GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IMPROVED

Ducks Unlimited, in partnership with the NCWRC, is finalizing an agreement to secure one of two pump stations needed in the managed wetland complexes at Goose Creek Game Land in eastern North Carolina.

Located in Pamlico County, the 25-acre Hobucken Unit is one of the primary waterfowl complexes on the game land. This project will enhance habitat management capabilities on the unit through the replacement of a pump and associated water-control infrastructure. Thanks to the continued generosity and partnership of Axalta Coating Systems on public lands projects in North Carolina, DU leveraged their gift and funds from the Southeast Wetlands Initiative 3:1 with Pittman-Robertson funding.

J. MORGAN FUTCH GAME LAND ENHANCED

DU is partnering with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and the NC Attorney General’s Environmental Enhancement Grant Program to enhance the hydrology on more than 100 acres of wetlands on J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County. DU will provide turnkey services to the NCWRC to develop and implement the restoration and enhancement project. These wetlands will be managed to provide habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent species. These wetlands also store flood waters from rain events and filter out sediments and nutrients before they reach the Alligator River.

DU recently secured funding in partnership with Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to enhance 307 acres of managed wetlands for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent species. The importance of Pea Island to waterfowl and other migratory birds is recognized by the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture as more than 300 bird species have been sighted on or near the refuge. The proposed contract work includes installation of a water control structure to enable refuge staff to move water between units and optimally manage these units for waterfowl and water bird habitat. The project also includes the installation of a pump station and power unit to address the refuge’s lack of reliable water delivery into and out of the South Pond impoundment. These improvements will allow refuge managers to independently manage impoundments to encourage production of quality forage for waterfowl, to provide mudflats and sheet water for shorebird foraging habitat and to control undesirable plant species. Construction is slated to take place in 2020.
STATE CAMPAIGN UPDATE AND MAJOR SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

North Carolina’s Campaign Committee exceeded all goals with 23 new Life Sponsors, 18 upgrades and 5 Feather Society commitments in 2018. The committee helped raise more than $320,000 in new cash, benefitting a wide range of conservation work in North Carolina and beyond.

In 2012, the Ducks Unlimited Sportsmen for Tomorrow Campaign was launched in North Carolina to engage young people in conservation through education, commitment and volunteerism. Feeling that the leaders of today have a responsibility to guide those who will take their place tomorrow, George Henry, III of Gastonia, NC made a bold and incredibly generous decision.

By partnering with NCDU to fund and implement the country’s first state-specific youth and education coordinator, George supported a focused effort on recruiting, cultivating and empowering the next generation of conservation ambassadors. As a result, North Carolina’s Greenwing, Varsity and University programs are among the country’s most successful. North Carolina is also the home to DU’s inaugural National Scholarship winner.

Recognizing a new opportunity for youth engagement through a partnership with Future Farmers of America, George recently gifted $200,000 to NCDU to underwrite youth memberships and fund state-specific conservation projects. With his recent gift, roughly 2,500 young people will be educated on the value of Ducks Unlimited’s conservation mission and how it relates to agricultural and land stewardship practices.

While the Sportsmen for Tomorrow Campaign has now concluded, there is no question that George Henry made a lasting impact and laid the foundation for generations of conservationists.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE AND VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Ducks Unlimited, and North Carolina has some of the best. North Carolina boasts nearly 26,735 members, including more than 2,400 volunteers who hosted 174 events in 2018, raising more than $2.2 million to support DU’s conservation mission. Those dollars allow DU to complete critical conservation work not only within the Tar Heel State, but also on the breeding grounds that produce North Carolina’s waterfowl.

Will Anderson is one of NCDU’s rising volunteer stars. Born and raised in Charlotte, Will recently graduated from the Charlotte Latin School where he was on the DU Varsity Chapter committee since his sophomore year. As a senior, Will co-chaired the chapter with Joe Parish.

“We have strengthened our committee, and I cannot wait for what the future holds for the Charolette Youth for Conservation chapter,” Will said.

Will is the 2019 winner of the $10,000 national DU scholarship. He plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and pursue a science-focused education. “I plan to become a doctor, but things could change if I find something in college I’d rather study,” he said.

NORTH CAROLINA BY THE NUMBERS

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<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>CUMULATIVE</th>
<th>NCWRC’s cumulative contributions to DU for habitat conservation in Canada: $1,021,478.</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2.2 million raised</td>
<td>130,392 acres conserved</td>
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<td></td>
<td>174 events</td>
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Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America’s waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

Visit us online at www.ducks.org/conservation/sr