**BEAVERDAM CREEK WMA**

DU was recently awarded a North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grant for $100,000 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Beaverdam Creek WMA Wetlands Enhancement Project. This project is located on Beaverdam Creek WMA in Anderson County, SC and will enhance 48 acres of managed wetlands open to public hunting and outdoor recreation through the installation of a well, pump, water control structures, and embankment and canal enhancement. DU is proud to partner with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, SC DU Tag Program, and major donors to fund and deliver this project over the next two years.

**SCARBOROUGH: COVEY CALL**

DU closed on the Covey Call – Scarborough conservation easement in December 2019, protecting 242 acres in perpetuity. The property is dominated by upland forests of mixed pine-hardwood and planted loblolly and longleaf pine. Forested wetland areas and forested buffers along streams have been preserved, protecting over 28 acres of wood duck and songbird habitat. The owner will continue using the property for wildlife management, recreational hunting, and pine production with the goal of increasing longleaf pine restoration in the future. This is the first easement to close as part of Ducks Unlimited’s strategic partnership with the United States Air Force’s REPI program to increase conservation land surrounding the North Auxiliary Airfield in the North Fork Edisto River watershed.

**Santee NWR: Bluff Unit & Dingle Pond**

DU, in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), completed the enhancement of over 600 acres of managed wetlands on the Bluff and Dingle Pond Units of Santee National Wildlife Refuge in Clarendon County, SC. This project will provide important habitat for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, colonial nesting birds and other species. DU worked with the refuge to provide a turn-key project that included engineering and biological services, construction, and construction oversight. This project resulted in the installation of pump stations, water control structures, and embankment and canal enhancement that will enable the refuge to manage the wetlands independent of lake levels for target migratory waterfowl and other wetland species. The 2019 project on the Bluff and Dingle Pond Units serves as a prime example to the power of partnership and DU’s ability to highly leverage funding. Partners on this project included the USFWS, the South Carolina Ducks Unlimited License Tag Program, and the Duke Energy Water Resources Fund.

**Santee Coastal Reserve WMA: The Cape Unit**

DU, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), is nearing completion of the 3,308-acre wetlands restoration project on The Cape Unit of Santee Coastal Reserve in Charleston County. This project was funded through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, with matching funds provided by SCDNR, DU, Audubon SC, Open Space Institute, and the SC DU License Tag Program. Wetlands restoration and enhancement activities included the installation of over 12 water control structures as well as canal, berm, and embankment enhancement to facilitate improved wetland habitat management capabilities. Santee Coastal Reserve provides the public with opportunities for waterfowl hunting, birding, hiking, biking and other outdoor recreational pursuits. This project provides enhanced wetland habitat for migratory birds and other wetland dependent wildlife, while also supporting public recreational opportunities.
STATE CAMPAIGN UPDATE
The South Carolina State Campaign Committee secured 11 new Life Sponsors and 2 new Feather Society commitments in 2019. They brought in more than $623,095 in new cash. Clearly, major sponsors in South Carolina are making a difference for the future of wetlands, waterfowl and waterfowl hunting.

MAJOR DONOR SPOTLIGHT
JEFF HAULBROOK: SUPPORT TODAY, LEGACY TOMORROW

Bobby C. Haulbrook of Spartanburg, SC was a Ducks Unlimited Life Sponsor, an Area Chairman, an avid waterfowler and a dedicated father. Through his passion for DU and guidance, his son, Jeff Haulbrook (also of Spartanburg) was introduced to Ducks Unlimited at a relatively young age. Though Jeff’s father is no longer with us, the bond and sporting legacy that was established in their relationship through Ducks Unlimited has never faded. Today, Jeff also is a significant patron of the organization as a Diamond Sponsor in Perpetuity and a regular benefactor of both the Spartanburg, SC and Greenville, SC chapters. Further, to ensure a lasting family legacy within Ducks Unlimited and in an effort to encourage youth engagement in perpetuity, Jeff recently endowed a Ducks Unlimited collegiate scholarship in his late father’s name, the Bobby C. Haulbrook Memorial Scholarship. Through his ongoing commitment and immense generosity, Jeff is truly providing for waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT AND FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Volunteer fundraisers are the heartbeat of Ducks Unlimited, and South Carolina has some of the best. South Carolina boasts nearly 20,000 members, including more than 2,000 volunteers who hosted 97 events and raised more than $1.9 million to support DU’s conservation mission in 2019. One standout volunteer is Austin Royal.

Austin started volunteering with DU as a member of the University of South Carolina Chapter member. As a member he was able to get DU recognized by USC and chapter members are now able to receive tassels at graduation. During his time as a USC chapter member, Austin took them to the Sweet 16 and the chapter has since been the #1 College Chapter for 3 consecutive years for SC. After graduating, Austin joined the Columbia Chapter where he currently serves as the Area Chairman. In 2019 Columbia was recognized as a President’s Elite Chapter, which goes to chapters raising between $65,000 an $99,999.

In addition to his role as Area Chairman, Austin serves on the SCDU State Committee as the Youth and Education Chairman. “I believe strongly in getting the youth involved with DU. After all, youth are the future of DU” stated Austin. In 2019 he helped grow the Greenwing membership by over 700 new greenwings.

SOUTH CAROLINA BY THE NUMBERS

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<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>CUMULATIVE</th>
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<tr>
<td>$1.9 million raised</td>
<td>208,011 acres conserved</td>
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<tr>
<td>97 events</td>
<td>$58,123,726 invested</td>
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<td>3,694 acres conserved FY19</td>
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Thank you to all our chapter chairs for their hard work and dedication to Ducks Unlimited. DU conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.

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