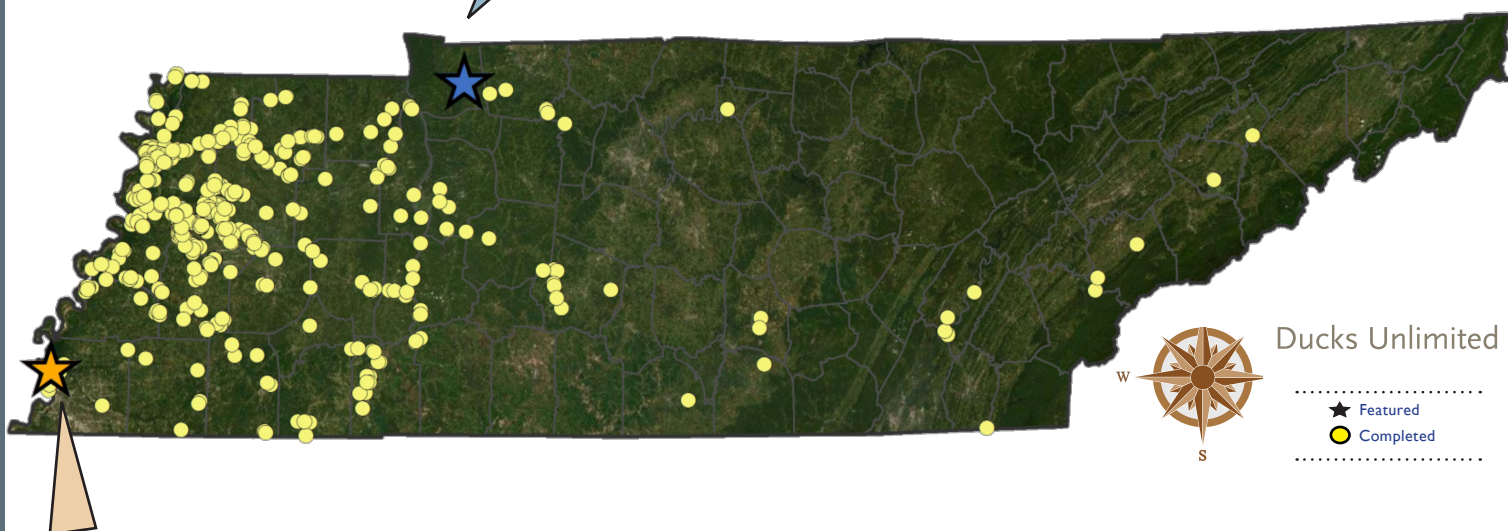


TENNESSEE

2020 STATE REPORT • SOUTHERN REGION

CROSS CREEKS NWR

DU partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), The Maddox Charitable Fund and NAWCA to perform wetland enhancement work on three different management units at Cross Creeks NWR, near Dover, TN. Total enhancement work will positively impact 340 acres at Cross Creeks by allowing for more efficient water level management. Part of the enhancement work included installation of new water control structures and a relift pump. The new structures will replace old, poorly functioning ones, and allow for more efficient water level management. The new relift pump will allow the USFWS staff the ability to pump water out of the impoundments so they can manipulate the soil for better moist soil management during the spring/ summer months.



EAGLE LAKE REFUGE

DU partnered with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to leverage Pittman/ Robertson (PR) funds to install new water wells (2), underground piping and purchase diesel power units (2). This work builds on recently completed North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funded enhancement work at Eagle Lake, located north of Memphis. The existing water wells are old and not pumping at a desirable rate. Adding new wells, underground piping and power units will allow TWRA to more efficiently flood the existing impoundments for waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland species. This work will impact approximately 230 acres of emergent wetland habitat.

TENNESSEE BY THE NUMBERS

2019

- \$1.5 million raised
- 76 events
- 1,000 acres conserved FY19

CUMULATIVE

- 47,076 acres conserved
- \$14,774,367 invested

TWRA's cumulative contributions to DU for habitat conservation in Canada: **\$3,546,000**

(Information through 1/1/20)

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Ducks Unlimited, and Tennessee has some of the best. Tennessee boasts more than 15,041 members, including 1,100 volunteers who hosted 76 events in 2019, raising over \$1.5 million to support DU's conservation mission. Those dollars allow DU to complete critical conservation work not only within the Volunteer State, but also on the breeding grounds that produce Tennessee's waterfowl.

AREA CHAIRMAN WAYNE TURNER/ WATTS BAR CHAPTER

Wayne Turner came to DU 4 years ago with a vision to restart the Watts Bar Chapter. Fast Forward to 2019 and several recruitment socials later, his chapter has over 20 volunteers and raised over \$52,000 net/net dollars for the ducks. Their overall increase from prior year was up over \$12,705 or 30% with a 65% efficiency. When you add in their calendar raffle they increased their memberships by 177 members!

The Watts Bar Chapter has grown to the extent of outgrowing two venues. Anticipating another leap in participation in the fall of 2020, they will be searching for an even bigger and better venue that will hold 500 attendees. The passion and excitement that Turner and his Watts Bar volunteers have for putting on an excellent banquet is what drives ticket sales and attendance each year. There is no doubt that 2020 will be another record breaking year for Turner and Team Watts Bar!



AREA CHAIRMAN TY WILSON AND THE PARIS /HENRY COUNTY COMMITTEE

The Paris/Henry County committee led by Area Chairman Ty Wilson had a record breaking year in 2019. They are one of the oldest active and fastest growing committees in the state. Wilson and his committee continue to emphasize a full hall event and the electric atmosphere that creates. In 2019, this committee had an increase in dollars of over \$12,000 and increased attendance by 17% or 42 members. The time that Wilson and his committee spend recruiting new volunteers and having committee socials throughout the year is what makes this group so strong. They are always thinking of new ways to recruit new volunteers and grow their attendance and that is the reason for their success.



STATE CAMPAIGN UPDATE & SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Major Sponsors have chosen to make an immediate and significant impact on wetlands conservation through philanthropic support of Ducks Unlimited's mission. DU Major Sponsors lead the charge to secure our wetland and waterfowl habitat for future generations. Tennessee's campaign committee secured 17 new Life Sponsors, 23 upgrades, 2 new Feather Society commitments, \$613, 900 in new commitments and more than \$1 million in new cash which will benefit a wide range of conservation work in Tennessee and beyond.

Mike Mullis, president and CEO of J.M. Mullis, Inc, is one of Ducks Unlimited's major sponsors. He is a Diamond Sponsor in Perpetuity and became a President's Council member in 2019. Mullis has been a contributing donor the last 34 years and has been a supporter and mainstay at the Wolf River Sponsor Event for many years. We appreciate Mullis' continued support and commitment to DU's mission.

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



**SOUTHERN
REGION**