NOTTOWAY RIVER PROTECTION

In 2018, DU partnered with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and Virginia Department of Forestry to complete three conservation easements in Southampton County on the Nottoway River. These easements were funded in part with grants DU secured under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act standard grant program, matched with generous contributions from private landowners. These tracts are significant additions to a larger conservation corridor along the state-designated scenic Nottoway River and its tributaries. Together, they protect more than 17,500 linear feet of forested frontage on the river, and the floodplain of these properties contains some of the oldest bald cypress-tupelo forests in Virginia. DU and its partners, including most critically the landowners, sought to preserve these wetland habitats to help water quality and permanently protect a scenic corridor on the river. These goals were achieved through a combination of conservation easements that establish permanent no-harvest areas to buffer the river, federal and state tax incentives, NAWCA funds, and the commitment of private landowners.

BACK BAY NWR WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Ducks Unlimited has partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge to enhance 609 acres of wetlands within managed impoundments on the refuge in Virginia Beach. Construction is slated to begin this spring. The project will increase management capabilities by adding and upgrading water control structures, modifying an existing pump station, and enhancing canals and embankments to improve water delivery throughout the wetland system.

DU will deliver the project from start to finish, providing engineering survey and design, biological expertise and construction oversight and management. Once completed, this project will allow refuge managers to independently manage impoundments and encourage production of quality forage for waterfowl, provide mudflats and control undesirable plant species. Funding for North American Wetlands Conservation Act by DU and will be combined with habitat the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Sheet water for shorebirds, and this project is provided by a (NAWCA) grant secured enhancement funds from Conservation Stamp Fund.
MAJOR SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT
Michael Hughes is proud of his immediate DU Family. He became a DU member in 1981 and still has his first DU Magazine. Michael and his wife, Charlotte, are Diamond Life Sponsors. His son, Hunter, started the Randolph-Macon College (RMC) DU Chapter in 2016, and his dedication and energy have inspired the formation of several other university chapters. Michael’s daughter, Catherine, became a member through the RMC Chapter.

“Our family is very passionate about spending time outdoors,” Michael said. “Sadly, we have seen some of the places we enjoy converted so that they no longer support wildlife. Through DU we see how great leadership and commitment to a mission have provided valuable habitats for generations to come.”

The Hughes family also recognizes DU’s potential as a platform for youth to learn the value of natural resources and how they can work towards preserving them. “DU shows everyone interested in the outdoors the value of wetlands,” Hunter said. “DU is a leader in environmental education, in teaching us why our conservation dollars are so important.”

VADU DISTRICT CHAIR OF THE YEAR
Ron Kindley (District 4) was selected as the 2018 Virginia District Chair of Year for solid growth over prior year in volunteers, event income, attendance, total members, and total income. Ron has been a DU volunteer for more than 18 years, including time as the area chair for the Greater Williamsburg chapter. He and his wife, Laura, are also Life Sponsors. When he’s not working for the ducks or hunting with his two sons, Ron is a sales manager for Packaging Corporation of America and enjoys training his Boykin spaniel and black lab, scuba diving and traveling.

VADU AREA CHAIR OF THE YEAR
Captain James Scruggs is the 2018 Virginia Area Chair of the Year. Serving his fifth year as the chair for the Historic Triangle Chapter, James has been volunteering with DU for 10 years. James is very passionate about conserving waterfowl habitat for future generations of duck hunters, including his young son and daughter. Without question, his biggest supporter is his wife, Kari, who has helped out tremendously with the success of the chapter and enjoys hunting with her family. When he isn’t laboring for waterfowl, James is the artist/owner of Big Woods & Back Water Silhouettes and the dock master for River Walk Landing Pier in York County.

VIRGINIA BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>CUMULATIVE</th>
<th>VDGIF’s cumulative contributions to DU for habitat conservation in Canada: $175,000.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• $1.76 million raised</td>
<td>• 67,535 acres conserved</td>
<td>(Information through 1/1/19)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 136 events</td>
<td>• $13,931,377 invested</td>
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<td>• 18,777 acres conserved (FY)</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/virginia