



# Fowl Talk

SPRING 2015



## Ducks Unlimited Announces Major Commitment to S.D. Habitat

South Dakota's grasslands and shallow wetlands help attract millions of breeding waterfowl each spring, and a multi-million dollar commitment from a leading conservation organization is aimed at providing the protection and restoration needed to keep these areas of vital nesting habitat on the landscape.

Ducks Unlimited recently announced plans to invest a minimum of \$1.8 million in a full suite of programs that deliver habitat on the ground each of the next five year's at the organization's South Dakota convention in Mitchell.

The significant investment – an extension of the organization's

Preserve Our Prairies Initiative – comes in support of South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard's efforts to create a state conservation fund, explains DU regional vice president Jeff Heidelberg from Custer.

The money from Ducks Unlimited will not be directly connected to any state fund, Heidelberg said, but the

*Continued on page 2*



Ducks Unlimited Opens South Dakota Office

Pg. 3



South Dakota Ducks and Pheasants

Pg. 7



Ducks Unlimited Receives a One Million Dollar NAWCA Grant

Pg. 10

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Bismarck, ND  
Permit 280

National Headquarters, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
One Waterfowl Way • Memphis, Tennessee 38120



# Ducks Unlimited Announces Major Commitment to S.D. Habitat

*Continued from page 1*

goal is very much the same.

“Declining habitat – particularly habitat associated with pheasants – is what sparked this action from Governor Daugaard, and Ducks Unlimited is also concerned with the continuing decline of grassland and wetland habitat in the state – acres that are not only vital for nesting ducks but also benefit pheasants, prairie grouse, deer and other wildlife,” Heidelbauer says. “Governor Daugaard recognizes this connection, too, and we strongly support his work to see a conservation fund created to protect and enhance habitat across the state.”

On Monday, March 9th the state Senate Appropriations Committee passed an amended version of House Bill 1192, the bill introduced by the Governor’s office to create the conservation fund. Gov. Daugaard had asked for \$1.5 million in funding, but the bill that passed out of committee carried only an appropriation of \$500,000.

The demand for conservation programs by landowners often outweighs the money available to deliver those programs, says Steve Donovan, Ducks Unlimited’s manager of conservation programs for South Dakota, and partnerships are key to leveraging dollars where they are needed most.

In South Dakota alone there are close to 400 landowners waiting to enroll acres of ground in a conservation easement program, which prohibits the conversion of grassland or wetlands, Donovan says, and the new commitment from Ducks Unlimited coupled with those federal duck stamp dollars earmarked for easements in the Prairie Pothole Region of South Dakota will help close that gap.

“The easement program is an excellent example of a way that we can protect South Dakota’s working lands program, which benefits landowners, ducks, hunters and also protects the quality of the

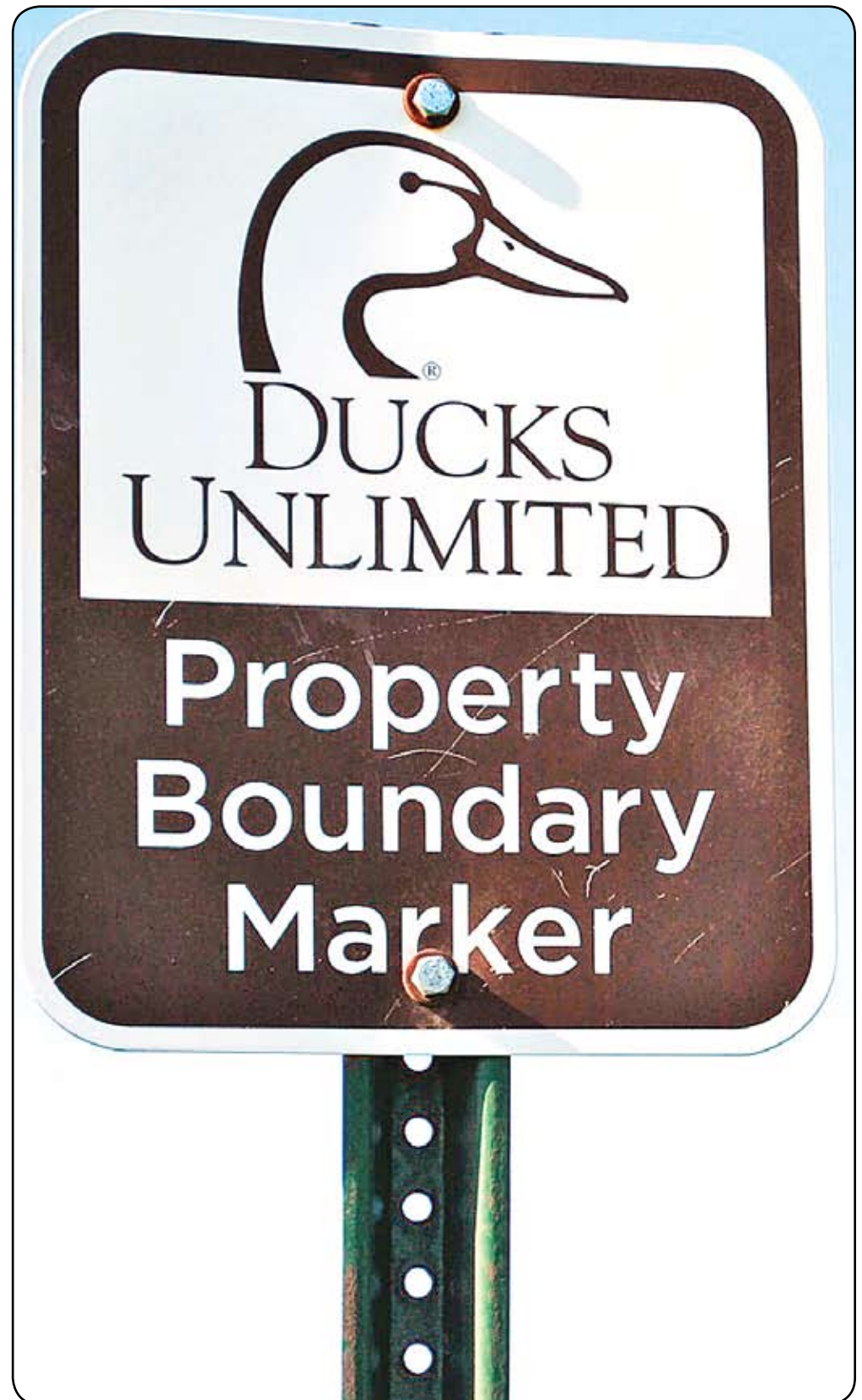
state’s soils and water,” Donovan says. “The wetlands and grasslands that are protected by the easement program are vitally important for duck production on a continental scale. Ducks that hatch here on the prairies of South Dakota are the same ducks that hunters decoy in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, even as far as South America.

“You cannot minimize the importance of South Dakota’s grasslands and wetlands.”

Donovan added that funds from Ducks Unlimited will also likely be invested in the organization’s Revolving Lands Program, with which the organization purchases a property, restores and protects upland and wetland habitat in perpetuity, and then sells the property, often to a local producer.

Last year Ducks Unlimited spent \$9.4 million to acquire seven new properties totaling just over 2700 acres in size. DU also sold over 3000 acres of grasslands and wetlands, including portions of the organization’s flagship property, the Goebel Ranch located north of Ipswich.

Randy Meidinger, regional biologist with Ducks Unlimited and long-time manager of the Goebel Ranch, says that continuing conversion of native prairie to row-crops – particularly near the ranch - underscores just how important it is to act now in order to protect the state’s remaining acres of grasslands and wetlands.



“This is the best-of-the-best when it comes to duck nesting habitat, and the rate of conversion doesn’t seem to be slowing, at least in this part of the state,” Meidinger said. “We are winning some of the battles, but not all of them. The need is

still there to save some of the best duck nesting habitat that remains in North America, right here in South Dakota.”



# A Report from the Legislature

The 2015 South Dakota Legislative session came to a close in March, and this year's session again included legislative efforts involving wildlife habitat conservation. Two bills stand out, in particular, and received special attention from many conservation organizations, including Ducks Unlimited, and private landowners as well.

House Bill 1152 proposed to prevent a South Dakota landowner from enrolling his or her property into a perpetual conservation easement. Similar efforts to change South Dakota's conservation easement law seem to arise every year, and Ducks Unlimited is among those conservation groups that stand beside private landowners in opposition to these attempts to limit an individual's rights with regard to conservation easements.

When HB 1152 was read in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, DU showed up in force to testify against the legislation, which would have eliminated one of the most important tools available for those landowners who want to permanently protect natural resources on their property.

Ducks Unlimited believes it is just as much a private property right for a landowner to sell a conservation easement to a third party as it is for that same landowner to sell his land to a third party. Quite simply, the government should not be interfering in this "willing buyer/willing seller" process. When a third party acquires a conservation easement deed from a willing seller, that third party in fact becomes a landowner, owning certain rights and responsibilities on that land until such time as that third party wishes to sell, transfer or

otherwise dispose of that deed. Fortunately, House Bill 1152 was defeated in committee and failed to make it to the House floor.

The other bill monitored closely by Ducks Unlimited and other conservation organizations was House Bill 1192, which called for an appropriation for the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat and the creation of the South Dakota Wildlife Habitat Conservation Fund – an initiative generated by Governor Dennis Daugaard's Pheasant Habitat Work Group.

Gov. Daugaard requested a \$1.5 million appropriation to kick start the fund, which would be used to help ensure the long-term health of pheasant populations and the related economic benefits – valued as much as \$250 million - here in South Dakota.

The conservation of pheasant habitat also impacts many other species of wildlife, including waterfowl, while also providing benefits to agricultural producers, water quality, and soil quality. DU and many other organizations testified in strong support of this legislation, which did pass, but the funding was reduced to \$350,000.

The appropriation of state funds to help support the preservation, creation and enhancement of habitat is a huge step forward for conservation in South Dakota and Ducks Unlimited is now committed to work with all the sponsors and supporters of this legislation as we move forward with this important work.

## Ducks Unlimited Opens South Dakota Office



Ducks Unlimited is excited to announce the opening of an office in South Dakota.

Located in Brookings at the Innovation Campus adjacent to the campus of South Dakota State University, the establishment of a South Dakota office is reflective of the commitment that DU is making to the conservation of important South Dakota waterfowl habitat.

Brookings is an ideal location to establish the office, according to DU's

Manager of Conservation Programs Steve Donovan.

"Some of our most important partners are located in Brookings, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Pheasants Forever's state office and of course South Dakota State University," Donovan says. "We are excited to open this office as part of our effort to increase the size and scope of our conservation programs in South Dakota."

The office is located at 2301 Research Park Way, Suite 247 – which rests directly above Pheasants Forever's regional headquarters.

"Ducks fly higher than pheasants," Donovan adds. "So I suppose that just makes sense."

## Beulah & Lake Sakakawea

*We have it all!*

- Great Accommodations
- Diverse Dining
- Energy & Mine Tours
- Two Museums
- Black Sands Golf Course
- Minutes from the S. Shores of Lake Sakakawea
- Excellent Retail District
- Abundant Camping & RV Parking
- Endless Recreation Opportunities

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Dakota Walleye Classic**  
July 24 & 25  
\$12,000 1st Place Guaranteed

**Mercer County Fair**  
July 9-12

## Beulah Convention & Visitors Bureau

701-873-4585  
Toll Free 1-800-441-2649  
Email: [info@visitbeulah.com](mailto:info@visitbeulah.com)  
[www.visitbeulah.com](http://www.visitbeulah.com)

**Beulah**  
NORTH DAKOTA



# Renziehausen Slough GPA Slated for Improvements

Ducks Unlimited, the James River Water Development District and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks are collectively working on a project to repair a pump station and levee system on a 200 acre wetland within the Renziehausen Slough Game Production Area (GPA).

The Renziehausen Slough GPA is located in northern Brown County roughly 10 miles east of the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and its 1,654-acres of quality wetland and grassland habitat are heavily utilized by waterfowl, pheasants, deer and many other wildlife species.

In 1988, a large levee system was constructed within the GPA to impound approximately 200 acres of wetland habitat. A pump station was installed to allow water to be pumped out of an adjacent drain ditch and fill the wetland with about 500 acre-feet of water. Recently the pump system became inoperable when severe erosion occurred beneath the pump house, adding to the problems caused



when several sections along the levee system were breached over time.

After the planned repairs are made to the pump station and breached levees, the system will once again allow water to be pumped out of an

adjacent drain ditch and into the 200-acre wetland. This functioning wetland system will provide multiple benefits: producing excellent waterfowl breeding and migration habitat, improving water quality by operating as a natural filter and

recycler of excess nutrients in the water, and decreasing the amount of water ultimately flowing into the James River, thus, serving to reduce potential flooding downstream.

## Welcome To LEMMON SOUTH DAKOTA

*Big things happen in small towns...*

**BOSS COWMAN RODEO**  
6 time SDRA Rodeo of the year  
Main Street Tent Festival,  
Music, Fireworks, Parade, Rodeo July 9-12

**SHADEHILL RESERVOIR**  
5,000 acre man-made lake  
Camping, Boating, Fishing, Hiking  
Hugh Glass monument,  
7th Cavalry site, Blacktail Trail

**PETRIFIED WOOD PARK & MUSEUM**  
World's Largest Display of Petrified Wood

***VACATION ON THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED***  
*Make Lemmon Part of Your Travel Plans,  
 Or Make It Your Destination*

visit [www.lemmonsd.com](http://www.lemmonsd.com) or phone 605-374-5716 for details



# Ducks Unlimited to Continue Banding Ducks in South Dakota

By Bruce Toay

Ducks Unlimited staff will resume duck banding operations in South Dakota during a seven week period late this summer.

For the past 13 years, Ducks Unlimited has partnered with the SD Game, Fish and Parks Department during their annual waterfowl banding program at the Goebel Ranch in north-central South Dakota. During that time frame over 34,000 ducks were captured by DU biologists and marked with a uniquely identified aluminum band administered by the U.S. Geological Survey's Bird Banding Lab.

Of those ducks banded at the Goebel Ranch over 2,400 ducks have been recovered across a vast geographic area: as far west as California, as far east as Maine and as far south as Ecuador. All of this information helps tell a compelling story about where their ducks come from, where they go, and the importance of the breeding grounds in the Prairie Pothole Region.

This summer's banding program will likely take place at sites on a DU project in eastern South Dakota using swim-in traps to capture local and migrating birds over the course of seven weeks, during which time educational opportunities will be made available to DU donors from across the nation.

"The banding program allows us an opportunity to provide an attractive hands-on educational experience for supporters of Ducks Unlimited from across the United States. Once here they can witness all that the prairies have to offer, handle live birds, visit local DU projects, and understand the urgent need for conservation in our region," said Randy Meidinger, DU's Regional Biologist and long-time bird banding crew leader.

Staff will also host events for DU volunteers and youth groups throughout the season as schedules and conditions allow.





Custer, South Dakota  
Check out  
[goldcampsupply.com](http://goldcampsupply.com)  
for gold pans, sluice  
boxes, etc. or any of  
your gold panning needs  
or come visit our store  
in downtown Custer.



605-673-2720 • [WWW.JORGENSENLOGHOMES.COM](http://WWW.JORGENSENLOGHOMES.COM) • 800-568-4146  
email: [jloghomes@gwtc.net](mailto:jloghomes@gwtc.net) • Pleasant Valley Rd., Custer, SD

## Baker Metal & Recycling

**We have Roll Scrap Containers**

**SELLING: Steel, Culverts, Cattle Guards,  
Welding Supplies, Sucker Rods & Guard rails.**

**BUYING SCRAP IRON**

**Open Mon. – Sat. 7am – 6pm**

**Lee, Bruce & Neil**

**Call for more info & delivery**

**406-778-2710**



# Sanborn County Property to be Restored

The James River Water Development District recently awarded a grant to Ducks Unlimited to help with the restoration of wetland habitats on DU's Summit Ag Fund property in Sanborn County.

The property was recently acquired by DU as part of the "Revolving Land Program". In this program, land with significant conservation potential is acquired by DU from willing sellers. Wildlife habitat is restored on the tracts and a conservation easement is placed on the parcel to ensure long-term protection of the restored habitat. Ultimately, the land is sold to a conservation buyer and the proceeds reinvested in the revolving program.

On the Summit Ag Fund property, previously drained small wetlands will be restored and uplands planted



back to a mix of native grasses and forbs. The restored wetlands will not only provide valuable habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife species, but also improve water quality and reduce the amount of water that ultimately enters the James River, providing flood control benefits.

Other partners who have pledged funds towards the restoration of grasslands on this property include Pheasant Country (Pheasants Forever Chapter #872) and the Izaak Walton League of America, and the restored grasslands will provide upland nesting cover for ducks, ring-necked pheasants, upland nesting songbirds and many other species.

## USDA Provides Funding to Help Protect and Restore Agricultural Working Lands, Grasslands and Wetlands

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced on March 31, 2015, that the USDA will be making available \$332 million in financial and technical assistance through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). In South Dakota, at least \$5 million is expected to be available for landowners who wish to participate in the program.

"Conservation easements are an important tool to help landowners and partners voluntarily provide long-term protection of our nation's farmland, ranchland, wetlands and grasslands for future generations," Vilsack said.

The 2014 Farm Bill consolidated three previous conservation easement programs into two: the Agricultural Land Easement program and the Wetland Reserve Easement program.

The Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program is designed to protect the long-term viability of our nation's food supply by preventing conversion of productive, working agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses while also supporting environmental benefits, wildlife habitat and other conservation purposes.

Steve Donovan, DU's Manager of Conservation Programs, sees huge opportunities in South Dakota for the ALE program.

"The protection of rangeland, particularly in areas like the Missouri Coteau that are rich with small, shallow wetlands, will not only protect the long-term viability and sustainability of South Dakota's livestock producers, but also ensure this landscape retains its capacity to produce waterfowl and other wildlife, including ring-necked pheasants," Donovan said.

One key change in the USDA program is the new "grasslands of special environmental significance" that is designed to protect high-quality grasslands that are under threat of conversion to cropping, urban development and other non-grazing uses.

"South Dakota is blessed with grasslands of special environmental significance," Donovan said. "And I'm looking forward to working with USDA and South Dakota livestock producers under this program."

The Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program has been extremely popular with hundreds of landowners throughout the state for many years.

Formerly called the Wetland Reserve Program, landowners in South Dakota have enrolled approximately 1,300 easements totaling over 130,000 acres into the

program since its beginning.

According to Donovan, this program is a perfect fit for those landowners who wish to enhance and protect wetlands and adjacent habitat for wildlife, reduce impacts from flooding, recharge groundwater and provide outdoor recreational opportunities.

"There are significant opportunities for this program because of the multiple benefits that it brings" Donovan said. "Restoring and protecting wetlands in the watersheds of closed basin lakes, like Lake Thompson and Bitter Lake, for instance, would not only provide important wildlife habitat but would also reduce runoff into those lakes, reduce the impacts from flooding on adjacent farmlands and improve the overall water quality in those lakes."



# South Dakota Ducks and Pheasants

Ducks Unlimited is excited to embark upon a relatively new concept to increase philanthropic support for habitat conservation programs in South Dakota that involves the state's most famous bird: the ring-necked pheasant.

Thousands of non-residents flock to South Dakota each fall to chase wily roosters, adding an estimated \$250 million to the state's economy in a good year. While bird numbers may be down somewhat from a few short years ago, there is no question that South Dakota remains the best place to hunt wild ring-necked pheasants.

This fall, Ducks Unlimited will offer opportunities to our major donors and potential donors to come to South Dakota and enjoy some fantastic pheasant hunting. As part of the trip, our guests will also be provided with information about DU's conservation efforts in the state and the importance of the Prairie Pothole Region. Tours of habitat projects



being completed in this important landscape will also help drive home the importance of saving some of the best duck nesting habitat remaining in North America.

Similar "prairie experience" events in past years have proven just what a powerful impact this "boots-on-the-ground" approach can have on Ducks Unlimited donors and supporters, particularly those who have never visited the prairie before. Attendees return home with a new appreciation for the Prairie Pothole Region and a renewed passion to support the important work being completed here – work that benefits ducks and in many places pheasants, too.

Landowners and DU supporters interested in assisting or hosting such an event are encouraged to contact Steve Donovan, DU's Manager of Conservation Programs, at 605-633-0270 or [sdonovan@ducks.org](mailto:sdonovan@ducks.org).

## Quality Hunting and Shooting Products



1-800-784-4331  
[www.ruggedgear.com](http://www.ruggedgear.com)



All 2015 Models  
On Sale!



**0 TO 10% DOWN WAC**

Low Interest Financing as low as 5.49%  
See dealer for details some restrictions may apply.



W. Hwy. 212, Watertown, SD  
Quality Service • Affordable Prices

**PIERRE LOCATION  
NOW OPEN!**

320 S. Charles, Pierre, SD  
605-224-6612



605-882-4590  
1-866-505-4590

Dan O. Poppen-Owner  
[www.danosmarine.com](http://www.danosmarine.com)

**GRAHAM**  
YOUR TIRE STORE NEXT DOOR

**GOODYEAR**

**COOPER TIRES**

**KELLY K'S TIRES**  
A GOOD DEAL ON A GREAT TIRE

**DUNLOP**

**You're in GRAHAM COUNTRY**

Aberdeen  
605-225-2352

Mitchell  
605-996-7709

Pierre  
605-224-8643

Sioux Falls Downtown  
605-336-2575

Sioux Falls North  
605-336-0800

Sioux Falls South  
605-339-3334

Yankton  
605-665-4406



# 2015 South Dakota State Convention



of Communications, DU Great Plains Regional Office, Bismarck

- Matt Fenoff, Managing Director of Development, DU Great Plains Regional Office, Bismarck
- Steve Donovan, DU Manager of Conservation Programs for South Dakota
- Randy Meidinger, Regional Biologist for DU in SD
- Bruce Toay, Regional Biologist for DU in SD
- Josh Kiesow, Biologist for DU in SD
- Dan Limmer, Biologist for DU in SD

The Saturday evening Sweetheart Ball (DU Style) featured the Sweetheart/Rose Raffle, appetizers, a silent auction and live auction, dinner, and a message from a special guest: DU First Vice President Paul Bonderson from Sunol, CA.

The evening was capped off with music from the band "Too Drunk to Fish".

By Kevin Fuerst

The Twenty-Sixth Annual South Dakota Ducks Unlimited State Convention was held on February 13-14, 2015 at the Highland Conference Center in Mitchell, where nearly 170 attendees celebrated "One Half Million Acres Conserved" by Ducks Unlimited in South Dakota.

The festivities began Friday evening with "Winter Oktoberfest", featuring raffles, games, a silent auction, the "Moonshine" live auction, an "Around The World" buffet, polka music, and "The Blind" (open bar).

The night also included the presentation of the Frank Heidelberg Award – the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by South Dakota Ducks Unlimited – to long-time volunteer and past State Chairman Darrel Reinke.

DJ Wolf from Wagner closed out the evening with an eclectic mix of music for everyone's listening and dancing pleasure.

Saturday morning and afternoon activities included the SDDU State Council Meeting, the Conservation Update Brunch, a DU Press Event, SDDU State Performance Awards, a DU Property Conservation Tour, and a Major Donor presentation.

Throughout the day, the importance of the conservation work being conducted by Ducks Unlimited and its partners in South Dakota was the focus of comments made by a long list of speakers and presenters, including:

- Dr. Nathan Sanderson, Director of Policy & Operations at the Governor's Office, State of South Dakota

- Tom Kirschenmann, South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks, Division of Wildlife
- Carmen Miller, Director of Public Policy, DU Great Plains Regional Office, Bismarck
- Becky Jones Mahlum, Manager

By the time the weekend revelry was finished, attendees had raised more than \$25,000 net/net for the Ducks!

The 2016 SDDU State Convention will be held February 12-13 at the Highland Conference Center in Mitchell.

## RESORTS

### Welcome Hunters!

#### WEST BAY RESORT OFFERS

- 6 Furnished Cabins
- 30 RV sites
- Hunting Guides Available

#### West Bay Resort, LLC

6660 HWY. 19 Minnewaukan, ND 58351

(701) 739-9934

[www.westbayresort.com](http://www.westbayresort.com), [westbayinfo@gondtc.com](mailto:westbayinfo@gondtc.com)





# Special Raffles Geared to Help the Ducks

by Kevin Fuerst

South Dakota Ducks Unlimited is excited to sponsor a pair of special raffles that will benefit ducks and duck hunters both here in the state and beyond.

Any Ducks Unlimited supporter who wins or purchases the 2015 SDDU Browning knife at an event this year will be automatically entered into the SDDU Preserve Our Prairies Statewide Raffle.

In this winner-takes-all raffle, one lucky DU member will go home with:

- 2015 DU Browning A5 Shotgun of the Year
- 2015 DU Mossberg 4X4 Rifle of the Year
- DU Tristar Setter O/U 20 Ga. Shotgun
- DU Tristar Cobra 12 Ga. Pump Shotgun



- DU Mossberg 702 Plinkster Rifle 22 Cal.
- Sports Afield Gun Safe

The *winner-takes-all* drawing will be held at the SDDU State Convention

on February 12 and 13, 2016 in Mitchell, SD, though you need not be present at the convention to win.

Those entrants into this special statewide raffle that are present at the 2016 SDDU Convention, however,

will be entered into a drawing for a special Ducks Unlimited Henry Silverado .22-caliber rifle.

## Ducks Unlimited Contributes to South Dakota Conservation Districts



## South Dakota's Conservation Districts

By Bruce Toay

Partnerships play a vital role for conservation in South Dakota, and Ducks Unlimited has pledged or contributed over \$25,000 to multiple county conservation districts across the state in support of the work those groups do to help keep habitat on the ground.

The financial assistance will be used to purchase grass seeding drills and related equipment in Marshall, Moody, Miner, Hughes, Codington, Beadle, and Brown counties. These

highly specialized drills can process a variety of seeds and mixes including native grasses and forbs, cover crops, and food plots at appropriate depths and rates. The county conservation districts have the equipment available for rent, or they can provide planting services including a tractor and an operator for a minimal cost.

DU regional biologist Randy Meidinger credits these county conservation districts as valuable partners for the assistance they provide in implementing many

popular habitat-based programs like CRP and EQIP.

“Often, these grassland mixes need to be planted at a time when many producers are extremely busy,” Meidinger says. “District staff can ensure that plantings will be completed appropriately and on time, which is critical for good grass establishment.”

By assisting with the acquisition of these drills, Ducks Unlimited will help the districts put habitat back

on the landscape, benefiting ducks and other wildlife and improving soil health and water quality.

Conservation districts work with landowners on a voluntary basis to conserve natural resources on private land by providing education along with technical and financial assistance. For information on your local conservation district, visit [www.sdconservation.org](http://www.sdconservation.org), or contact your local NRCS office for more details.



# Ducks Unlimited Receives a One Million Dollar NAWCA Grant



On March 3, 2015, Ducks Unlimited received notification from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the "Central South Dakota Wetlands and Prairies" proposal,

submitted through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), was approved in the amount of \$1 million.

The grant includes a series of projects throughout the portion of South Dakota between the James River and the Missouri River, centered in the Missouri Coteau – a region that contains some of the best duck nesting habitat left in North America.

According to Steve Donovan, DU's Manager of Conservation Programs in South Dakota, a total of 8,410 acres of important waterfowl habitat will be restored, enhanced or protected, almost all through the cooperation and voluntary participation of private landowners.

"The vast majority of the prairie pothole region in South Dakota is privately owned," Donovan says. "We would not be able to accomplish our conservation goals without the participation of South Dakota's farmers and ranchers."

The NAWCA grant program has been a particularly important source of grant funds to Ducks Unlimited

and other conservation organizations throughout the country, providing grants to help conserve valuable wetlands and associated habitats.

Projects involved in this proposal include conservation easements that protect wetlands and grasslands on working agricultural lands, restoration of wetlands and grassland habitats, and the acquisition of two small additions to state-owned Game Production Areas. Other Partners involved in the proposal include the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, and the Northern South Dakota Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Inc. Within the grant, a significant amount of money is available to restore and enhance wetlands on private land.

Landowners interested in participating in this program and receiving financial assistance should contact Donovan at (605) 633-0270 or [sdonovan@ducks.org](mailto:sdonovan@ducks.org).

## NAWCA Small Grant Approved for Corson County Project

A proposal for a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) small grant submitted by Ducks Unlimited last fall has been approved for funding.

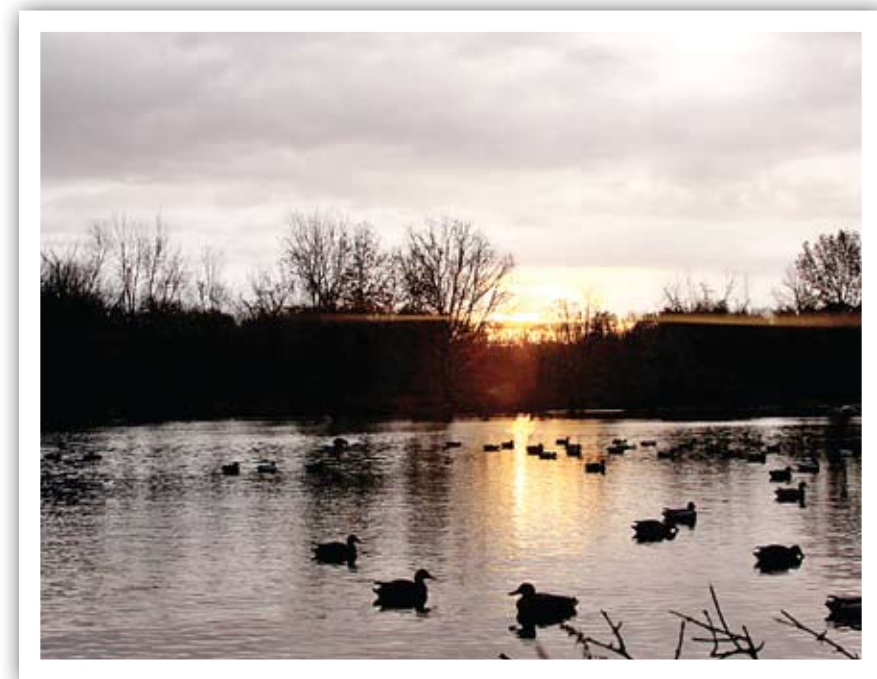
The grant awarded to DU for the Spring Lake Area Habitat Project will provide \$75,000 to repair a sheet pile weir dam on private land in Corson County, SD. The dam was originally designed and built by DU in the 1980s but recently failed due to extreme weather conditions.

The relatively high number of natural wetland acres in this particular West River landscape make this area a highly desirable location to conduct habitat improvement projects to complement the existing wetland and grassland habitat already in place. Four dominant larger wetlands totaling 580 acres in the Spring Lake area are alkaline in nature, and while these alkaline

wetlands do provide abundant resources and are attractive to waterfowl and other water birds, there is a shortage of comparably freshwater wetland habitat in this area. Providing additional freshwater wetlands will help increase diversity and provide healthier habitat options for wildlife.

When repaired, the dam will create a 48.6 acre freshwater wetland that will provide important migration, nesting, and brood rearing habitat for many waterfowl, waterbird, and shorebird species. The impounded wetland will also provide a water source for a multi-pasture grazing system that will allow better management of the surrounding grassland habitat for improved waterfowl nesting opportunities and sustainable beef production.

This is the first NAWCA small grant awarded to DU in South



Dakota and will hopefully serve as a model for similar future projects to be

completed on both private and public lands in the state.



# South Dakota Ducks Unlimited Calendar Raffle



by Kevin Fuerst

South Dakota Ducks Unlimited is holding a 52-Gun Giveaway Calendar Raffle. The calendar is available now and is being sold by local Ducks Unlimited committee members and select merchants. Calendar sales and the raffle run from July 2015 through June 2016.

Raffle tickets (calendars) are \$40.00 and limited to 1,750 raffle tickets (calendars). The purchase of only one raffle ticket (calendar) is required to enter the raffle. Each raffle entry constitutes an equal chance to win and will include a one year membership to Ducks Unlimited. All unsold raffle tickets (calendars) become the property of Ducks Unlimited.

Among the 52 guns to be given away are:

- Benelli Super Black Eagle - 12 Ga Camo Semi-Auto Shotgun
- Benelli Tactical - 12 Ga Pump Shotgun
- Kimber Custom II - .45 Cal. Semi-Auto Pistol
- Sig Sauer P250-45 Cal. Semi-Auto Pistol
- Browning A-Bolt III Stalker - 7mm Mag Bolt Action Rifle
- Beretta Tikka T3 Lite - 308 Bolt Action Rifle
- Browning A-Bolt II Medallion - 300 Win Mag Bolt Action Rifle
- Browning BPS Hunter - 12 Ga Pump Action Shotgun
- Browning Buckmark Camper - .22 Semi-Auto Pistol
- Chiappa Double Badger - .22-410 Over-Under Rifle/Shotgun
- Savage 93R17 Stainless Thumbhole - .17 HMR Bolt Action Rifle
- Smith & Wesson Bodyguard With Laser - .380 Semi-Auto Pistol
- Smith & Wesson M&P-15 Sport -5.56 Semi-Auto Rifle

Visit South Dakota Ducks Unlimited on Facebook and our website (<http://www.ducks.org/south-dakota>) for a complete list of rules and prizes.

For more information regarding the South Dakota Calendar Drawing please contact:

Monica Piskorski - 913-907-8896  
Kevin Fuerst - 605-212-9529  
Don Thorpe - 605-630-8696

Ducks Unlimited Thanks You for Supporting the Conservation of Waterfowl and Waterfowl Habitat!

## Darrel Reinke Presented with 2015 Frankie Heidelberg Award



close to state government and has connections to get information to the right people in the legislature when issues impacting conservation arise. He also plays a role in planning the state convention and emcees the Friday night festivities.

Darrel's dedication to DU is reflected in the generous giving of his time and donations. He is currently a diamond life sponsor. His motivation for giving is to preserve waterfowl resources for the next generation. "I have a son and two grandsons who are involved in waterfowl hunting and I want them to continue to have great outdoor experiences," he said. For the past two years Darrel and his son have organized a pheasant hunt on their farm 10 miles east of Pierre. This event is an opportunity for DU supporters to get together to enjoy a great hunting experience and upgrade their sponsorship to DU.

Darrel Reinke, a 30-year volunteer for Ducks Unlimited was recognized for his service to South Dakota Ducks  
[www.ducks.org/states/62/](http://www.ducks.org/states/62/)

Unlimited by winning the "2015 Frankie Heidelberg Award". He has served in several chair positions

including state chair and is currently serving as the state public policy chair. Living in Pierre, Darrel is





# DIRECTORY

## 2015 SD STATE OFFICERS

State Chairman  
Kevin Fuerst  
109 S Dewberry Cir  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110  
605-271-1187 (H)  
605-212-9259 (C)  
sdringneck@hotmail.com

State Chairman-Elect  
Harold Bickner  
605-778-6103 (H)  
605-680-0368 (C)  
bickner@midstatesd.net

State Council Chairman  
Jeff Heidelberg  
605-673-4208 H  
605-440-0772 C  
218-338-6366Farm  
jeff.heidelberg@heidelberg.com

State Council Secretary  
Connie Girard  
605-203-0710  
cfaltinson@hotmail.com

State Treasurer  
Terry Schutz  
605-284-2440 W  
605-284-2065 (Answering Machine)  
tschutz@valleytel.net

Feather Society Chairman  
Don Kallenberger  
605-284-5121 W  
605-284-2102 H  
605-284-5327 Fax  
kaldon@valleytel.net

Fowl Talk Coordinator  
John Pollmann  
605-370-8092  
der\_jaeger@hotmail.com

State Webmaster  
Pam Berg  
605-886-7403 (H)  
605-881-5614 (C)  
21berg@wat.midco.net

State Marsh Coordinator  
Gary Peterson  
605-225-9011 (W)  
605-225-5907 (H)  
605-225-9016 (Fax)

Public Policy Chairman  
Darrel Reinke  
208 Jamieson Drive  
Pierre, SD 57532  
605-224-5050 (H)  
605-800-562-4015 (W)  
darrel.reinke@investmentcenters.com

Bronze Sponsor Chairman  
Kevin Fuerst  
109 S Dewberry Cir  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110  
605-271-1187 (H)  
605-212-9259 (C)  
sdringneck@hotmail.com

State Greenwing Chairman  
Jeff "Slim" & Mary Schneider

Slim's 605-770-7546 C  
Mary's 605-770-7707419  
slim4s@hotmail.com  
sylvia@hotmail.com

State Major Gifts Chairman  
Gary Peterson  
605-330-0553 (Fax)  
605-336-4411 (C)  
gpinsfsd@aol.com

District Chairmen  
Jim Girard  
605-203-0170  
damdiver@mchsi.com

Scott Schutz  
605-359-3598  
sschutz@grahamtire.com

Gary Hoscheid  
605-224-9361  
hoscheid@pie.midco.net

Dennis Tilly  
605-999-7496  
dtilly1@live.com

Steve Schutz  
605-929-7147 (C)  
sschutz@lampertlumber.com

Volunteer Recruitment Chairman  
Jeremy Kills-A-Hundred  
605-940-7689  
bpkah216@hotmail.com

State Convention Chairman  
Jeff Heidelberg  
605-673-4208 H  
605-440-0772 C  
218-338-6366Farm

jeff.heidelberg@heidelberg.com

Senior Vice President Region 2  
Clay Rogers  
402-501-8112 (C)  
402-392-0101 (W)  
crogers@lawsgs.com

Regional Vice President  
Howard Johnson  
307-856-1145

Senior Regional Director  
Robert Sathoff  
785-640-1482 (C)  
785-272-7125 (H)  
bobsaathoff@yahoo.com  
DU Support Staff

Senior Regional Director  
Don Thorpe  
605-630-8696  
dthorpe@ducks.org

Regional Director  
Robert Hathaway  
rhathaway@ducks.org

Director of Fund Raising and Volunteer  
Recruitment - Region 2  
Greg Dinkel  
NE, KS, CO, ND, SD, WY, MT  
308-440-6413 (C)  
308-233-5768(F)  
gdinkel@ducks.org

Managing Director of Development  
Great Plains Region  
Matt Fenoff  
845-242-9407  
mfenoff@ducks.org



28731 E US HWY 12  
Mobridge, SD 57601  
605-845-3902



44414 SD HWY 50  
Yankton, SD 57078  
605-665-9351



**Eagle  
Sales**

100 W 249th St.  
Chamberlain SD 57325  
605-734-0162



4815 N Northview Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57107  
605-336-2988



231 E Main St.  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
605-343-2490