologist Bob Raftovich measure a black duck wing.

The Wingbee provides data used to estimate the species, age, and sex composition of the duck harvest. So, without hunter cooperation, your state waterfowl biologist would have a difficult time answering the question, "How many pintails were shot last year?"

Harvest surveys alone don't provide all the answers. They only tell biologists the proportion of the waterfowl population that has been harvested. When this nugget of information is used in conjunction

with bird banding data, waterfowl managers can tell a lot more... but that is another story.

FLORIDA

WING BEATS



FLORIDA DUCKS UNLIMITED NEWSLETTER

NEWS & INFORMATION FOR DUCKS UNLIMITED MEMBERS

Winter 2006

Invitation from DU President Jim Hulbert to the 2006 National Convention in Pheonix

It is my pleasure to personally invite you to join us in Phoenix, Arizona for Ducks Unlimited's 69th Annual Convention at the beautiful JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa during the dates of May 24-28, 2006.

This year's convention is especially significant since we will be officially launching the largest fund raising effort ever undertaken on behalf of this continent's waterfowl and wetland – our WETLANDS FOR TOMORROW campaign. The success of this campaign will depend on YOU and I would heartily encourage you to be participant in this D' milestone by attending Convention '06.

The Valley of the Sun, as the Greater Phoenix region is known, is the metropolitan hub of the Southwest. Huddled closely together, the adjoining cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale, Mesa, and Tempe have a combined population of more than 3 million people, and the growth rate of the area is one of the greatest in the United States. With more than 320

days of sunshine per year, over 200 golf courses, and several up-scale resorts – including the convention headquarters property – it is not hard to understand the attraction of Phoenix as a meeting destination. So come and enjoy the traditional southwestern hospitality

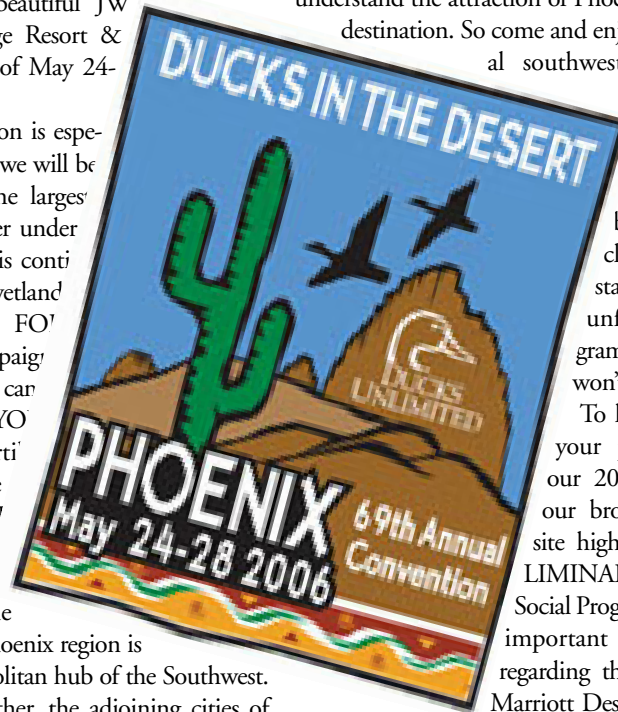
this city has to offer. Our Phoenix host committee has been working closely with our staff to assemble an unforgettable program – one that you won't want to miss. To help in planning your participation in our 2006 Convention, our brochure and web site highlights the PRELIMINARY Business and Social Programs, along with important information regarding the luxurious JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa – our headquarters hotel, convention registration, banquet seating, shooting sports activities and tour information. Please take a few minutes to fill out the

Convention Registration Form, attach your check or provide the necessary information to charge the registration fee to your credit card, and return them promptly to Convention Central at the address shown on the form. You may also register online at <https://dunationalconvention.org/register.aspx>.

Also included in the brochure is a Hotel Reservation Form for the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa. Please mail or fax the completed form to the resort's Reservation Department, or you can reserve your accommodations online <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/phxdr?groupCode=ducdca&app=resvlink>. Let me also remind you that attendees bringing children to the convention and staying at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa will be eligible for special registration fee consideration. You'll find out more about this in the brochure.

During the coming weeks, you will be receiving additional important information concerning Convention 2006, its valuable meetings and associated events, and the launching of the WETLANDS FOR TOMORROW campaign. In the meantime, I urge you to finalize your plans to join us and our good friends from Canada and Mexico, at DU's 69th Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jim Hulbert, President
Ducks Unlimited



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A Message From The State Volunteer Chairman

I would like to thank everyone for electing me as the new State Volunteer Chairman. The past leadership has made great strides in advancing Ducks Unlimited Florida thus far. I will continue to improve and move forward with what they have started. My goal is to make Florida one of the top ten states in every category that Ducks Unlimited has. I will need the help of all Florida Ducks Unlimited volunteers to achieve this.

I would like to welcome and remind everyone that the Ducks Unlimited State Convention is being held at the Ocala Hilton, 3600 S.W. 36th Ave. Ocala, Florida on May 5th, 6th and 7th. A Cajun dinner is planned for the banquet night. It would be great to have as many volunteers and participants to make it the biggest and the best possible.

We have a number of state positions open. If anyone is interested in helping fill these positions, please contact me at lschwennek@aol.com, (407) 957-5804 home or (407) 908-4371 cell, for particulars on these positions. Your help will be greatly appreciated and needed for the DUCKS.

I want to thank all the volunteers and Regional Directors for all the hard work they have done in the past and look forward to working with them in the future for the betterment of Ducks Unlimited.

God Bless Everyone,
Leonard Schwenneker (Len)
State Chairman

Florida Ducks Unlimited Conservation Programs Update

By Dale James
Ducks Unlimited Regional Biologist

In Florida, Ducks Unlimited's wetland conservation program has worked to conserve nearly 23,000 acres since 1985. Our habitat conservation priorities continue to be the protection, restoration, and enhancement of freshwater marshes, and coastal and riverine wetlands. Conservation staff is currently involved with three projects and have identified five potential projects. The following is an update of the DU Florida Conservation Program.

Public Lands

To date, there are 20 completed projects that have conserved almost 23,000 wetland acres on public lands throughout the state. Projects currently in progress include wetland enhancement projects on the Hickory Mound Impoundment (Big Bend WMA), Lake Woodruff NWR, and Broodmoor Marsh (T.M Goodwin WMA). Additionally DU has committed funding to the Mottled Duck research program.

The Hickory Mound Impoundment in Taylor County is currently under construction and scheduled to be completed by May 2006. DU received a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant for \$391,000 to refurbish the levee and install new water control structures in an effort to protect this habitat from storm events and enhance management capabilities. This project was originally scheduled to be completed by fall 2005, however, due to damage incurred from Hurricane Dennis in July 2005, the construction was postponed.

Design and surveying of 450-acres of wetlands at Lake Woodruff NWR in Volusia County has been completed. DU submitted a proposal for a NAWCA grant for \$50,000 for this project, which will include installing three water control structures, a relift pump and a power unit. Construction on this project should begin by fall 2006 pending permit approval and construction bidding. Once completed, this project will allow refuge staff the ability to manage the water levels in three separate wetlands to benefit numerous wildlife species such as waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds.

DU engineering staff has completed a surveying and engineering assessment on the Broadmoor Marsh Unit of T.M. Goodwin WMA. This project will enhance existing waterfowl impoundments by providing the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission (FFWCC) engineering data necessary to replace existing water control structures and construct new levees.

DU has also increased its support to \$30,000 for phase 2 of the mottled duck research project being conducted by the FFWCC titled "Habitat use, movements, and survival of Adult Female mottled ducks (*Anas fulvigula fulvigula*) using the Everglades Agricultural Area, Florida". FWCC anticipates this project to begin in the spring of 2006. However, the initiation of the project is contingent upon securing additional funds. The information gained from this project should aid in identifying conservation needs of this resident waterfowl species.

DU staff has recently visited several potential and/or future project sites. These sites include Dinner Island Ranch WMA, Spirit of the Wild WMA, Guana River WMA, Apalachicola WEA and the Box-R WMA. The Dinner Island Ranch WMA project in Hendry County would potentially restore approximately 1,800 acres of sugarcane fields to moist soil impoundments. This area has potential to be good waterfowl habitat for breeding Florida mottled ducks as well as migrating waterfowl. The Spirit of the Wild WMA in Hendry County would enhance and restore more than 2,700-acres of degraded wetland areas by filling existing ditches and installing water control structures to restore hydrology. Both of these projects are future Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) projects. DU's potential involvement will include engineering and biological assistance. Currently the FFWCC is conducting wetland hydrology models, which will aid in examining the potential feasibility of pursuing the restoration efforts on these areas.

A potential project on Guana River WMA located in St. John's County was investigated and would enhance water management capabilities on 32-acres of wetlands known as McNeil's Pond by installing a relift pump. These enhancements will allow FFWCC staff the ability to manage the hydrology in the impoundments thus improving the habitat conditions. DU staff has also visited a potential 113-acre site on the Apalachicola WEA in Gulf County and a 422-acre site on the Box-R WMA in Franklin County. Both of these sites will require the FWCC to gather additional information before further investigation.

For more information concerning Ducks Unlimited's Conservation programs in Florida please contact Craig LeSchack, Director of Conservation Programs or Dale James, Regional Biologist, in Charleston, SC at (843) 745-9110.

The Whooping Cranes of Florida

By George E. Leath
State Chairman for Conservation Projects

During the 1940's the magnificent whooping cranes, the tallest of all North American Birds, were on the verge of extinction. In much the same way that Ducks Unlimited was brought into existence, a group of concerned individuals gathered together and formed the Whooper Club. This Club later became known as the Whooping Crane Conservation Association, and its mission was the restoration of the Whooping Crane and its habitat.

Over the years, this group has worked closely with government agencies, and private interests to improve the management of these beautiful cranes. Extensive research and development programs have been conducted to establish a captive population of whoopers in zoos in Canada and Wisconsin, and at the Pautuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. Using the offspring of these captive flocks, efforts are being made to establish two new wild flocks right here in Florida. One flock of non-migratory cranes was established on the Kissimmee Prairie that today contains more than 260 cranes. The other flock is Migratory. These cranes migrate along a route established for them from the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin, to the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Citrus County Florida, just South of Homosassa Springs. This migratory flock has a very interesting history.

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership was formed to establish this flock and to teach them the migration route. This migration route is over 1100 miles in length, and takes the cranes across 7 States. The cranes are taught to follow ultra light aircraft that fly down the route using high tech GPS navigation instruments and a highly trained ground crew that travel along and set up the landing sites with predator proof feeding and roosting pens.

The cranes used for this migratory flock are exposed to tape recordings of the sounds of the engine noise from the ultra light aircraft even before hatching from their eggs. They are then taught to imprint on and follow the ultra light aircraft as if it was their parent. Then they are transported to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin where they receive additional training with the ultra light aircraft and the use of the roosting pens. Throughout the entire training process the cranes never see or hear a human. Their instructors and the Pilots are always concealed inside white costumes and use hand held puppets simulating the long neck, head and bill of an adult Whooping Crane. This prevents exposure to and familiarity with human beings.

Since the first ultra light led migration in 2001, which consisted of 8 Whoopers, the flock has grown to 64 Cranes.

One of the most amazing aspects of this migration process is that while the fall, ultra light led



migration typically takes approximately 60 days, these same cranes will return to the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin in March or April along the same route, in less than one week, and without human intervention. A classic example of the mystery waterfowl migration.

The 2005 fall migration of the ultra light led cranes had a special addition. On December 13, 2005 the 19 young cranes arrived in Citrus County Florida, and were led on a special flyover of the Dunnellon Municipal Airport. This was conducted to allow for a public viewing of the cranes and Planes.

I made the two hour drive down to the airport, and upon arrival was amazed to see hundreds of other enthusiastic spectators who had gathered in the cold morning air for an opportunity to view these magnificent cranes. The sound of shutters clicking and oohs and ahhs could be heard from the crowd as the flock made their approach and flyover. In spite of efforts to discourage it, one crane decided to land on the far side of the airport, and had to be coaxed into a small pen by ground crew personnel wearing white costumes, loaded into a van, and transported to the nearby Halpata Tatanaki Preserve where the other 18 cranes had been led by the aircraft as a staging area prior to the final stop at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge. A special 2.5 acre pen had been constructed there to temporarily hold the cranes until such time as their older relatives clear out of their winter home, thus avoiding any challenges or territorial harassment by the older birds against the new-

comers. Shortly after the cranes were "dropped off", the ultra light aircraft returned to the airport. The obviously weary pilots generously spent several hours greeting the eager spectators, conducting interviews and answering hundreds of questions about every aspect of their 2 month journey in their tiny open cockpit aircraft.

This extraordinary effort will continue each year until enough cranes have been introduced into the flock to establish a self sustaining flock consisting of at least 25 breeding pairs.

To me, seeing these huge, elegant cranes for the first time was an exciting and truly memorable experience.

Shortly after the cranes arrive at their destination in Florida, they begin to break up into small flocks and disperse out into other parts of the State. The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership asks that anyone encountering a whooping crane to please show your respect of these magnificent cranes by not approaching them any closer than 600 feet. Just as Ducks Unlimited has accomplished great things in our efforts to achieve our conservation goals through grass root efforts and volunteers, over 60% of the funds for this Whooping Crane Recovery Project have been derived from private donations, grants, and corporate sponsors.

Information in this article is offered on the web sites of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, Whooping Crane Conservation Association and Operation Migration.

Duck Banding



FFWCC Waterfowl Program leader Diane Eggeman, bands a hen mottled duck at the Broadmoor Marsh in Brevard County, Florida.



Florida DU South and Central Regional Director Brett Bainter, finally gets his hands on drake wood duck. Brett was cooperating with FFWCC waterfowl biologist Jamie Feddersen during the summer of 2005 to capture and band wood ducks and Florida mottled ducks at bait traps on Lake Mary Jess in Orlando.



FFWCC waterfowl biologist Andrew Fanning (left) and technician Brett Walker (right) set traps in a residential yard in Winter Haven.

Sporting Clays

By Jim Capps

Duck season's all too short time has come and gone and now it's time to put up the decoys, boat and related gear for another year. Not so fast my friend! At least don't put up that shotgun just yet! The perfect way to keep that shooting level you have finally achieved after dove and duck season is to continue with Sporting Clays this spring and summer.

A super way to do that is by attending a Ducks Unlimited Sporting Clays Fun Shoot, from the beginning shooter to the most experienced Hunter class and NSCA shooter, you will find lots of prizes, merchandise, shotguns, and ammo given away daily and good folks to shoot with. Check the DU website at www.ducks.org and you'll see that DU's National shooting program begins with a Continental Shoot March 23-26 at Mesquite, Nevada just a short drive from that little town of Las Vegas!

Have you always wanted to go – now is the time, you get to shoot during the day and enjoy the nightlife of the city. Actual Sporting Clays are Saturday/Sunday, with the month of March in the desert is very pleasant! On April 20-23, a DU Continental Shoot at Rend Lake, Indiana will be held in conjunction with the PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America). Rend Lake has paved cart paths and all stations are wheelchair accessible. I shot with some of the PVA shooters last year at the DU Continental in Nashville, Tennessee and Tunica, Mississippi, and they are a great and inspirational bunch. The shoots continue on June 2-4 in Salem, Oregon and August 12-13 at Elk Creek, Kentucky and September 9-10 in Denver, Colorado; these all will be two day DU fun shoots.

We wind up the year with the super DU Continental at the Grand Casino in Tunica, Mississippi October 12-15, featuring a very special casino night banquet and a Saturday night tent Bar-B-Que with all the traditional DU raffles, silent auctions and live auctions.

In addition to the National DU Shoot Program, we will be having a DU Florida Shoot this spring with course location and information to follow on the Florida DUcknet and the state website as soon as it is set. We have had annual DU sporting clays fun shoots in Florida for the past 5 years and they get bigger and better every year.

DU chapters, a great way to have an event during the spring and summer season is to host a fun shoot, and DU has a great "How To" book you can get through your Regional Director. In addition, your Florida DU Shoot Chairman, Jim Capps is also on the National Shoot Committee and you can reach him at jim@plantationgas.com.

A great sponsor event is a sporting clays shoot with a cookout and a few raffle and silent auction items. Remember, 10 sponsor memberships can qualify your chapter for an event. You can also have a chapter kickoff meeting at a sporting clays range or a wrap up after your banquet to go over your event results and make notes for your next event while it's fresh in everyone's mind. Short of heading down to Argentina, sporting clays offers a fun way to keep your shooting edge and improve your bag for next duck season.



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FLORIDA WINGBEATS

Ducks Unlimited is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to conserving wetlands habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. DU was incorporated by a group of farsighted conservationists on Jan. 29, 1937. Membership in the organization is \$25 minimum, which includes a subscription to the national Ducks Unlimited magazine. As the organization's official publication for Florida, Wing Beats has a circulation of 16,000. Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of Ducks Unlimited Inc. Similarities between the name Ducks Unlimited Inc. and those of advertisers are

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Major Sportsmen's Organizations Unite in Support of Conservation Reserve Program

Ducks Unlimited, the world leader in wetland and waterfowl conservation, represented major sportsmen-conservationist organizations in Washington, D.C., at a Congressional hearing on Capitol Hill regarding the future of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Jeff Nelson, director of DU's Great Plains regional office in Bismarck, N.D., (which covers eight north-central states including North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming and Minnesota) testified in a hearing before the U.S. Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation and Rural Revitalization in preparation for the 2007 Farm Bill.

During the testimony, Nelson made a strong case in support of CRP being reauthorized in the next Farm Bill. "No program in history has done more for providing landowners with stable and diversified income while providing an incredible amount of landscape level conservation of wildlife habitat, soil and water," said Nelson.

The subcommittee called the hearing to assess the present implementation status of CRP, provide a forum for comment from agricultural producers, USDA agencies and conservation organizations on the efficacy of the program, and also to hear comments on how CRP can be improved within the 2007 Farm Bill.

Nelson, representing 18 sportsmen-conservationist organizations—whose combined con-

stituency represents several million supporters—discussed the multiple benefits CRP provides and the challenges facing the program. Providing examples of how CRP is making a positive impact on agricultural producers and citing the high demand for CRP among landowners, Nelson demonstrated the need for continued support of the program, and reauthorization in the 2007 Farm Bill.

"Today's goal was to explain the benefits that CRP has brought to landowners, the landscape and to local economies," Nelson explained. "There are a few misconceptions about this program, and we wanted to present data that shows CRP helps rural landowners and areas.

"Given all of the benefits of CRP to farmers and ranchers, the environment and the American public, we cannot afford the loss of CRP authorization in the next Farm Bill," Nelson told the subcommittee. "Such a loss would negate many of the documented wildlife and other environmental benefits that resulted from CRP over the past 20 years," he said.

"New economies are emerging that are founded on the multiple benefits provided by CRP lands. These include wildlife-based tourism and associated small businesses that accommodate visitors."

Dave Nomsen of Pheasants Forever also attended the hearing. In reaction, he said, "In 2007, over 16 million acres of CRP contracts

will terminate, with an additional 6 million acres expiring the following year. CRP should continue as USDA's flagship conservation program and be reauthorized with a focus on enhancing and expanding CRP's wildlife legacy."

Scott Sutherland, DU's director of Governmental Affairs, added, "It was encouraging to hear the subcommittee's chairman, Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), and the ranking minority member, Sen. Blanche Lincoln, (D-Ark.), both state strong support for CRP and recognize its important role on the conservation landscape. We hope the subcommittee will fight to maintain this very popular program that offers both financial and environmental returns to the American public."

The testimony Ducks Unlimited provided also represented the views of the Archery Trade Association, Bowhunting Preservation Alliance, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Izaak Walton League of America, Land Trust Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, National Wild Turkey Federation, North American Grouse Partnership, Pheasants Forever, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International, Texas Wildlife Association, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Whitetails Unlimited, Wildlife Management Institute and Wildlife Mississippi.

Volunteer Services Representative

We are pleased to announce an addition to our Florida Ducks Unlimited staff team. Walter Brooks will be joining us as the newly appointed Volunteer Services Representative ("VSR"). This position will allow us to increase and improve our services to you, the Volunteer Leader. Directly working with volunteers by providing additional and timely assistance is our primary goal. Walter is located at our National Headquarters in Memphis.

Reducing our response time, increasing hours of service availability, and providing a direct contact for you at our National Headquarters should positively impact our volunteer service. Walter will focus his efforts regarding event management related issues, volunteer recruitment activities, and improved communication among the staff, volunteers, and our general membership.

Walter's responsibilities as the VSR extend

beyond Florida. He will also be assisting the volunteers in Alabama, Colorado, Mississippi, and Indiana. Volunteer leaders, especially the District and Area Chairmen should be the first to experience the additional help this position will provide.

Here are just some of the more specific areas of involvement Walter should be able to provide direction and assistance for you:

- Pre-event tracking of merchandise, invitations, event supplies, etc.
- Event Invitations and online tickets sales (future)
- Post-event follow up of financials, membership data, "Thank you" letters, etc.
- Maintain volunteer prospect lists and placement status
- Assist in the development of District Meeting/Workshop support material



Florida Duck Dates

North Florida – Dave Grabow, Regional Director (850) 907-0185 – dgrabow@ducks.org

Date	Chapter	Event	Chairman	Phone
03/05/05	Big Bend (Tally Ladies)	Banquet	Flora Blanchard	850-575-2533
03/16/06	Crystal River	Sponsor	Alex Griffin	(352) 527-7842
03/16/06	Tallahassee	Banquet	Martin Rivenbark	850-251-9340
03/23/06	Wakulla County	Banquet	Steve Brown	850-984-2209
03/25/06	Clay County	Banquet	Kevin Booth	904-264-2303
04/06/06	Escarosa (Pensacola)	Banquet	Mike Boles	(850) 380-0128
04/13/06	Jacksonville	Sponsor Shoot	Eric Lane	(904) 874-7961
04/13/06	Perry	Banquet	Al Smith	850-584-6169
04/21/06	University of Florida	Poker Tournament	Matt Ferlisi	(904)334-4528
TBA	FSU	Banquet	Dave Grabow	(850) 907-0185
TBA	Flagler	Banquet	Billy Neil	888-556-5570
4/22/06	Duval Beaches	Banquet	Alan Gnann	904-992-7123
05/12/06	Walton County	Banquet	Mike Wiemorts	(850) 598-0205
05/13/06	Gainesville	Greenwing	Ed Dyksterhouse	386-462-9649
5/13/2006	Live Oak	Banquet	Travis Land	386-963-3718
TBA	Gray Beard Drakes	Sponsor	Bob Freeland	(904) 281-9900
TBA	Starke	Banquet	David Harley	904-964-3714
06/02/06	Pensacola Beaches	Banquet	Zach Riffel	(850) 982-6718
TBA	Noorth Okaloosa County	Banquet	Beth Brandt	(850) 537-7891
TBA	Tri-County DU	Banquet	Ed Arrington	(352) 486-1576

South Florida – Brett Bainter, Regional Director (407) 851-1411 bbainter@ngc.com

Date	Chapter	Event	Chairman	Phone
3/3/2006	Nature Coast	Dinner	Michael Stone	727-842-3180
3/4/2006	Bartow	Shoot	Roger Taylor	863-647-5450
3/4/2006	Highlands County	Dinner	Dale Knapp	863-381-9175
3/4/2006	Key Largo	Dinner	Rick Lindner	305-852-5726
3/9/2006	Pasco County	Dinner	Dale Barnett	813-714-6322
3/10/2006	South Brevard	Dinner	Tim Miller	321-723-6254
3/11/2006	Ocala	Dinner	Joel Matthias	352-361-7977
3/29/2006	St. Pete	Dinner	Frank Ball	727-448-2447
TBA	Tampa Bay 100	Golf	Mike Mezrah	813-254-8386
4/6/2006	Ft. Myers	Dinner	Kurt Boski	239-462-6675
4/10/06	Vero Beach	Dinner	David Nolte	561-569-4172
4/27/2006	Tampa Bay 100	Dinner	Mike Mezrah	813-254-8386
5/5/2006	DU State Convention	Convention	Len Schwenneker	407-957-5804
5/24/2006	DU National Convention	Convention	Brett Bainter	407-851-1411
6/10/06	South Brevard	Fishing Tournament	Jeff Kraynik	321-725-3456

Is Your Email Address Correct?

Florida Area Chairs and Senior Volunteers are asked to ensure that your email address is kept current with the Regional Directors, State Volunteer Chair, and the State Recruiting Chair. Correct email addresses ensure prompt communication among everyone as we continue our conservation goals. Remember, if you change your email address, let everybody know.

Florida DUcknet

By Tim Miller

The power of communication should not be underestimated. Good or bad communications can have a subtle but serious impact on volunteer confidence and morale. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines communication as "a: a technique for expressing ideas effectively (as in speech) b: the technology of the transmission of information (as by print or telecommunication)". The Wing Beats plays an important part in effectively communicating to the Florida DU community; however, it does leave a gap of 5 months between issues.

So how do we fill that gap? Welcome to the resurrected Florida DUcknet. Restarting the Florida DUcknet will help Florida DU achieve that goal. The Florida DUcknet will be emailed at least monthly to persons in the DU community who register to receive it. It is the general intent to include the next month's upcoming event schedule, the latest state news, and other information to keep you, the volunteers, up to date. Simply go to the Florida DU website (<http://fl.ducks.org>) and subscribe.

You will see the subscription page on the state website that is shown in figure 1. Simply enter your name, your email address, click the subscribe radio button, and then press submit. Now for a little computer geek talk, so stay focused.

Subscribe to the Florida DUcknet

Florida DUcknet is for Florida Ducks Unlimited members who desire to receive monthly updates on Florida DU news. Florida Ducks Unlimited, in support of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., is a volunteer organization whose purpose is to generate funds for conservation, restoration, and management of wetlands in Florida and across North America. These efforts benefit waterfowl, other wildlife, and the people of Florida today and for generations to come.

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Subscribe <input type="radio"/> Unsubscribe	
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

The subscription procedure is known as double opt-in. This means that you will be asked to reply to a confirmation message after you request subscription. The well-known problem with double opt-in is the low percentage of confirmation received from users. The common trouble is that confirmation messages are not processed correctly when modified by the email client (your email) during reply. This problem does not exist with our DUcknet service provider (Zinestar) - all the necessary confirmation info (ticket) is placed to the From field of the email message. No matter what transformations happen to the body of the message, the confirmation will be processed. Make sure you reply to the confirmation message.

Some spam filters in use do not allow this newsletter through. So make sure your filters are adjusted for receiving the newsletters! Adjusting filters for America Online (AOL) members can be found at (<http://subs.zinestar.com/delivery/aol.html>), MSN members can be found at (<http://subs.zinestar.com/delivery/msn.html>), and for Yahoo members (<http://subs.zinestar.com/delivery/yahoo.html>).

Our many thanks to former State Volunteer Chairman Gus King who started the Florida DUcknet back in 2002. To use his phrase from the April 2002 DUcknet, "Amazing stuff this internet thing, huh?" I now call on you, the DU community to spread the word about the Florida DUcknet and get people to subscribe.

**Florida
DUcknet**

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DU SPONSOR SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT



**Dinner and Clays Shoot • Two Day Event
Bartow/Mulberry Chapter - FL DU**

Mark your calendars for March 10 – 11, 2006 as the Bartow/ Mulberry Chapter will host a Sporting Clays event preceded by a Social Evening Dinner in Lakeland, FL.

This event will be an exclusive event only for DU sponsors/members and guests. Each shooter is encouraged to bring a guest to the dinner the night before the clays shoot. Every shooter will be presented with customized memorabilia designed exclusively for this event, as well as a shirt, hat, and pouch. Attendance at the dinner is mandatory to receive the custom gifts as each registered shooter is allowed a guest for the dinner as part of the team price.

The shooting portion of the event will consist of four shooters per team; shooters need to be members of a DU chapter. Teams will be competing for an exceptionally nice trophy/bragging rights for their chapter. All DU Florida chapters are invited to send a team or members to be included in teams. Each individual of the winning team will receive a free gun. Individual trophies will also be awarded to the high shooter and runner up. Shooting will be in two waves, one at 9:00AM the second at 1:00PM. A buffet lunch will be available to participants at no charge as well as cold soft refreshments. Results will be announced via DU chapter chairman e-mail allowing for early departures for travelers.

Team cost is \$2,000, maximum of 50 teams
Contact Mark Smith or Roger Taylor at
Ultimate Arms, Lakeland, FL * 863.668.8500
mark@ultimatearms.us * roger@ultimatearms.us

Updates from the FFWCC

By Steven R. Robbins,
Regional Hunter Safety Coordinator
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS UPDATE

The National Archery in the Schools program is now underway throughout the state. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has held two workshops since the fall of 2005, inviting ten middle schools from different counties to participate and receive a generous grant package to kick off their program. All training is provided to the physical education teachers by Level II certified instructors. The benefits of NASP include:

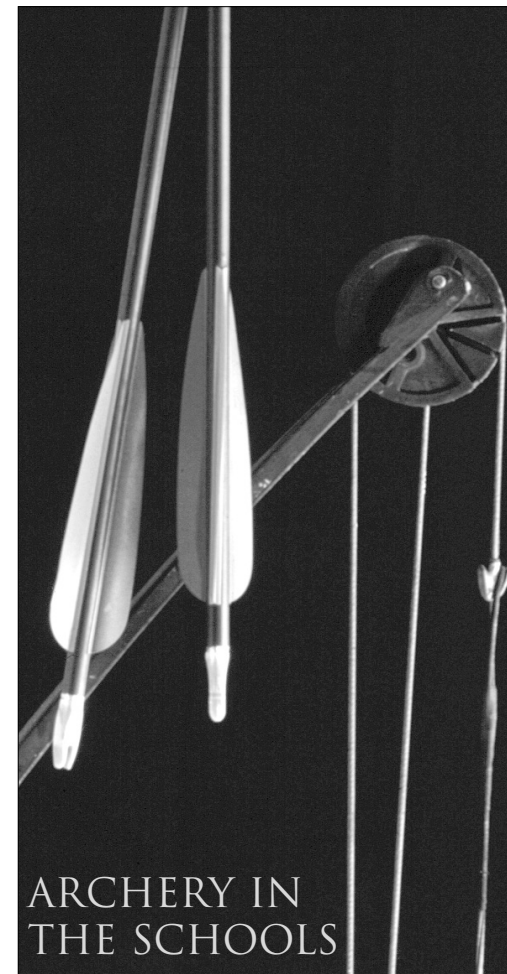
1. Increased student attendance.
2. A physical activity in which virtually every student can participate.
3. A program that translates to subject matters for math, science, and history.
4. Opportunities for after school programs.
5. A program that encourages outdoor activity, thereby getting students off their couches or away from video games.
6. Enhancement of self-esteem, especially amongst hard to reach students.
7. Appeals to everyone...students, teachers, administrators, and parents.
8. Teaches a life long skill that has the ability to positively change an individual's life forever.

We still have 57 counties (one middle school per county) to offer our grant package. Those of you having contacts or affiliations with middle schools in your county could help by letting the school know the program exists and that you would like the children to participate in this Junior Olympic Archery Development-based curriculum. You can find information on the web at <http://myfwc.com/huntered/nasp/> or by contacting our office at alan.busenbark@myfwc.com.

FWC YOUTH HUNTING PROGRAM OF FLORIDA

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has taken initial steps to bring Florida's Youth a mentored hunting program. The Youth Hunting Program of Florida, (YHPF) includes proven methods for producing safe, educated and ethical hunters. For those interested in the future of hunting, it serves as a model or guide to aid agencies and organizations seeking programs to involve youth in positive hunting adventures. For others, it may be an avenue through which they choose to support the process with resources or by volunteering their time.

The Youth Hunting Program of Florida was established with the mission of increasing the number of youth electing to participate in hunting and wildlife conservation activities. An effort designed to enhance and preserve the hunting heritage of Florida; its goal is to provide a positive total outdoor experience, which will develop future generations of safe, educated and



weekend of February 10-12. To register for this training or for more information on YHPF, please contact Alan Busenbark by phone at (850) 413-0084 or by email at: alan.busenbark@myfwc.com. Information is also available on the agency website at: <http://MyFWC.com/huntered>.

PARTNERING

"Definition: **Partnering** means working together to solve mutual problems. Partners bring equal resources to the partnership." Ducks Unlimited members are in a unique position to partner with the FWC in the Youth Hunting Program. While the hunting of most species requires special access and permission that could be unavailable to the novice hunter, a DU member can host a duck hunting trip on their boat to any public-access lake or body of water, and ensure the participants will enjoy a quality hunting experience. I applaud the efforts of DU's South Brevard Chapter to partner with the FWC and organize the annual Youth Waterfowl Hunt at the T. M. Goodwin Wildlife Management area. It is this kind of effort that will bring us future outdoors-people, increased license sales and allow hunters to sustain a strong voice in our legislature. So call Alan and volunteer to participate in the YHPF. Don't forget, we can always utilize your talents as a hunter safety instructor in any of our counties. As always, you can contact me anytime at 386 758-0525 or Steven.Robbins@MyFWC.com.

Steven R. Robbins, Regional Hunter Safety Coordinator FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission North Central Region 3377 East U. S. Highway 90, Lake City, FL 32055 (386) 758-0525 Steven.Robbins@MyFWC.com
Visit us on the web at MyFWC.com

ethical hunters. Imbedded in this goal, is the belief that these positive hunting experiences will yield future voters who will have a positive influence on legislation dealing with hunting, wildlife, outdoor recreation and responsible gun ownership.

The primary objectives of the Youth Hunting Program of Florida are:

- To preserve the hunting heritage in Florida for present and future generations.
- To instill in youth a basic understanding of practical conservation measures.
- To encourage wildlife habitat access, enhancement and management.
- To teach the basic skills, values, techniques and responsibilities of hunting.
- To promote the highest ethical standards in hunting.
- To give our youth an initial, positive, safe, educational, mentored hunting experience.

The youth hunting program is based on three critical components: youth hunters and parents, places to hunt and volunteers to run the program.

To facilitate the third component, a training seminar for prospective YHPF Volunteer Huntmasters will be held at the FWC's Ocala Conservation Center on the

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