



Fowl Talk

SPRING 2017



Ducks Unlimited Announces New Program for South Dakota Landowners

Ducks Unlimited is excited to announce a new program that seeks to bring together a diverse group of partners and funding sources to offer new incentives to South Dakota landowners and producers in order to encourage the implementation of a variety of conservation activities.

The Soil Health Initiative (SHI) will leverage over \$2.7

million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with significant contributions from other conservation partners. While the title of the program accurately describes its primary goal, the SHI will provide many other benefits, including wildlife habitat enhancement and water quality improvement.

Continued on page 2



Legacy Greenwing Dedication Scheduled for June 24th

Pg. 4



Revolving Habitat Program Secures More Habitat

Pg. 7



Who are Ducks Unlimited Volunteers?

Pg. 10

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

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

Continued from page 1

Steve Donovan, Ducks Unlimited's manager of conservation programs in South Dakota, explains that the USDA and other agricultural leaders are particularly excited about the direction of soil health initiatives because the underlying issues of long-term farm sustainability and profitability are naturally addressed.

"Keeping producers financially stable and sustainable is a significant goal of the USDA, commodity groups and everyone concerned about producing food for a growing human population," Donovan says.

Donovan explains that under this program, DU and its many partners will promote a variety of conservation programs geared towards improving soil health. Practices promoted under this program will include cover crops, grazing systems, promoting multi species crop rotations that include cereal grains, problem soil practices and perennial species establishment.

"Cover crops are plants grown specifically to improve soil health during time periods when cash crops are not being grown," says Donovan. "For example, many producers will plant cover crops in late summer and then terminate that crop the following spring when the next cash crop is planted. Cover crops increase soil organic matter, recycle nutrients for future crops, reduce soil erosion, increase water infiltration and provide many other benefits.

"Cover crops may also provide suitable nesting cover for ducks and other early nesting upland spe-

cies, and DU is embarking on a study to look at that particular benefit."

Promoting small grains, particularly winter wheat, is another aspect of the soil health program, and that's good news for ducks, according to DU's Randy Meidinger.

DU biologists have known for decades that winter wheat provides a suitable nesting cover for ducks, Meidinger says, and anything that promotes more winter wheat in South Dakota will be a boon to ducks, pheasants and other wildlife species that nest in this crop.

"Winter wheat and other winter cereals provide very suitable nesting cover for ducks because the crops grow rapidly in the early spring and are not harvested until after the nesting period," says Meidinger.

However, profit margins for winter wheat have been low, meaning that South Dakota farmers have been reluctant to plant the cereal crop.

According to Dr. Dwayne Beck, manager of the Dakota Lakes Research Farm, winter wheat remains a great crop to plant as part of a rotation designed to improve soil health and, contrary to popular opinion, can be a money-maker.

"Too many producers don't consider the benefits to soil health that small grain crops provide," says Beck. "The money in winter wheat is realized the following year when the subsequent crop yields better with reduced input costs."

The potential for improving soil health via the SHI is great, says DU's Donovan, and he expects that

landowners and producers across the state will be interested in the program.


This includes those in the James River lowlands, where many fields are suffering from increasing problems with salinity.

The large "white spots" found consistently across this landscape is indicative of the growing problem, Donovan says.

"When water evaporates from the surface of tilled soil in poor conditions, additional water is pulled upward from the soil below and brings salts with it," says Donovan. "One solution to this dilemma is the establishment of deep rooted perennial species that will help improve the downward movement of water and salts."

Donovan says that perennial species establishment on cropland as part of a long-term crop rotation plan is something that will be encouraged and promoted as part of the SHI.

"The impacts of this program could last for generations to come," he says.

DU is partnering with numerous conservation districts, state and federal agencies, and other partners to promote this new program. Technical assistance to producers and financial assistance for practices will be offered to interested landowners and producers. Folks interested in hearing more about this program should contact Steve Donovan, DU's manager of conservation programs, at (605) 633-0270 or sdonovan@ducks.org. 

Fulfilling the DU Vision

Harold R Bickner

After a long winter it is great to see spring is upon us. The duck migration is almost done; the blue-winged teal showed up last week; the hen mallards are nesting and Ducks Unlimited spring

banquets are in full swing.

Lorie and I have had the opportunity to attend banquets all across the state and have enjoyed meeting lots of DU supporters. It is great to see the enthusiasm that the committees across the state

have when they are running their local banquet. Ducks Unlimited's year comes to an end on June 30th, and it looks like we should be able to exceed our goals for the year.

The South Dakota DU state convention in January was a great success. I hope that those


of you that were able to attend had as much fun as my wife and I did. Those of you that were unable to attend - I would highly recommend that you join us at Cedar Shore Resort next January. Cedar Shore was a great host, and we are looking forward to another great convention.

South Dakota's regional directors Don Thorpe and Robert Hathaway have been busy with spring banquets and recruitment events. Recruitment evenings are a great way to add new members to your committee and are easy to put on. The 2017-2018 calendars have been delivered around the state, and we are striving to sell all 1500 of the calendars this year. Don Thorpe has also been working on upcoming District meetings that will happen this summer, so please attend the meeting in your area if at all possible.

We continue to work on District

Chairman and Zone Chairman. Our goal is to continue to fill all of these positions but we need help. South Dakota needs some volunteers to step up and take some leadership roles, including a District Chairman in the northeast part of the state and zone chairs all across the state. If you are interested in helping or just want more information, please contact your regional directors, Don and Robert, state chairman elect Bill Marketon or state chairman Harold R. Bickner.

The Ducks Unlimited National convention will start in San Antonio Texas on May 31st and end on the 3rd of June. South Dakota has a strong group of supporters attending the convention this year.

As we finish up the fiscal year with Ducks Unlimited I would like to thank all of you for the work that you have done in raising funds for the ducks. 



Lorie and Harold R Bickner

Life Sponsors Continue Support for Conservation

One of the questions that DU Life Sponsors sometimes face is how to further support the mission of wetlands conservation after reaching the level of a Major Donor. Is there a way for a Life Sponsor to continue to secure wetland habitat for future generations?

Absolutely!

Many of DU's most passionate Major Donors are renewing their support for DU programs by pledging new philanthropic support for DU's most critical habitat programs. DU can match your private gifts through a major sponsor pledge by at least 2:1. In South Dakota, we are able to match private gifts 5:1 on many programs making a huge impact on conservation and giving you, the private donor, excellent returns on your philanthropic gift.

There are many ways to support Ducks Unlimited – each an expression of the donor's particular interests and each with distinct tax advantages. Outright gifts provide immediate, current support of DU. Deferred gifts can include bequest provisions, retirement account designations and life insurance. A variety of tangible assets may also be appropriate for charitable gift purposes.

The tax benefits of making a charitable gift can be substantial. Careful tax planning and structuring can actually decrease one's cost while increasing support for DU. Members of DU's Development staff are available to work with donors and their advisers to achieve these mutual goals.

"I encourage all of our Major Donors to consider an upgrade or at the very least continue your support every time you go to a DU event," says Maynard Isaacson, SD DU State Campaign Chairman. "Buy a \$250 sponsorship or make a pledge payment at the event. Both help the local chapter with their fundraising goals, and it gives you additional membership credit that can be applied to any future Major donor pledge."

The word is getting out on how Major Donors can continue to support wetlands conservation, as SD DU has already met or surpassed goals for pledges and upgrades for 2017, says Terry Kontinec, DU Director for Development in South Dakota and Nebraska, and that's good news for ducks and duck hunters.

"If you have a passion for the outdoors and want to pass on a legacy of conservation, we can help you achieve that goal," says Kostinec. "There is no better time as a donor or a greater need on the landscape than now." 🦆



Left: Long time Watertown DU supporters Ed and Jim Spies just completed their Heritage Sponsorship that supported the "Preserve Our Prairies" programs in South Dakota.



Kathy and Steve Peschong are being recognized by Terry Kostinec at the SD Convention for upgrading to Diamond Life Sponsor.

Quality Hunting and Shooting Products



1-800-784-4331
www.ruggedgear.com



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

SD DU Campaign Leadership Changes

Dakota DU State Campaign Team
After 20 years as Chairman of the South Dakota DU Campaign fundraising team, Gary Peterson has decided to step down.


Peterson has educated and recruited many DU supporters over the years to become major donors thereby increasing the direct support for DU's conservation programs, says Terry Kostinec, Director of Development for South Dakota.

"Gary has worked tirelessly over the years with the intent of leaving his legacy of conservation on the landscape," says Kostinec.

Long time DU volunteer, Diamond Life Sponsor and past State Chairman Maynard Isaacson has now taken

Director of Development Terry Kostinec (left) presents outgoing State Campaign Chairman Gary Peterson with his Diamond Life Sponsor plaque and 20-year appreciation decoy.

the reigns of the campaign team and will lead the charge through the end of the "Rescue Our Wetlands" campaign in 2019.

"I look forward to carrying on the strong tradition of major gifts fundraising that Gary has given us," says Isaacson. "DU has a wonderful success story to tell, and I look forward to helping people with a passion for the outdoors connect with DU and take our philanthropic support of on-the-ground conservation work to new levels". 



Legacy Greenwing Dedication Scheduled for June 24th

On June 24th, Ducks Unlimited Legacy Greenwing members will gather at a dedication site on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) property near Madison for a special dedication event.

Over 200 DU Legacy Greenwings will have their names permanently placed on a bronze cairn to be constructed on land managed for ducks and other wildlife near Madison. A special ceremony will be held, starting at 11:00, on the site to recognize the Legacy Greenwings and their families for the support they have shown for DU and wetlands conservation.

The dedication site is about three miles southeast of Madison, approximately ¾ mile south of the junction of Highways 34 and 19. The cairn will be placed along a paved tour route that includes several wildlife interpretive signs along the way.

After the ceremony, hot dogs and hamburgers will be served in the parking lot of the nearby USFWS visitor center located nearby, which will be open and staff will be on hand to answer questions and talk about wildlife conservation. The public is encouraged to attend this special event.

The more than 200 youth to be recognized are all the Legacy Greenwings who have achieved this status over the last several years. This summer marks the 20th Anniversary of the very first Legacy Greenwing dedication, held at the Pickering Waterfowl Production Area on June 14, 1997. Please mark your calendars and join us for this special event to honor our newest Legacy Greenwings.



New State Campaign Chairman Maynard Isaacson (left) working with Director of Development Terry Kostinec to send out South Dakota Conservation reports to major donor prospects.

What: South Dakota DU Annual Fishing Rendezvous

When: June 27-29

Where: The Outpost Lodge north of Pierre

Who: Major Sponsors and guests



South Dakota DU Annual Fishing Rendezvous



You Are Invited!

Make plans to join us for the annual South Dakota DU Major Donor fishing rendezvous on the Missouri River near Pierre from June 27-29! This is your opportunity to spend time with kindred spirits celebrating the success of DU's conservation efforts in South Dakota. Enjoy fishing with your South Dakota friends by day and fish cookouts with DU staff each evening.

If you're a DU Major Donor, or would like to become one, please join us for a memorable experience.

Contact John Cooper (605)222-7582 or Terry Kostinec (605)624-0098 or visit the SD DU webpage (<http://www.ducks.org/south-dakota/events/45494/life-sponsor-rendezvous>) to find out how you can register.

Act fast! There are LIMITED spaces available, and they fill up fast every year!

**Get your
ducks
in a
row –
become a
DU Volunteer!**



GRAHAM

YOUR TIRE STORE NEXT DOOR

GOODYEAR **COOPER TIRES**
KELLY K&S TIRES **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	

Preserve Our Prairie Raffle

By Don Thorpe

Ducks Unlimited banquets last year in South Dakota featured the SDDU 2016 Preserve Our Prairie Raffle. At each event one DU commemorative knife was auctioned and one was raffled; the winners not only received a DU commemorative knife but were entered in a state raffle for a gun safe and 5 DU firearms of the year.

The grand raffle was drawn at the SDDU State convention at Cedar Shore Resort near Chamberlain on January 28th. The participants did not have to be present to be eligible to win, but part of the raffle included a bonus drawing for a “Boxy Gun” painted by Terry Boxdorfer that did require participants to be present at the convention.

The winner of the Preserve Our Prairie Raffle for the gun safe and guns this year was Josh Luckett of Wessington Springs. Brian Burch from Lake Norden won the Boxy Gun.

The SDDU Preserve Our Prairie Raffle raised over \$45,000 dollars during 2016. SDDU State Chair Harold Bickner says that the Preserve our Prairies Raffle has become a highlight of fundraising events across the state.

“We chose the name Preserve Our Prairie to highlight that Ducks Unlimited’s top conservation initiative is to preserve the vital habitat that we have here on the prairies,” he said.

SDDU kicked off the 2017 Preserve Our Prairie at the State convention in Chamberlain. The Raffle will follow the same set up this year with a Gun Safe and 5 DU guns as the Grand Prize and Bonus drawing for a Boxy Gun. The Grand and Bonus prize will be drawn at the 2018 SDDU State Convention at Cedar Shore Resort on January 26-28, 2018.

We encourage DU supporters to attend one of our local banquets to buy or win a chance for this popular raffle. 🦆



DU Completes Huge Wetland Restoration Effort

“Build it and they will come.”

That phrase has been used often and for a variety of purposes. As it turns out, the phrase is also true when it comes to duck habitat.

In early December, while fighting rain, snow and freezing conditions, construction work was completed on six different wetland restoration projects in Sanborn, Deuel and Roberts counties in eastern South Dakota. The properties are owned by Ducks Unlimited and were acquired as part of the Revolving Habitat Program. Once the projects are complete and restored habitats fully protected, the properties will be sold to conservation buyers.

In all, 125 wetland basins totaling 195 acres were restored by filling drainage ditches and constructing small, earthen berms. These wetland basins, drained by previous landowners many years earlier, are now fully restored.

The restored wetlands range in

size from a fraction of an acre to over 10 acres in size. Once the natural hydrology of a wetland basin is restored, it only takes water to turn that site into duck habitat. Snowmelt and spring rains are key to finishing the project and once again providing habitat to ducks and many other species of wildlife that make their homes in prairie wetlands.

The small potholes restored through this massive effort are particularly important to breeding ducks and geese.

“Waterfowl are very territorial in the spring, and breeding pairs of waterfowl will establish pair territories often on the smallest of prairie wetlands,” explains DU biologist Bruce Toay. “The more individual potholes we have in this landscape,

the more breeding pairs of ducks will settle here.”

By restoring and protecting these small, temporary potholes located near larger wetlands that provide brood habitat, DU believes it can restore the natural capacity of these areas to support breeding waterfowl and numerous other species for generations to come

The importance of these restored wetlands was already realized this spring, as Toay reported in mid-March that several of the restored wetlands in Roberts County were holding water – and ducks.

It’s proof yet again that, with the help of Ducks Unlimited and its members and staff, if we build it, the ducks will come. 🦆



Revolving Habitat Program Secures More Habitat



Ducks Unlimited's Revolving Habitat Program has been very active in recent months, acquiring 11 different properties in eastern South Dakota, totaling over 2,600 acres since the beginning of July, 2016. These acquisitions were private sales executed between DU and a willing seller, including several landowners who specifically approached DU with an interest in participating in the organization's conservation programs.

This unique approach to wetlands conservation includes the acquisition of land by Ducks Unlimited and subsequent restoration and protection of important waterfowl habitat, including wetlands and grasslands. Once these habitats are protected, DU will sell the property to conservation buyers, who then manage the land subject to the restrictions placed on the property through the easements. Typically, a local farmer or rancher buys the DU properties when the lands are revolved out of the program.

The revenue secured through the sale of the property then provides the funds needed to pursue additional opportunities.

One example of the recently acquired properties is the 146-acre Estabrook property in Sanborn County, which is located very close to three other DU properties. The Estabrook property offers DU a fantastic opportunity to restore both wetlands and grasslands in a landscape very important to breeding waterfowl.

According to Steve Donovan, DU's Manager of Conservation Programs in South Dakota, Mr. Estabrook has expressed interest in working together on another opportunity near Letcher.

"Mr. Estabrook has very patiently worked with us over the last two years to make this acquisition possible," said Donovan. "He recognized that some of this land

should have never been drained in the first place because it simply did not make productive farmland." DU will restore wetlands and grasslands on the property, and future owners of the land will be able to use the restored habitat as pasture.

Another of the recently completed acquisitions is the Ken Cooper land near Rifle Lake, also in Sanborn County.


Mr. Cooper is a resident of Michigan and has enjoyed annual hunting trips to this property for many years.

Donovan says that Mr. Cooper shared that age was catching up to him and decided it was time to pass on his dream property to another

owner.

"DU stepped in and worked with Mr. Cooper on a plan to acquire the property and enhance the habitat work he has accomplished over the years," Donovan said.

The property is surrounded by a state-owned Game Production Area, and Donovan adds that Mr. Cooper is particularly excited about DU's offer to attempt to sell the land to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks as an addition to their public land base.

The acquisition by DU was recently completed and work will now begin to develop appropriate wildlife habitat conservation plans for the site. 

State Council Update

Bill Marketon – State Chairman Elect

What a wonderful time of year it is. The spring sun has removed the snow and it is thawing the breeding grounds. Our skies are filled with migrating birds. Hardly a day goes by without noticing waterfowl in their magnificent spring colors. What a joy this should bring to us. Your efforts are making this happen for many future generations to come.

As I enter my first full year as Chairman Elect, I begin to see how important each and every volunteer


is. There are countless hours that you put in to make SDDU the success it is. There is planning, recruiting, fund raising and events. Not to mention, there is plenty of time to socialize with our DU friends. There are so many common bonds we have in sharing the outdoors and telling tall stories of hunts in the past and prospects for the future.

Our spring event season has been outstanding. Some of us will take a "little" time off to relax and reflect on what we have accomplished. For others, we still have more to do. At

the end of May, my wife Christy and I will be attending our first National Convention with several others from South Dakota. We are very excited to meet the nations DU crew and thank them for the money they invest in our wonderful state.

In August, we will be having a summer state council meeting. This is currently scheduled for Friday and Saturday August 4th & 5th at Grand Slam Lodge in Kimball, SD. Curt and Lorie Korzan have generously offered the use of their fine facility for this event. We intend to meet

late afternoon on the 4th for some sporting clays followed by cocktails and fellowship.

Thank you once again for all you do for the Ducks. Make sure to take the time to reflect and appreciate those who have helped so much make this happen. Please tell others what a great group we have and invite them to volunteer as well. If you have a chance, take a kid out to enjoy the outdoors. Even better, get them ready for a fall hunt. Until we meet again, take care my DU friends. 



Canvasback division award winners pictured left to right: Back Row - Travis Ascher, Scott Schutz, Dennis Tilly, Eric Waterbury Middle Row - Don Dehaan, Todd Heidelbauer, Jeff Wehrkamp, Jeremy Wehrkamp Front Row - Steve Donovan, Randy Uehran, Art Hansen, Harold Bickner, Todd Trumm, Cory Jorgenson

Top South Dakota Ducks Unlimited Chapters Recognized

The top performing chapters in 2016 from across South Dakota were recognized at the 2017 State Ducks Unlimited Convention on January 28, 2017 at Cedar Shore Resort.

Ducks Unlimited Chapters compete against their previous year's performance to qualify for performance awards. In order to start the qualification process for a performance award each committee must show an increase in "grass-root" income and have a Net/Net Ratio of 50/50 or greater. Chapters are then scored via a matrix on revenue raised, attendance, number of sponsors and event efficiency.

There are three divisions for award purposes: Canvasback, Mallard and Wood Duck, with the Canvasback Division representing SDDU's top performance award.

South Dakota Ducks Unlimited 2016 Canvasback Award

- Split Rock Dinner
- Kingsbury County Dinner
- Bruce Krentz Memorial Dinner
- Sioux Empire Dinner
- Brookings Dinner
- Lennox Dinner
- Day County Dinner
- Lookout Mountain Dinner
- Tri-State Dinner

South Dakota Ducks Unlimited 2016 Mallard Award

- Sioux Empire Bar Night
- SD State University WHP
- McPherson Co Dinner
- Canton Dinner
- Gun Bash

South Dakota Ducks Unlimited 2016 Wood Duck Award

- Deuel County Golf Tournament
- Britton Dinner
- Yankton Dinner
- Watertown Dinner
- Lake Poinsett Dinner
- Castlewood Dinner



DU celebrates 80 years of conservation

MEMPHIS, Tenn. —
Jan. 12, 2017 – Sunday,

Jan. 29, marks Ducks Unlimited's (DU's) 80th anniversary. Started by a small group of sportsmen on a mission to save North America's waterfowl populations – and the continent's strong waterfowling traditions – DU was founded in 1937 during the Great Depression and one of the worst droughts in history, far from ideal circumstances for an organization in its infancy. Eight decades later, DU is celebrating 80 years of conservation success due to the tireless support and efforts of generations of DU members, volunteers and partners who have championed the organization's critical conservation mission to conserve and restore wetlands and other vital habitats for North America's waterfowl.

"DU's 80th anniversary is a milestone in conservation history," said DU CEO Dale Hall. "This anniversary would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers and supporters, as well as the many agency and organizational partners who, time and time again, have helped us succeed in our mission."


Over the last 80 years, DU has completed more than 100,000 conservation projects and conserved more than 13.8 million acres across North America through on-the-ground, science-based conservation work.

"For 80 years, the men and women of Ducks Unlimited have stood shoulder to shoulder with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the states and our counterparts in Canada and Mexico, playing a vital role in successful efforts to conserve and protect North America's waterfowl populations and wetland habitat for future generations. As we work to address the

conservation challenges of the 21st century, DU's conservation work and the support of its members have never been more crucial," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe. "On behalf of the Service, I want to congratulate DU for reaching this milestone, and thank the entire organization and its members for your advocacy, passion and commitment to conservation."

The anniversary also coincides with DU's latest campaign, "Rescue Our Wetlands: Banding Together for Waterfowl." The \$2 billion continental campaign was launched at the organization's 78th annual convention in Milwaukee, and is one of the most ambitious conservation campaigns ever undertaken. Funds raised through the campaign will be used to conserve vital wetlands and other wildlife habitats on North America's most important waterfowl landscapes.

"Every DU member, partner and supporter has a role to play in Rescue Our Wetlands, and can help us achieve our conservation priorities of protecting, restoring or enhancing critical wetlands habitat across the continent," Hall said. "While this anniversary is a landmark for the organization, we must not lose sight of how we arrived where we are today: the hard work of volunteers and partners. We must all continue to do our part, right now, to ensure wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever."

To help celebrate the milestone, Ducks Unlimited magazine and DU's website and social media channels will feature anniversary stories and promotions, and the organization will celebrate 80 years of conservation during its annual national convention in San Antonio. 



Mallard Dam Repair Completed

Construction work to repair damage that occurred on Mallard Dam in Lyman County was completed in October of last year.

Mallard Dam was one of the very first DU projects in South Dakota, originally completed in the fall of 1986. This 30-acre impoundment is located within the Fort Pierre National Grasslands and has served as an oasis in a vast sea of grass to waterfowl, shorebirds, deer, antelope, outdoorsmen, and livestock for the past three decades.

In June of 2009 a high water event caused extensive damage to the water control structure and spillway, and the dam was breached. DU engineers and biologists surveyed the damage and developed a plan to repair the dam. The repairs included replacing the damaged water control structure with a larger and sturdier structure and surrounding it with

rock rip rap for better long-term stability. The damaged spillway was repaired and reshaped with soil and then lined with a sheet of poly mesh fabric covered in a layer of rock to prevent future soil erosion during peak water flows through the spillway.

DU worked with other conservation partners to ensure the Mallard Dam repair plan was implemented. The US Forest Service, the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Department, and the South Dakota Habitat Conservation Fund Board provided funding and support for completion of this project. The US Forest Service will monitor and manage the dam and associated impoundment to ensure continued beneficial use for fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and livestock water. 



All 2017 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



Who are Ducks Unlimited Volunteers?

By Don Thorpe

Ducks Unlimited was created 80 years ago in the depths of the “Dust Bowl” by concerned waterfowl hunters. As wetlands across North America dried up, those early sportsmen understood that future generations of hunters may not witness skies filled with waterfowl unless something was done. Unfortunately, ducks did not rate high on the priority list of the government, as we were in the middle of the Great Depression, so sportsman realized that they would have to organize and fund conservation efforts. From these early efforts Ducks Unlimited was conceived.


At the beginning, sportsman raised money thru “Duk-a-Nickel Cans” at hunting clubs and other revenue venues. Joe Knapp, who is considered

the founding father of Ducks Unlimited, donated vital capital to keep the foundation “More Games Birds of America” (the precursor of Ducks Unlimited) functioning in order to begin conserving waterfowl habitat.

While early volunteers assisted in raising waterfowl and even bird count surveys, biologists eventually realized how conservation on large scale would require fundraising on a large scale. In the mid 1960’s the local Ducks Unlimited Banquets, as we know them, were launched to fund the DU Conservation machine. Sportsman from all walks of life stepped forward to form and volunteer for their local hometown DU Chapters. Soon DU became an established part of their local communities.

Today there are 4500 chapters nationally, including 45 active chapters

in South Dakota. The communities where these chapters exist are as diverse as the volunteers who serve these chapters. We have chapters in the largest cities to chapters in towns with populations of less than 100 people. There are chapters comprised of hardcore duck hunters and chapters with volunteers who have never duck hunted.

The volunteers from South Dakota come from a wide range of career backgrounds, including teachers, farmers, law enforcement, medical, construction, electricians, salesman, engineers, lawyers, artists, bartenders, mechanics, managers, carpenters, dentists, chiropractors, students and many more. The one thing they have is the commitment to protect our precious wildlife habitat for future generations. 



If you would like to join your local committee or if you are a current volunteer who would like to step up to become a Zone Chair or District Chair, please contact **Don Thorpe at 605-630-8696 or dthorpe@ducks.org.**

Hagseth Receives Heidelberg Award

Sioux Falls Ducks Unlimited supporter Sonny Hagseth is the recipient of the 2017 Frank Heidelberg award. Hagseth was honored at this year's state DU convention at Cedar Shore Resort near Oacoma.

The award is named in honor of Frank "Frankie" Heidelberg, one of South Dakota Ducks Unlimited's earliest and staunchest leaders. The award is presented annually to a longtime SDDU volunteer and supporter who has exhibited exceptional leadership and dedication in the name of habitat conservation.

A founding member of the Canton Ducks Unlimited chapter in 1975, Hagseth has remained a committee member for that chapter

every year since. During this time, he has held every position with the Canton chapter, including chairman, and is currently serving as the treasurer.


Hagseth has also held numerous state positions, including Zone and District chairman, and in the 1990's he achieved the highest position possible as the South Dakota Ducks Unlimited State chairman – a 2-year position that he held for 3 years!

Hagseth was born in Robinson, North Dakota, where he spent his younger years, before his family moved to Canton. After graduating from high school, Hagseth moved across the country, looking for his calling, before moving back to Can-

ton, where he bought and ran the local steakhouse and lounge.

In 1974, Hagseth would meet his future wife, Sue, and the two were married the following year. In 1977, he began a new career with Motorola, serving in various sales and management positions over the next 20 years.

In 1979, Hagseth and his wife, Sue, welcomed their first daughter, Cayce, and in 1983, daughter Mandy was born into the family. The Hagseths have been blessed with 3 wonderful grandchildren.

South Dakota Ducks Unlimited would like to thank Sonny for all of his work and dedication! 



Sonny Hagseth



DIRECTORY 2017 SD STATE OFFICERS

- **State Chairman** – Harold R Bickner
PO Box 189, Kimball, SD 57355
605-680-0368 bickner@midstaesd.net
- **State Chairman Elect** – Bill Marketon
26418 462nd Ave, Hartford, SD 57033
605-310-9793 sd.du.ce@gmail.com
- **State Council Chairman** – Bill Marketon
26418 462nd Ave. Hartford, SD 57033
605- 310-9793 sd.du.ce@gmail.com
- **State Treasurer** – Terry Schutz
PO box 565, Eureka, SD 57437
605-284-2440 (w) 605-284-2065
(answering machine)
tschutz@valleytel.net
- **State Council Secretary** –
Christy Marketon 26418 462nd Ave.
Hartford, SD 57033
- **Feather Society Chairman** –
Don Kallenberger PO box 547 802 G Ave.
Eureka, SD 57437 605-284-5121 (w)
605-284-2101 (h) 605-284-5327 (fax)
kaldon@valleytel.net

- **Fowl Talk Coordinator** – John Pollmann
309 E 8th St., Dell Rapids, SD
605-370-8092
der_jaeger@hotmail.com

- **State Webmaster** – Pam Berg
108 14th St NE, Watertown SD 57201
605-886-7403 (h) 605-881-5614(c)
pamberg@hotmail.com

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

- **Bronze Sponsor Chairman** – Open

- **Youth and Education Chairman** –
Jeff "Slim" & Mary Schneider 2409
10th St. #110, Brookings, SD 57006
Slim's 605-770-7546 (c)
Mary's 605-770-7419 (c)
Jeff.schneider@sdstate.edu
Mary.schneider@sdstate.edu

- **State Major Gifts Chairman** –
Maynard Isaacson 3405 S Pennant Pl,
Sioux Falls, SD 57110, 605-759-8837
isaacson@sio.midco.net

- **District Chairman:**

- Jeff and Mary Schneider
2409 10th St. #110
Brookings, SD. 57006

- Steve Schutz - 27195 Pine Cir
Harrisburg, SD 57032 605-929-7147 (c)
sschutz@lampertlumber.com

- Dennis Tilly - 4924 Shelby Ave.
C-207, Rapid City 57701
605-999-7496 dtilly1@live.com

- Don DeHaan - 107 W Ave. NW,
Wagner, SD
57380-9678 or 605-384-3712
dieseldehaan@hotmail.com

- Steve Peschong - 901 N. Main St.,
Mitchell SD 57301 605-999-4574
peschong@mitchellrealty.net

- **Volunteer Recruitment Chairman** –
Open

- **Senior Vice President Region 2** –
Clay Rogers 8712 West Dodge Rd.,
Suite 400, Omaha, NE 68114
402-501-8112 (c) 402-392-0101 (w)
crogers@lawsgs.com

- **Regional Vice President Region 2** –
Jeff Heidelberg PO Box 292
Custer, SD 57730 605-673-4208 (h)
605-440-0772 (c)
jeff.heidelberg@heidelberg.com

- **Regional Vice President Region 2** –
Howard Johnson
1617 W Main Riverton WY
cell 307-851-5551 (c)
hjohnson@inberg-miller.com

- **Senior Regional Director** – Don Thorpe
25346 400th Ave. Mount Vernon 57363
605-630-8606 dthorpe@ducks.org

- **Senior Regional Director (Black Hills)**
– Robert Hathaway 351 N.Forest #29,
Casper WY 82609-1932
307-221-2061
rhathaway@ducks.org

- **Director of Fund Raising and
Volunteer Recruitment Region 2** –
Greg Dinkel 1516 9th Ave., Kearney, NE
68845 NE, KS, CO, ND, SD, WY, MT
308-440-6413 (c) 308-233-5768 (fax)
gdinkel@ducks.org

- **Managing Director of Development
Great Plains Region** – Open

- **Manager of Conservation Programs
Great Plains Region** – Steve Donovan
2301 Research Park Way, Suite 247,
Brookings SD 57006 605-633-0270
sdonovan@ducks.org

- **Director of Development**
– Terry Kostinec 420 Pudue St.
Vermillion, SD 57069
605-624-0098 (h) 605-760-5791 (C)
tkostinec@ducks.org



South Dakota Ducks Unlimited 57 Gun Calendar Raffle

By Don Thorpe

Do you like guns? Do you like helping to protect wildlife habitat in South Dakota and across North America? Are you a fan of wildlife artist John Green? Then purchase one of SD Ducks Unlimited 57 Gun Raffle Calendars!

DU Volunteers across South Dakota are selling 1500 Gun Calendars for \$50 each, and with the purchase you are entered into 57 separate drawings for select firearms. Participants are entered in all 57 drawings, so it is possible that a calendar may be a winner multiple times. We will award one gun each Wednesday between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, plus

five bonus guns throughout the year. This is the third year SDDU volunteers have been selling Gun Calendars. The proceeds from the sales on these calendars have helped to conserve over 200 acres of wildlife habitat.

The art work on this year's calendar features images from nationally acclaimed artist John Green. John is an accomplished wildlife artist whose art work has raised over \$3 million for Ducks Unlimited conservation efforts over the years.

To purchase one of the Ducks Unlimited Raffle Calendars contact your local DU committee, or call Holly Thorpe at 605-630-0218 and she will assist you with your purchase.



Get your SDDU Gun Raffle Calendar Now!

\$50 per Calendar

Only 1,500 Sold!

**Award One Calendar per Week
Between July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

Plus 5 Bonus Guns

**Call following DU Volunteers to
purchase a calendar:**

**Sioux Falls Area – Steve Schutz
605-929-7147**

**Sioux Falls Area – Kevin Fuerst
605-212-9259**

**Hartford Area – Mark Lueth
605-310-8920**

**Lennox Area – Cory Jorgenson
605-351-8854**

**Brandon Area – Eric Waterbury
605-941-1528**

**Yankton Area – Gary Pigney
605-605-660-8080**

**Watertown Area – Gale Biesch
605-520-3091**

**Huron Area – Mike Zell
605-350-2778**

**Mitchell Area – Steve Peschong
605-999-4574**

**Wessington Springs Area – Tom Mebius
605-770-3923**

**Pierre Area – Kyle Potter
605-280-3280**

**Aberdeen Area – Brandon Thorpe
605-290-4283**

**Groton/Pickrel Lake – Ron Bedon
605-380-1231**

**Webster Area – Travis Ascher
605-412-6055**

**Britton Area – Cyndy Grandpre
605-216-3797**

**Eureka Area – Terry Schutz
605-284-2440**

**Chamberlain Area – Harold Bickner
605- 680-0368**

**Wagner Area – Don Dehaan
605-491-1777**

**Lyman co. Area – Danae Vavra
605-280-6205**

**Black Hills Area – Dennis Tilly
605-999-7496**

Budweiser
The Great American Lager

Budweiser
OFFICIAL DUCK OF
DUCKS
UNLIMITED

I O Real
DISTRIBUTING INC.
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

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

John A Conkling
Distributing Company

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