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119 DUCKS UNLIMITED LEADERSHIP
In Fiscal Year 2022, Ducks Unlimited broke out of the COVID-19 pandemic with renewed enthusiasm and found innovative ways to deliver record-breaking results across the United States.

And more than ever, the country is paying attention to our results.

Over the last 50 years, birds have been declining overall in every habitat type except wetlands. In fact, thanks to conservation work led by our mission, many waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species have increased during this period. Communities, farmers and corporate partners facing water crises are turning to Ducks Unlimited for nature-based solutions.

We soared to 15.5 million acres of conservation because of a unique determination and passion to improve our landscape. Ducks Unlimited has again raised the bar on a movement we began 85 years ago.

Team DU produced some phenomenal numbers. That dedication was evident as 575,000 acres of habitat were protected or restored in Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22). Habitat delivery revenue from government grants and partnerships was a record-breaking $135.6 million—$16.5 million above budget—with $2 million in additional philanthropy going to the Canadian prairies for wetland and grassland conservation.

As an example of reaching new stakeholders, Certified Angus Beef announced a collaboration with Ducks Unlimited at the 2021 Angus Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. We assembled half a million dollars to launch the Working Grasslands Conservation Initiative, allowing Angus cattlemen to lean on the technical expertise of DU through voluntary cost-sharing programs focused on preserving and restoring grasslands important to cattle ranching, duck populations and climate in the great northern plains.
Fiscal Year 2022 was monumental for our mission. Thanks to your support, we are ready to show the world a new level of conservation leadership.

Chuck Smith
President
Ducks Unlimited

Adam Putnam
Chief Executive Officer
Ducks Unlimited

THE DOLLARS

Ducks Unlimited generated an impressive $276.7 million in revenue in FY22. With the support of 644,000 members, 39,000 volunteers who hosted more than 512,000 attendees at 4,440 in-person and virtual events and hundreds of corporate and foundation partners, Team DU raised more than $130 million in charitable giving. Of special note, event income surpassed budget by 29%. In addition, Feather Society members committed $33 million in their estate plans and Major Sponsors committed more than $119 million.

Every year, Ducks Unlimited promises to spend at least 80 percent of all funds raised on our conservation mission. We met that goal again in FY22, with 84 percent of our expenditures going toward our habitat delivery and conservation education mission.

THE PEOPLE

The heart of Ducks Unlimited has always been our people, and we were proud to gather again. At our 85th National Convention in New Orleans, we welcomed our new president, Chuck Smith, to the helm. Chuck is committed to championing and leveraging the role volunteers play in conservation and fundraising.

Also in New Orleans, DU Past President Doug Schoenrock was elected chairman of the board. During Doug’s tenure, he oversaw record conservation achievements and was influential in expanding DU’s brand and reach through major initiatives such as the IMAX® film Wings Over Water 3D.

FY22 DU membership reached 644,000, up from a pandemic low of 500,000. That figure includes a record-setting 517 President’s Council members as of December 2021.

The volunteer-led events that fuel our work rebounded in 2022 with amazing results. One example was South Carolina’s East Cooper DU chapter’s 25th annual oyster roast and Lowcountry cookout. More than 1,400 event attendees from across the country attended the Charleston event in February as the chapter kicked off the 2022 Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, raising a record-breaking $350,000 for the ducks.

Fiscal Year 2022 was monumental for our mission.
Thanks to your support, we are ready to show the world a new level of conservation leadership.

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For 85 years, DU projects have protected communities, agriculture, local economies, homes and even lives from the destructive impacts of flooding, erosion and severe weather. Communities throughout North America use DU-conserved wetlands for recreation, hunting, education and improved quality of life. On-the-ground conservation work is our bread and butter. And our work is not finished. It takes a dedicated team of passionate conservationists to do what we do. You, our Ducks Unlimited volunteers, donors, members, sponsors and staff, set records and precedents in FY22. The pages of this annual report are filled with conservation success stories worth celebrating, starting with habitat project highlights from around the country.
Ducks Unlimited’s Western Region completed 49 conservation projects and impacted 16,624 acres in FY22. There are more than 200 active conservation projects in DU’s Western Region.

Last spring, Ducks Unlimited and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) completed a large-scale restoration of Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area (WMA). One of the state’s most popular wildlife areas, Fort Boise attracts 40,000 visitors and about 65,000 migrating light geese per year.

Fort Boise serves a vital role for Idaho’s migrating and breeding waterfowl. It’s a diverse assemblage of wetland resources among Idaho’s vast sea of farms, deserts, mountains and suburban sprawl.

Fort Boise sits along the Boise River at its confluence with the Snake River in southwest Idaho, about 50 miles from the state’s capital city. Sand Hollow Creek is the primary water source for most of the 500 acres of wetlands managed on the WMA and is also Fort Boise’s greatest impediment to providing abundant waterfowl resources. Fort Boise was plagued by sediment delivered by Sand Hollow Creek from the surrounding uplands for decades. Further confounding the dilemma was the role Fort Boise wetlands played...
in filtering the residue out of the water before it flowed into the Snake River. Annual sediment accumulation has filled the Fort Boise wetlands and distributed invasive plants throughout the WMA. With little capability to manage the wetland units, Fort Boise managers have slowly watched the wetland resources deteriorate.

Following a technical assessment by regional wetland experts in 2019, a restoration plan for about 570 acres was formed with two primary restoration objectives. The first was the need for an improved and repeatable sediment removal system capable of removing higher amounts of sediment from the incoming water. The second was providing water management capability to IDFG staff to maximize wetland potential.

The plan proposed to remove nearly 115,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from the wetland units to restore their native substrate elevations. Forty-four new water-control structures and 2,000 feet of pipeline were installed and 30,000 feet of levees were enhanced for water management.

Construction began in August 2020 and continued through its completion in April 2021. IDFG managers kept the units dry temporarily following construction to conduct prescriptive burning and aggressive weed control. By May, water began flowing into the newly restored units and the wetland vegetation responded immediately. Despite widespread drought in the Intermountain West, the reliable water of Sand Hollow Creek will allow the units to be in optimum condition for the fall migration of waterfowl.

Despite completing the broader restoration, IDFG and DU are not idling their efforts on Fort Boise. DU engineers are already working with Fort Boise managers to restore hydrology to more than 100 acres of wet meadow units that have been dry and fallow for over a decade. With the financial support of the Orndorff brothers and matching contributions from the Microsoft Corporation, a restoration plan will restore infrastructure and enhance water management capabilities across these wet meadows. These restored wet meadow features will provide staging resources for this year’s spring migration.

The Fort Boise project was deemed the 2021 DU Western Region Outstanding Conservation Project and DU staffers Brian Marker and April Zohn were recognized for their work on the project.
PARTNERSHIP BRINGS WATER TO LOWER KLAMATH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Thanks to grassroots cooperation from public and private partners in the Klamath Basin, including the Klamath Drainage District, landowners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited, additional water began to flow from a newly completed pump station into the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge early last March. The drought has dramatically impacted the wetlands in this region, threatening critical habitat for millions of birds that use this area as a stopover during migration.

Bruce and Julie Newcomb: Supporting conservation in Idaho and beyond

Like many Ducks Unlimited supporters, family involvement within the organization comes naturally for Bruce and Julie Newcomb. As Feather Society Members, Grand Slam Donors and Heritage Sponsors, their passion for wetlands conservation runs deep. Bruce leads by example as a dedicated senior leader, volunteer and Major Sponsor and has served as past area chair, state chair and state council chair. Bruce and Julie are committed to conservation efforts in Idaho and beyond and are passionate about our shared vision of filling the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.
RESTORING GREENTREE RESERVOIRS ON ARKANSAS’S HENRY GRAY HURRICANE LAKE WMA

Arkansas is known far and wide for its excellent duck hunting, and the abundance of seasonally flooded forests has helped create a tradition and mystique surrounding Arkansas’s storied waterfowl reputation. Ducks Unlimited has been working with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) and the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation on a long-term plan to restore bottomland hardwood forests, or greentree reservoirs (GTR), on public lands across the state. These forests are vital habitat anchors for abundant wildlife, including wintering waterfowl.

Greentree reservoirs are a unique habitat created by intentionally flooding bottomland hardwoods in the winter, when the trees are dormant. The areas, typically managed by water-control structures, are left dry during most of the growing season and flooded during late fall and winter, when trees are naturally dormant. GTRs provide crucial wintering habitat for waterfowl. Duck hunters from all over the world travel to Arkansas to hunt the flooded timber. However, over time, changes in land and water use have harmed these iconic areas.

Over the last few decades, the health of many GTRs has declined because of various factors, including the frequency, timing, duration and depth of flooding and public pressure for hunting opportunities. This unnatural water regime has caused many of the beneficial species of red oaks to die off and less valuable and more water tolerant species to replace them. Red oaks are the main mast-producing tree species foraging waterfowl depend on. Working to restore these iconic areas is critical not only to
migrating waterfowl but to the local ecosystem and economy. DU and the AGFC are working to restore a more natural flooding cycle to improve the health of GTRs across the state.

Located in the Mississippi Flyway, Henry Gray Hurricane Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a popular public recreation destination for camping, hunting and fishing. It is also one of the state’s hardest-hit GTRs for timber damage. DU has worked with the AGFC to remove dirt plugs from the major drains in the South GTR unit and replace them with lower water crossings to allow water to flow out of the timber. Timber health will improve by allowing water to move through and out of the system.

The South GTR is a prime example of a unit that desperately needs conservation work to protect and restore the original bottomland hardwood communities. The AGFC conducted a forest health assessment in 2021 on the South GTR and determined that over 400 acres of timber had already died because of current conditions, which are unlikely to change without alterations to the current hydrologic regime. DU and the AGFC have worked to restore a more natural hydrologic function to the South GTR, allowing it to pulse more naturally and function as a true bottomland hardwood forest. These efforts will help save the forest and provide water quality benefits downstream. Functioning hydrology is the foundation for maintaining forest integrity. Without hydrological restoration, it is expected that the continued forest degradation and die-off in a large portion of the WMA will continue.

Restoring these bottomland hardwood habitats will allow people to continue using a unique public land resource for hunting and other outdoor activities.

Tammy and Scott Morgan

Scott and Tammy Morgan, Sheridan, Arkansas
Diamond Sponsors in Perpetuity Scott and Tammy Morgan of Sheridan, Ark., are passionate, longtime supporters and volunteers of Ducks Unlimited. They have more than 25 years of combined volunteer service. Scott and Tammy volunteer on the Moro Creek and Grant County committees, and Scott serves on the State Campaign Committee. They are avid supporters of the America’s River Initiative and DU’s work with greentree reservoirs in Arkansas.
BLUE RIDGE POWER, DU IMPROVE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC LAND

In May 2022, Blue Ridge Power announced a $50,000 commitment to support the efforts of DU and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) to improve habitat on the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

“We are responsible for preserving renewable resources across the country,” said Claudia Emerson, director of sustainability for Blue Ridge Power. “Blue Ridge Power believes in making our communities and our country better. We can do that by supporting conservation projects like this one on the Pearl River WMA.”

Located near Canton, Miss., the Pearl River WMA is owned and managed by MDWFP. The area receives heavy use from waterfowl and other wetland wildlife, including various shorebird and wading bird species. The 6,900-acre WMA contains a diverse mix of habitats and offers quality public recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing, hiking and bird-watching, just 30 minutes from the Jackson, Miss., metro area.

“In partnership with MDWFP, DU will work to enhance wetland habitats on the WMA by installing new water management infrastructure,” said Tim Willis, DU’s manager of conservation programs for the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. “Thanks in part to support from Blue Ridge Power, we will enhance nearly 234 acres of wintering waterfowl habitat.”

About Blue Ridge Power

Blue Ridge Power is a full-service engineering, procurement and construction services (EPC) company for renewable energy projects across the United States. Blue Ridge Power brings integrated engineering, a qualified professional labor force and an expansive fleet of equipment to serve the needs of their clients looking for a turnkey solution for solar and solar plus storage projects. The company was formed in 2021 as the spinoff of the Pine Gate Renewables EPC business. Blue Ridge Power also acquired Horne Brothers Construction, one of the country’s largest and top-rated solar installers.
In FY22, the Great Plains Region completed 225 projects that conserved 317,000 acres in seven states, surpassing the region’s stretch goal by 90,000 acres.

**DU IMPROVES WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY IN KANSAS**

For generations, many landowners and residents in the Sunflower State have struggled to navigate situations related to too much, not enough, or unclean water. The Kansas Water Initiative (KWI) is a new DU habitat delivery and fundraising opportunity that helps alleviate several water-related issues facing Kansas today.

The KWI focuses on more than just duck habitat. These projects will improve water quality and quantity, mitigate floods and deliver win-win scenarios for farmers, ranchers and other landowners across the state. The program provides custom solutions because water needs vary so much across Kansas.

Central Kansas is home to one of North America’s most important migratory bird complexes. It is also an area dominated by crops and ranching, which makes water a precious resource. To offset issues, DU is working with producers to improve water availability while removing invasive plant species that can deplete waterways and the underlying aquifer.

Western Kansas is known as the playa region. Shallow, depressional wetlands dot the landscape and are critical for recharging aquifers. DU’s work focuses on restoring degraded playas by removing sediment and planting native grassland buffers to improve water quality and provide essential wildlife habitat.

Eastern Kansas, the most populated region in the state, suffers from water quality and flooding issues. To help, DU is implementing conservation practices along the area’s many rivers and streams to reduce the amount of sediment and pollutants entering waterways. So far, the results have been spectacular.
Members of the historic Riverside Club Company hosted an Evening of Conservation and committed $100,000 to DU’s conservation mission.

The Riverside Club Company supports DU’s conservation mission

Formed in 1909, the Riverside Club Company is a historic duck club along Colorado’s South Platte River. Many of its members are longtime DU supporters who understand the importance of continental waterfowl conservation efforts.

In February 2022, Riverside Club Company members Dr. Jim Giltner and Matt Hickey co-hosted a successful Evening of Conservation at the Denver Country Club. That evening Riverside stepped up with a new $100,000 commitment to help support DU’s conservation efforts in Colorado and across the U.S. and Canadian Prairies, highlighting the importance of cross-border investments.

The Kansas Water Initiative will deliver win-win scenarios for farmers, ranchers and other landowners across the state.
DU LANDOWNER PARTNERS RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARDS

DU continues to partner with the Sand County Foundation to celebrate landowner partners who receive the annual Leopold Award in recognition of voluntary conservation achievements. The Sand Ranch in North Dakota received the 2021 award and the Bien Ranch in South Dakota was recognized in 2022. Both ranches opened their property to the public last summer to demonstrate the practices they’ve implemented and the results they’re seeing.

Brad Sand is a rancher and a longtime partner of Ducks Unlimited. Tanner Gue, DU’s manager of conservation programs in North Dakota, has worked with Sand to restore former cropland to native grass that will be used for grazing in the future. Sand is also restoring a wetland on his ranch with help from DU’s engineering team and the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust.

Neil Bien values the wetlands on his South Dakota property. He has preserved 100 natural wetlands and has restored 15 wetland basins across his ranch. DU and other partners helped the Bien family establish cross-fences and develop water resources for cattle to transition the operation from season-long grazing to a rotational grazing system that benefits the land, livestock and waterfowl.

DU agronomists and biologists have helped these two families and countless others create habitat on their land and integrate conservation into their production practices.

Tractor Supply Company: Stewards of Life Out Here

Tractor Supply Company (TSC) announced a landmark conservation agreement with DU in 2022. The Tractor Supply Company Foundation will invest $150,000 over the next three years to be “Stewards of Life Out Here.” The partnership aims to conserve working lands in North Dakota, where TSC originated, and support enough wetland restoration in Texas to provide 12.5 million gallons of volumetric benefit, bringing Tractor Supply closer to fulfilling its commitment to conserving 25 million gallons of water by 2025.

This new partnership will help DU consistently deliver more conservation projects that are beneficial for farmers, ranchers and rural communities. Agriculture is at the heart of DU’s traditional culture and core supporters, just as the agriculture community is a solid customer base for Tractor Supply. In serving their mutual customers, these two organizations can amplify their shared commitment to help people who live the rural lifestyle.

Florida 1,241 Volunteers 16,233 Members, Sponsors and Major Donors $4,439,350 Event and Major Gift Income
New efforts in the Northeast illustrate the range of opportunities Ducks Unlimited is exploring and show the benefits to waterfowl and local communities.

Leading the coastal effort is a $6 million, once-in-a-generation conservation effort to help jump-start the restoration of more than 1,700 acres of habitat, much of which is in the Cape Cod National Seashore.

The project will restore tidal flow to the Herring River estuary on Cape Cod to improve water quality, wetland habitat, rare species habitat, fisheries and recreational opportunities throughout the Herring River floodplain. The sweeping conservation effort will also enhance the estuary’s resiliency and ability to adapt to climate change.

Two projects in Maine show the importance of conservation at the top of the flyway. Through a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, DU and other partners bought Pond Cove Island and transferred ownership to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Pond Cove Island features 37 acres of intertidal wetlands and is located just offshore from Roque Bluffs State Park. And DU and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are restoring 356 acres of coastal marsh habitat at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, expected to be completed in 2024.

Anchoring the north Atlantic efforts is a growing Chesapeake Bay program. Ducks Unlimited is leading an effort to protect the Delmarva Peninsula, a welcoming stopover location for waterfowl but a challenging landscape for conservation efforts. To protect this critical landscape, DU and several partners will permanently protect 1,060 acres of wetlands and uplands on six sites and restore 10 acres of wetlands over three years.

The Wetlands Initiative and DU are helping Illinois farmers install “smart wetlands” to combat the Gulf of Mexico’s hypoxia zone—a “dead zone” of oxygen-depleted water covering more than 6,000 square miles of the Gulf of Mexico.
The Pinetree Foundation helps DU efforts on Maryland’s Eastern Shore

The Pinetree Foundation, a Ducks Unlimited Diamond Life Sponsor, is a generous supporter of conservation work on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

“We are excited to have invested in a project focused on wetlands restoration and the revitalization of native vegetation, which will help flood prevention and positively impact the surrounding area’s water quality. We must support impactful causes through partnerships with organizations that use most of their funding to pursue their mission. We, the board of the Pinetree Foundation, admire the important conservation and preservation work that is a cornerstone of DU’s mission and hope to see their continued positive impact on the environment for generations to come,” said Pinetree Foundation Director Ethan Markman.

Meet Tony Santosus

Diamond Life Sponsor Tony Santosus from Marblehead, Mass, is a 20-year supporter of Ducks Unlimited, and he is passionate about Completing the Cycle initiatives like the Herring River project on Cape Cod. A longtime committee member of the Boston chapter, Tony is retired from Fidelity, where he met his wife, Julie. They have a 15-year-old son, Gregory, who they are hoping to get into waterfowl hunting soon because Tony is such an avid outdoorsman and enjoys spending his retirement hunting or saltwater fishing or at his camp in western Massachusetts.
BIG NEWS IN FY22

EAST COOPER DU CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF ROASTING OYSTERS AND RAISING FUNDS

Ducks Unlimited volunteers hosted more than 512,000 attendees at 4,440 in-person and virtual events in FY22.

Event income was more than $12 million ahead of projections, ending the year at more than $54 million total and $6.5 million ahead of FY19, which was the all-time high at that time.

Here’s the inside info on just one of those 4,440 fundraising events.

For a quarter of a century, the delicious smell of thousands of pounds of cooking oysters has permeated the air as South Carolina’s East Cooper DU chapter hosts another unforgettable evening of entertainment and fundraising in support of DU’s mission each February.

More than 1,400 event attendees from across the country filled the Charleston Visitor Bus Shed as the chapter kicked off the 2022 Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (SEWE) with its annual oyster roast and Lowcountry cookout.

SEWE is the largest event of its kind on the East Coast. With Charleston’s rich history and charm as its backdrop, the event draws more than 40,000 attendees each year. To help celebrate its long partnership with SEWE and mark the expo’s 40th anniversary in 2022, DU continued to step up as a title sponsor of the event.

“It has been our pleasure and privilege to have Ducks Unlimited as part of SEWE for so many years,” said SEWE President and CEO John Powell. “DU’s conservation efforts are unsurpassed and we are proud to be part of that.”

The East Cooper chapter oyster roast kicked off a weekend-long celebration showcasing one-of-a-kind artwork and unique hunting and fishing excursions to destinations worldwide. Driven by boundless energy and passion for DU’s conservation mission, the East Cooper chapter committee volunteers raised a record-breaking $350,000 for the ducks at the 2022 event.

The momentum continued throughout the weekend at an on-site Ducks Unlimited store stocked with DU merchandise.

“Countless hours go into planning this event,” said DU Senior Regional Director James Meadows. “This event would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers and the leadership from Area Chair Dr. Mark Hartley.”

Hartley, a retired business professor at the College of Charleston, has been involved with the event since its inception. During his teaching days, he used the event as an opportunity to educate his students about the importance of volunteering and philanthropic involvement.
DU’s Direct Response program had an incredible FY22, with gross revenue exceeding budget at $13.4 million. Digital, non-event online revenue via email, search engine marketing, retargeting, social media and more was an impressive $4.7 million.

The May 2022 buy-one-get-one-free membership offer was a record-breaking campaign, driving more than 10,000 memberships, with 78 percent of the total responses being new or reactivated members. The 2021 year-end online fundraising campaign, promoted from mid-November through December 31, proved tremendously successful. Raising more than $925,000, it was the largest year-end revenue-generating campaign since the program’s inception.

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**A WIN-WIN FOR AGRICULTURE AND WATERFOWL**

A growing number of conservation-minded farmers and ranchers are producing suitable waterfowl habitat while improving their operation’s bottom line.

Recognizing the scale at which agriculture impacts priority waterfowl landscapes and the organization, Ducks Unlimited launched its first Agriculture Strategic Plan in 2021. FY22 saw tremendous growth in DU’s agriculture programs and capacity based on that plan.

DU partners with farmers, ranchers, landowners, corporations, municipalities and policy makers to achieve sustainable agricultural landscapes. These farms and grazing lands provide economic prosperity for farmers and healthy communities for people while conserving the highest priority landscapes for North America’s waterfowl.

Ducks Unlimited has added several new staff members who have expertise in working with the agriculture community to implement conservation practices that truly make a difference.

Wetlands are nature’s kidneys, filtering sediments that can degrade water sources for people and wildlife. Farmers across the country are voluntarily partnering with DU to do their part in keeping water clean.

The Wetlands Initiative (TWI) and DU combined resources to help Illinois farmers install “smart wetlands” to combat a hypoxia zone of oxygen-depleted water covering more than 6,000 square miles in the Gulf of Mexico. TWI and DU are educating farmers on the benefits of installing smart wetlands and jointly pursuing funding opportunities. TWI will share years of smart wetland modeling and technical know-how, and DU’s engineering teams will help design and implement new edge-of-field practices.

A dynamic partnership between the state of Iowa, forward-thinking landowners and conservation organizations, including Ducks Unlimited, aims to improve water quality across the state for residents and wildlife. Iowa has developed a Nutrient Reduction Strategy goal of a 45 percent reduction in nitrogen entering waterways, with engineered wetlands as one viable solution. To help deliver those wetlands, Ducks Unlimited and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship have entered into a three-year, $1.6 million agreement to identify, plan and design wetlands across the Prairie Pothole Region. The agreement builds on years of successful conservation actions by DU.
DU and its partners will use $387,000 in funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to help farmers in Indiana and Michigan implement 75,000 acres of cover crops on private agricultural fields over the next four years. Cover crops keep soil in place and help reduce runoff in local waterways while lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Several significant partnerships and grant awards in 2022 helped improve the outlook for soil health and breeding habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region.

As part of a multi-year initiative to restore working grasslands in western Kansas, Elanco Animal Health and DU partnered to help restore 1,525 acres of grassland buffers around critical playa wetlands.

Certified Angus Beef announced a collaboration with Ducks Unlimited at the 2021 Angus Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. Together, the two organizations assembled half a million dollars to launch the Working Grasslands Conservation Initiative, helping unlock an additional $2.5 million in grants to fund the initiative’s work over the next three years.

Supporting economic and environmental stewardship, this project allows cattlemen to access new technical and financial resources through voluntary cost-sharing programs focused on preserving and restoring grasslands critical to the sustainability of livestock operations and nesting duck populations.

Ducks Unlimited also will lead a new $8.7 million Regional Conservation Partnership Program effort with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and a host of partners. The Scaling

THE INAUGURAL DU DASH
PUT SOME THROTTLE IN YOUR WADDLE

The Inaugural DU Dash took place from June 4 to June 12, 2022. More than 2,100 participants from six Canadian provinces, six countries, four continents, and all 50 states “put some throttle in their waddle.” Dashers were encouraged, on their own time and on a route of their own choosing, to complete the virtual 5K or 10K. You did not have to be a running enthusiast to participate. The event offered a unique opportunity to complete the event in the 5K “any way,” allowing Dashers to bike, swim, rollerblade, boat, ATV, kayak, etc. There was no limit to how participants supported wetlands, waterfowl and clean water.

Participants who signed up for the DU Dash received a one-year DU membership, a DU Dash performance T-shirt and a 2022 DU Dash medal to commemorate the event and support DU. The inaugural Dash raised over $50,000 for conservation.

A smart wetland in Bureau County, Illinois, is part of a new partnership between DU and The Wetlands Initiative.

Soil Health in the Prairie Pothole Region project will help deliver resources to farmers and ranchers to improve cropland soil health, restore marginal acres to grasslands and use additional infrastructure to improve grazing management across portions of North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana.

The USA Rice–Ducks Unlimited Rice Stewardship Partnership, launched in 2013, reached an important milestone in 2021 with more than 1,000 individual and unique farms participating in improving working rice lands, water and wetland wildlife. Rice Stewardship has reached 22 percent of farms in operation today, and these farms are aggressively growing more acres.

With support from top-tier sponsors like Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, Walmart Foundation, Mosaic Company Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Chevron, the program implemented 12,172 acres of rice. Total acres since the effort started are 728,021.

Indiana 794 Volunteers  14,864 Members, Sponsors and Major Donors  $1,854,764 Event and Major Gift Income
The Ducks Unlimited podcast launched in October 2019 as another way to provide DU’s volunteers, members, partners and supporters with unique wetlands conservation and waterfowl-related content.

DU Waterfowl Scientist Dr. Mike Brasher, Senior Editor and Content Strategist Chris Jennings, Waterfowling Heritage Center Manager Katie Burke and Senior Communications Specialist John Gordon host the podcast.

Some notable podcast guests have included legendary angler Bill Dance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams, hunter and Habitat Flats owner Tony Vandemore and Team USA Olympic trapshooter Kayle Browning.

Topics covered on the more than 390 episodes of the podcast include science and conservation, hunting tactics and gear, waterfowl migration, population updates, waterfowling history and heritage, DU volunteer engagement and more. The new season started on August 19, 2022. Tune in wherever you listen to podcasts.

DU Podcast downloads in FY22: 819,302
TOTAL DOWNLOADS FROM OCTOBER 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 2022: 1,672,173

DUCKS UNLIMITED TELEVISION

25 YEARS AND COUNTING

When The World of Ducks Unlimited premiered on July 5, 1997, no one could have known the show would still be going strong 25 years later. The show’s original home was on The Nashville Network, and it was the first show of its kind—a series about hunting and the important role of conservation in preserving our outdoor traditions. Simon and Simon star Jameson Parker was one of the show’s original hosts, and many other talented people appeared on the show over the following 25 years.

DU volunteers like Oran Richard, Marc Pierce and Jared Brown have taken audiences to south Texas, the Louisiana Gulf Coast, Mexico and Montana over the years. Outdoor writer and television legend Wade Bourne joined the cast in the early 2000s and remained a show fixture for many seasons. Other hosts included Ainsley Beeman, Zach Pederson, Field Hudnall, Cara Harper and Ashley Horobetz. The current co-hosts are champion caller Fred Zink, DU magazine contributor Doug Larsen and newcomer Betsy Newbill, who won the DU National Scholarship in 2020.
Established in 2014 by outdoor writer and television host Jason Cruise, Campus Waterfowl, the largest digital community dedicated to collegiate waterfowl hunters, highlights and showcases the lifestyle of collegiate waterfowlers and shows the outdoor industry that these students should not be overlooked.

Cruise understood that he needed active students to manage his social media page. Derek Christians from South Dakota University was one of the first interns, along with Wesley Littlefield from Rogers State University and Logan Smith from Mississippi State University.

Over the years, Campus Waterfowl became much more than just a social media page. Christians realized that Campus Waterfowl was indirectly contributing to the R3 (recruitment, retention, reactivation) movement. In 2019, Christians started the Collegiate Waterfowl Tour. In this YouTube video series, Campus Waterfowl travels to college campuses to capture and share the raw lifestyles and stories of collegiate waterfowl hunters.

“Each stop on the tour is an opportunity to shine a light on what life is like for college-aged waterfowl hunters. You can see everything that goes into a hunt,” Christians said. “You will also see how this passion for waterfowl extends beyond the field into conservation efforts in their local communities.”

During the Collegiate Waterfowl Tour, Christians met students across the Midwest, including collegiate DU volunteers and DU staff. Christians became familiar with DU’s Ducks University program when he volunteered for his collegiate chapter, and he knew that both organizations had a similar purpose. Both organizations understood the importance of the R3 movement and their role in growing the collegiate audience. In June 2021, Campus Waterfowl and Christians joined Ducks Unlimited to develop a vibrant community of collegiate waterfowlers driven by conservation.

Today, Campus Waterfowl continues to be a place where collegiate waterfowlers can share their stories with the entire outdoor industry, learn from other like-minded hunters and connect with students across the country.

The Collegiate Waterfowl Tour continues to be the featured video series on Campus Waterfowl. During the 2021–2022 waterfowl hunting season, Campus Waterfowl traveled to 12 colleges across the country, including Texas A&M University, Lake Superior State University, University of Mississippi and more. Throughout the year, Campus Waterfowl amassed more than 220,000 subscribers and over 5.2 million views across all social media channels.
Ducks Unlimited partnered with the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, DU Canada and Audubon to produce *Wings Over Water 3D*, a 45-minute IMAX™ film targeting a broad audience of adults and children to raise awareness and encourage conservation and restoration of resilient and prosperous habitat for generations to come.

The film showcases the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) of the United States and Canada. The PPR provides critical breeding grounds for migratory birds and is home to thousands of farming and ranching families.

“North America’s Prairie Pothole Region is a top conservation priority area for DU,” said DU CEO Adam Putnam. “We saw the need to partner on this film to help educate the public on the region’s waterfowl, various other bird species and wildlife in general. When people of all ages and from all walks of life watch this film, they will better understand why we must work together to conserve the heartland of North America to benefit waterfowl, other wildlife, people and communities across the continent.”

Since its release, the film has received a tremendous response from viewers, despite the challenges of operating during the pandemic with reduced theater attendance capacity, working days for venues and a lack of presence from school field trips.

The film has premiered in four countries, one Canadian province, and 14 American states. In 2023, it will be shown in an additional 20 or more North American markets. There have been over 205 million press impressions, and the film is a finalist for three prestigious awards.

*Wings Over Water 3D* is a finalist in the Best Ecosystem Film category and the Best Sound category at the Jackson Wild Media Awards in Burgenland, Austria. It was also nominated for the Children’s Award at the Wildlife Film Festival in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

The film has also been the centerpiece of several Evening of Conservation events around the country, with more than 40 screening events planned over the next 18 months.

Visit wingsoverwaterfilm.com for current theaters and showtimes.
Since 2012, the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI) has promoted economic and environmental security and stability along the Mississippi River corridor. Ultimately, the MRCTI’s work helps protect and restore the Mississippi River as a natural system that can support human culture and economies, as well as the river’s unique ecosystem and wildlife.

In March 2021, DU and the MRCTI signed a Memorandum of Common Purpose, signaling a shared goal to protect and restore wetlands and riparian habitats along the Mississippi River to benefit migrating waterfowl and Mississippi River communities.

Under the memorandum, the MRCTI and DU are promoting disaster mitigation through habitat restoration, floodplain and backwater habitat restoration and enhancement, increasing waterfowl habitat, reducing exposure of cities and towns to flooding and providing economically significant recreation opportunities along the corridor.

“The mighty Mississippi has etched her place in our history, economy, folklore and the American character,” said DU CEO Adam Putnam. “Waterfowl, wildlife and people depend on this essential alluvial valley for our daily needs. It only makes sense for DU to lock arms with the MRCTI in common cause for conservation and restoration projects up and down the watershed.”

The MRCTI is supported by mayors from more than 120 cities and towns along the river, and it aims to empower these mayors with tools to attract more jobs, achieve local environmental protection goals and encourage tourism, all of which will positively impact local economies.

DU is also partnering with the Big River Park Conservancy (BRPC), First Horizon, TennGreen, Simmons First Foundation and several Memphis stakeholders, businesses and donors to restore 1,500 acres of wetlands and promote recreational and tourism opportunities in downtown Memphis, Tenn., and nearby West Memphis, Ark.

DU pledged to raise $5 million for the BRPC project. With donations from First Horizon, Simmons First Foundation and an anonymous donor, DU is off to a great start toward meeting the goal.

This project will re-establish native vegetation and re-create functioning bottomland hardwood wetlands paramount to the area’s wildlife, water quality and ecosystem.

To bring awareness to the project and celebrate the partnership, First Horizon and DU teamed up to participate in the fifth annual Peer Power Big River Crossing Race, a half-marathon and 5K competition. The event occurred in November 2021, and more than 1,700 participants ran through the Big River Trail System and over the Big River Crossing bridge into West Memphis.
DU 85TH NATIONAL CONVENTION LANDS IN THE BIG EASY

Following a two-year break from meeting in person during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ducks Unlimited traveled to New Orleans, La., for the 85th National Convention, and the Big Easy did not disappoint. The festivities kicked off in true Louisiana fashion with a roadkill cookoff featuring 14 teams from across the state firing up some of the bayou’s favorite Cajun cuisine.

In front of over 900 attendees from across the United States, outgoing Chairman of the Board Rogers Hoyt Jr. delivered his farewell remarks at the Friday Business Session—both for his chairmanship and his presidency—before the newly elected officers took center stage.

Doug Schoenrock’s first address to the convention as Ducks Unlimited president was also his last. After two years of guiding DU through an unprecedented global pandemic alongside Chairman Hoyt, Schoenrock introduced Chuck Smith as the new Ducks Unlimited president before being announced as DU’s new chairman of the board shortly after.

The afternoon session concluded with President Smith conducting an illustrative fireside chat with NFL and college football legend Archie Manning. The Saturday business session kicked off with one of Louisiana’s own, as U.S. Congressman and House Republican Whip Steve Scalise provided opening remarks on the importance of DU’s conservation mission to the Pelican state.

Throughout the two-day business session, many thoughtful and engaging speakers took to the main stage, including DU CEO Adam Putnam, DU Chief Conservation Officer Dr. Karen Waldrop, FNBO Chairman and President Clark Lauritzen and others. DU’s Great Plains Region Director of Public Policy Ryan Taylor treated the crowd to some awe-inspiring rope tricks while demonstrating the partnership between agriculture and conservation.

Throughout the weekend, DU recognized the hard work and dedication of hundreds of passionate volunteers, honored the legacy of Louisiana’s storied decoy carvers and raised a record-breaking $267,000 at the live auction. The event would have been impossible without the hundreds of staff and volunteers who made it happen and the many DU members who traveled to DU’s first in-person celebration in two years.

From the exceptional food to the city streets steeped in culture and history, New Orleans was good to the ducks. Please join us for our 86th National Convention May 31–June 3, 2023, in Las Vegas!
Conservation icon Jim Konkel remembered

The Ducks Unlimited family was deeply saddened by the loss of James (Jim) D. Konkel in late September. At the time of his passing, he was a Wetlands America Trust trustee, Ducks Unlimited Canada board member, Ducks Unlimited emeritus board member, National Shooting Subcommittee chair and member of several other state- and national-level DU committees. “We will be forever grateful for the friendship, service and philanthropy that Jim regularly extended to Ducks Unlimited,” said DU CEO Adam Putnam. “He was a true champion of our conservation mission and had genuine affection for everyone in DU. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Susan Konkel; his sister, Susie Konkel; and his father, Harry Konkel. We will miss him greatly.”

Jim’s love for DU directly influenced the organization’s conservation mission and its success, and his generous support for all things DU across North America was widely celebrated. “I knew Jim for well over 20 years. He was a true friend and indeed a dedicated member of the DU family,” said DU Chairman of the Board Doug Schoenrock. “Jim gave himself wholeheartedly to the mission of Ducks Unlimited, whether it was volunteering at his local event in Maine or chairing our National Shooting Subcommittee. I will miss the enjoyment of hunting and fishing with Jim, but most importantly, I will miss his friendship.”

Great Plains Region Director of Public Policy Ryan Taylor performs a rope trick during his presentation.

DU’s roadkill cookoff event was just one highlight of the 85th National Convention in New Orleans.
Attendees at the 2022 DUX Expo could try their off-roading skills on the Polaris ATV course.

WildRose Kennels demonstrations were a crowd favorite at the 2022 DUX Expo.

DU EXPO DRAWS AMAZING ATTENDANCE AT TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY
DEDICATED SPONSORS HELPED MAKE THE SECOND ANNUAL EVENT A SUCCESS

Last April, the second annual Ducks Unlimited Expo (DUX) drew an impressive number of hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts to Texas Motor Speedway to see and test the latest and greatest outdoor gear. Attendees met noted outdoor influencers and personalities face-to-face and attended seminars and demonstrations. Presented by Purina Pro Plan and backed by an impressive list of sponsors, the event had something for everyone.

Attendees at the 2022 event participated in hands-on experiences. They shot the latest firearms in the Shooting Village, drove the all-new Polaris Kinetic Ranger XP in the ATV Village and visited experts from Texas Parks and Wildlife and Ducks Unlimited in the Conservation Village. Attendees also watched herding and retrieving demonstrations from the Purina Pro Plan Performance Team.

The 2022 DUX weekend was a success thanks to the great volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors and staff who worked tirelessly to pull it all together. Proceeds from the event help provide crucial funds for conservation.


Be a part of DUX and join us at Texas Motor Speedway May 5–7, 2023.
In FY22, the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act remained on the minds of many legislators in the nation’s capital, having passed the House of Representatives and the Senate Environment and Public Works committee with bipartisan support. This legislation would be a big win for species with the greatest conservation need, pending final passage in the Senate.

Following a two-year break because of the COVID-19 pandemic, DU hosted many of the nation’s leaders at the annual Capitol Hill Dinner in Washington, D.C. The bipartisan event featured dozens of legislators and hundreds of congressional staff, shining a spotlight on conservation priorities in Congress.

A few months later, DU volunteers and staff were in the capital to raise awareness for wetlands conservation when members of Congress squared off in the Congressional Baseball Game at Nationals Park.

DU staff and volunteers participated in Farm Bill listening sessions and testified at field hearings across the country. DU Senior Scientist Dr. Ellen Herbert testified at a Senate Agriculture Committee Subcommittee hearing on the western water crisis, foreshadowing the impact of the drought on bird populations.

In August, Congress passed legislation that includes funding for several priority conservation programs and $121 million for habitat restoration in the national wildlife refuge system and state wildlife management areas.

In Mississippi, DU worked with partners to pass legislation creating the Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund and secured $10 million in appropriations for conservation funding in the state.

In South Carolina, the general assembly passed legislation to increase the fee for the

DU Chairman of the Board Doug Schoenrock (left) and Advisory Senior Vice President Mike Benge (right) welcomed Louisiana Senator Steve Scalise to DU’s National Convention in New Orleans.
In South Carolina, a new Duck Stamp Ordinance will increase revenue from the state’s migratory waterfowl permit. This new revenue will improve waterfowl habitat on wildlife management areas in South Carolina and on the breeding grounds of Canada.

In New Jersey, DU helped pass legislation to increase the price of the state duck stamp by $5, the first price change since 1996. In New York, the governor and state legislature included reforms to the Freshwater Wetlands Act in the state budget. These reforms will protect more than one million acres of wetlands in the state.

DU continued collaboration with landowners, government agencies and irrigation districts to benefit critical waterfowl habitat in the Klamath Basin. The bipartisan infrastructure agreement, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden in FY 22, included $162 million for restoration activities in the Klamath Basin.

And while conditions at the Great Salt Lake pose a threat to people, waterfowl and countless wildlife species, the Utah state legislature made a once-in-a-generation investment in this irreplaceable wetland ecosystem by providing $40 million to help preserve the lake. DU helped push this legislation across the finish line in the closing days of the legislative session.

DU launched a new public policy communications tool this fiscal year that is designed to deliver essential news about conservation policy straight to your inbox: #DuckPolicy Insiders. This information source is still in its infancy, but subscriptions to the concise, easily digestible updates have passed 1,200 and counting.

DU staff and volunteers attended the bill signing for the Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund with Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves.
Ducks Unlimited de México (DUMAC) restored more than 5,000 acres of mangrove swamps and freshwater wetlands in FY22.

“Along Mexico’s Pacific Coast, we are restoring 1,700 acres of coastal wetlands,” said DUMAC CEO Eduardo Carerra. “We are working with a First Nation group, the Seris, to protect 90,000 acres of seagrass beds important to Pacific black brant. There are 90,000 acres of eelgrass in Seris’s territory that we will protect as an important foraging area for wintering Pacific black brant along the Pacific Coast.”

To reduce pollution, DUMAC finished a wastewater treatment plant to treat 16.7 million cubic feet of wastewater per year before it reaches the Sayula Lagoon. This plant, as others DUMAC has built in Lake Cuitzeo, maintains water quality for wildlife and people. These efforts were complemented by the installation of 405 dry toilets and biodigesters.

“To date, DUMAC has built or rehabilitated ten wastewater treatment plants in the Cuitzeo Lake and Sayula Lagoon watersheds and installed more than 2,000 eco-technologies, improving water quality that reaches priority wetlands,” Carerra said.

This year, DUMAC trained 80 professionals at virtual wetlands and waterfowl workshops and developed a series of webinars with 1,062 professionals from 22 Latin American countries.
“We restarted in-person training workshops, with the participation of 115 teachers in our Teaching the Teachers environmental education program and 99 farmers and ranchers in our low environmental impact practices course,” Carerra said. “We also returned to our normal RESERVA international training program, with 10 participants from 7 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Carerra said DUMAC invests significant scientific resources to support conservation and restoration decision-making, including working with the U.S. Department of the Interior to map wetland sites.

“We continued the national mid-winter waterfowl surveys and monitoring Gulf Coast seagrass beds,” he said. “We are also studying coastal erosion in Yucatán and hydrodynamics in the Celestún estuary. Both studies will be the foundation of our conservation efforts to conserve 200,000 acres of mangroves on the Yucatán coastal wetlands.”

More than 5,000 acres of mangrove swamps and freshwater wetlands were restored in FY22.

Meet Minnesota’s Bill Aldinger Jr.

Growing up on the Missouri Coteau, the heart of the prairie’s waterfowl breeding habitat, Benefactor Major Sponsor Bill Aldinger Jr. of Vadnais Heights, Minn., understands the inherent value of DU’s mission. Aldinger’s passion for wetlands conservation radiates across North America. He is a Grand Slam Sponsor in Perpetuity, a member of Ducks Unlimited de México’s John E. Walker Society and a Feather Society member. Bill is also a dedicated volunteer serving as a member of the Emeritus Board of Directors and the current Minnesota policy chair. He is passionate about enjoying the outdoors and gives his treasure and time to DU’s continental mission.
Ducks Unlimited Canada receives historic investments in conservation.

What’s good for ducks is good for people too. Recognition of the valuable environmental benefits wetlands provide and their importance for waterfowl has led to historic investments in conservation over the past year. The following are just a few of the many achievements Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) realized thanks to a growing interest in the power and importance of the incredible ecosystems at the heart of our mission.

MULTIMILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT FROM NATURE SMART CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FUND

DUC received $39.5 million from Canada’s new Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund. It’s the most significant Canadian government investment in the organization’s history.

Over the next three years, allocated money will help deliver conservation projects with specific objectives to improve Canada’s resilience to climate change and support biodiversity. A portion of the funding will also support conservation efforts on national wildlife areas from coast to coast.

Atocas Bay in eastern Ontario is one example of hundreds of DUC projects that will benefit from Nature Smart Climate Solutions funding. Recognized for their ability to store carbon and support at-risk species, these wetlands will play a key role in meeting the country’s goal to conserve at least 30 percent of Canada’s lands and waters by 2030.

DUC FY22 Stats (as of March 31, 2022):

- Acres Conserved: 109,062
  (including 40,837 restored)
- Acres Influenced: 33,674,816
LAUNCH OF NATURE FORCE

As Canadian communities continue to grapple with extreme weather events, 15 leading insurance companies are joining DUC to deliver natural solutions to mitigate flood risks.

The initiative is called Nature Force. Funding from the insurance companies will allow DUC to undertake wetland conservation projects and create effective forms of natural infrastructure in flood-prone areas near urban communities. To begin, Nature Force is focusing its efforts in highly populated areas of British Columbia’s Fraser River Delta and in southern Ontario and Quebec, where impacts of overland flooding, sea-level rise and storm surges are exceptionally high.

Nature Force is an action-oriented climate resilience initiative funded by a collective of leading insurance companies in partnership with DUC. It represents a new paradigm in watershed resiliency through pioneering private investments in natural infrastructure.

DU volunteers Rob and Nicole Fehr support DU’s continental mission

Grand Slam Life Sponsors Rob and Nicole Fehr, from Sandy, Utah, are longtime supporters and active volunteers for Ducks Unlimited. Rob was Utah state chair from 2014 to 2018, and Nicole took the role from 2020 to 2022. They are passionate about DU’s continental mission, supporting work from the mangroves of Mexico, across the United States and into the prairies of Canada.
Wetlands America Trust (WAT) enjoyed continued success in FY22 due to an extensive branding update led by Joe Sivewright and his colleagues at CheckMark. WAT’s Leading a Legacy campaign continues to grow and evolve.

The successful launch of the Leading a Legacy video at major events around the country and DU’s 85th national convention introduced the new brand to thousands of supporters. WAT will introduce more brand elements throughout the year.

WAT serves as the land trust and foundation arm of Ducks Unlimited and is one of the largest and most respected accredited land trusts, holding permanent conservation easements on more than 445,000 acres across the United States. WAT provides specialized business expertise and guidance through its national board of trustees. The organization’s entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen result in significant philanthropic support for Ducks Unlimited and WAT.

Since the early 1990s, DU has successfully conducted four major philanthropic campaigns. WAT trustees played lead roles in each of these efforts. As the organization prepares its next continental and comprehensive campaign, WAT trustees take the mantle of Leading a Legacy seriously.
Partnerships drive Ducks Unlimited's conservation mission across the continent and turn contributions from events, major gifts and other fundraising sources into something much bigger. Without partners, volunteers and supporters, Ducks Unlimited's impact on the landscape would suffer. A prime example of an effective partnership is the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Fall Flights Program to conserve habitat on Canadian breeding grounds.

Two factors drive continental support for the breeding grounds—the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), adopted in 1986, and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), signed in 1989. In support of NAWMP and recognizing the need for non-federal match funding with NAWCA, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies established the Fall Flights Program for state wildlife agencies to support projects in Canada. In response, DU committed to matching every dollar contributed by the state agencies with one dollar from its fundraising efforts. In the past three decades, NAWCA has funded over 3,000 projects totaling $1.8 billion in grants in all 50 states and in areas of Canada and Mexico. More than 6,300 partners, including nongovernmental organizations, state agencies, private landowners and industry, have contributed another $3.8 billion to impact over 30 million acres of habitat.

In FY22, 43 states contributed $3.8 million to Canadian projects, matched by Ducks Unlimited and NAWCA. The results are incredible—more than $15 million. When you factor in the exchange rate, that adds up to over $19 million of conservation funding on the ground in Canada. In the 57-year history of this international partnership, state wildlife agencies have contributed more than $112 million to help conserve over 6.6 million acres of habitat across Canada.
YOUTH AND EDUCATION

PROGRAMS

DU’s youth programs provide a variety of ways to engage young men and women in all aspects of wetlands and waterfowl conservation. At the forefront, varsity and university chapters host fundraising events each spring and fall that, on average, raise more than $2 million annually.

KENNETH “JACK” MORRIS WINS 2022 DU NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Kenneth “Jack” Morris of Milton, Del., is the 2022 Ducks Unlimited National Scholarship winner. Morris served as the secretary of the DU Varsity Sussex Tech High School chapter in Georgetown, Del., before taking over as the committee chair his senior year. DU Chairman of the Board Doug Schoenrock called Morris to break the news.

“It was an honor to be the first to congratulate Jack on his outstanding accomplishments,” said Schoenrock. “This year’s class of scholarship applicants was extremely competitive. It feels great to give back to these select young men and women who have positively represented their communities.”

In addition to the $10,000 national scholarship, DU awarded 60 scholarships to deserving high school seniors from across the country: 10 conservation scholarships for $1,000 and 50 varsity scholarships for $500.

Applications are reviewed by a volunteer selection committee appointed by DU Advisory Senior Vice President for Youth and Education Ken Carroll.
DU CELEBRATES YOUTH TEAM SHOOTING PROGRAM MILESTONE

Since its inception in early 2021, Ducks Unlimited’s Team Resource Assistance Program (DU TRAP) has assisted more than 7,000 youth shooters by providing immediate funding for team activities. Two hundred teams from 36 states have taken advantage of the grant program.

DU TRAP supplies teams with discounted merchandise and professionally designed marketing materials for use in team fundraising efforts, with no up-front costs. The program allows groups to set their pricing and sale length while choosing various prizes to fit their program size. Once complete, net proceeds are retained by the participating team. Program design also includes the shipping of prizes to winners, if desired.

Funds from the DU TRAP program assist teams with expenses for ammunition, targets, travel, entry fees, team equipment and more. Teams average $3,675 net per event, helping Ducks Unlimited sustain youth shooting sports and facilitate hunter recruitment.

THIRD TERM

Third Term, DU’s 8th annual collegiate leadership summit presented by Axalta, was held August 6 and 7, 2021, at the Hilton hotel in Memphis, Tenn. More than 190 college volunteers from 60 chapters traveled to the Bluff City for a weekend of conservation education, breakout sessions and networking.

The opening session for the summit began Friday afternoon with remarks from DU CEO Adam Putnam, followed by a tailgate-themed dinner at DU National Headquarters, where students from across the country learned more about DU’s operations.

Saturday morning was all business as students heard from a host of presenters like DU Chairman of the Board Doug Schoenrock, Chief Conservation Officer Dr. Karen Waldrop and Chief Event Fundraising Officer David Schuessler. Before heading to afternoon breakout sessions, the attendees heard a keynote address by Dr. Mamie Parker, retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service chief of staff, who now serves on the DU Board of Directors.

The weekend ended with the Saturday awards banquet presented by Winnebago Industries, recognizing college volunteers and their respective chapters for their dedication to DU’s mission.
Ducks Unlimited’s volunteers, supporters and staff raised $276.7 million in total revenue in FY22, leading to 575,000 acres of wetlands and waterfowl habitat protected or restored in the United States—an incredible success for the ducks.

Reimbursements from state and federal agencies and revenue from DU’s nongovernmental partners provided $135.6 million in revenue in FY22, setting another revenue record for habitat delivery reimbursements and eclipsing FY21’s record of $118.2 million.

Revenue growth demonstrates that state and federal agencies trust DU as a valued partner to deliver quality wetland habitat effectively.

Philanthropic revenue from the event system raised $54.1 million, and major gift revenue raised $49.6 million, up from the prior year’s totals of $37.7 million and $44.1 million, respectively. Charitable dollars are foundational to DU’s conservation work. Philanthropic revenue is matched with government grants and corporate and foundation giving to protect and restore important habitat.

Revenue growth is key to DU’s continued success, and spending wisely and efficiently ensures maximum impact is generated from every dollar raised.

“We strive toward a goal that at least 80 percent of DU’s expenditures go to support our conservation mission,” said Ducks Unlimited Chief Financial Officer Darin Blunck. “FY22 was another positive year, with 84 percent of every dollar spent on DU’s wetlands and waterfowl conservation mission.”

Thanks to outstanding financial performance throughout the organization, an additional $2 million was sent to Canada to accelerate the pace of prairie conservation. This was the third year in a row that additional, unbudgeted funds were sent north of the border to support habitat work on the landscape. The importance of prairie wetlands and grasslands, and the threats these habitats face, is no secret to DU’s supporters.
## DUCKS UNLIMITED, INC. AND AFFILIATES
### CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
### JUNE 30, 2022 AND 2021

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<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<td>Restricted cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Restricted non-negotiable certificates of deposit</td>
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<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 422,659,057</strong></td>
<td><strong>350,500,292</strong></td>
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### Liabilities and Net Assets

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<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
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<th>2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
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<td>Compensation and related accruals</td>
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<td><strong>96,907,153</strong></td>
<td><strong>93,826,785</strong></td>
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### Net assets:
- Without donor restrictions                                            | 106,605,591   | 107,766,608   |
- With donor restrictions                                               | 219,146,313   | 148,906,899   |
| **Total net assets**                                                  | **325,751,904** | **256,673,507** |

| Total liabilities and net assets                                      | $ 422,659,057  | 350,500,292   |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.
<table>
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<th>2022</th>
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<td><strong>Operational revenue:</strong></td>
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<td>Philanthropic financial sources:</td>
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<td><strong>Total philanthropic revenue</strong></td>
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<td>Other operational support and revenue:</td>
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<td>Donated conservation easements</td>
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<td>2,776,272</td>
<td>2,270,948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donated educational programming</td>
<td>10,717,315</td>
<td>8,917,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spend from endowment</td>
<td>1,774,929</td>
<td>5,228,441</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other revenues</strong></td>
<td>2,693,120</td>
<td>1,694,338</td>
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<td><strong>Total operational support and revenue</strong></td>
<td>276,679,741</td>
<td>339,759,149</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Operational expense:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program service expenses:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wetlands and Waterfowl conservation</td>
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<td>U.S. habitat delivery</td>
<td>165,501,836</td>
<td>140,325,078</td>
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<td>Conservation easements</td>
<td>2,667,250</td>
<td>104,342,054</td>
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<td>Government relations</td>
<td>3,966,261</td>
<td>3,201,830</td>
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<td>Ducks Unlimited Canada</td>
<td>15,767,941</td>
<td>13,206,312</td>
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<td>Ducks Unlimited de Mexico</td>
<td>1,410,102</td>
<td>1,074,470</td>
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<td>Conservation education:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magazine and publication</td>
<td>4,792,044</td>
<td>3,757,410</td>
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<td>Communications and conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donated educational programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education delivery</td>
<td>10,376,651</td>
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<td>Membership services</td>
<td>3,712,463</td>
<td>3,157,218</td>
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<td><strong>Total program service expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Fundraising expenses:</td>
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<td>Field operations</td>
<td>12,682,573</td>
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<td>Direct response</td>
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<td><strong>Total fundraising expense</strong></td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td><strong>Total operational expense</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Operational surplus</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Nonoperational:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Revolving land contributions</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>8,532,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net loss on land sales</td>
<td>(1,055,668)</td>
<td>(1,091,743)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other quasi-endowment (loss)/contribution</td>
<td>(4,499,854)</td>
<td>294,174</td>
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<td>Unappropriated quasi-endowment (loss)/earnings</td>
<td>(3,895,233)</td>
<td>5,740,157</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net periodic benefit cost other than service cost</td>
<td>(996,772)</td>
<td>(1,204,504)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nonoperating loss</strong></td>
<td>(10,443,527)</td>
<td>12,270,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(Deficit)/Excess of support and revenues without donor restrictions over expenses</strong></td>
<td>$ (3,271,267)</td>
<td>18,804,314</td>
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</table>
CORPORATE PARTNER PROGRAM

Backed by 85 years of conservation delivery, 1 million supporters and a powerful brand promotional strategy, the DU brand is unmatched in the conservation world and a preferred choice for conservation-focused companies.

Leading companies and brands recognize Ducks Unlimited as the world leader in waterfowl and wetlands conservation and the best membership organization to partner with to reach a dedicated audience of conservation-minded consumers.

Since its launch in 1985, DU’s Corporate Partner program has generated more than $100 million in unrestricted funds for conservation—dollars that can be used where ducks need it most. Our generous corporate partners also play a significant role in DU’s success by underwriting events, donating products for fundraising and investing advertising dollars in DU media.

## OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academy + Outdoors</th>
<th>FedEx</th>
<th>Purina Pro Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AES Outdoors</td>
<td>C.C. Filson Co.</td>
<td>Pyramex</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Luxury Coach</td>
<td>First National Bank of Omaha</td>
<td>Remington</td>
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<tr>
<td>America Remembers</td>
<td>General Tire</td>
<td>Rico Industries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anheuser - Busch</td>
<td>GUNNER</td>
<td>Smathers and Branson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artisans</td>
<td>Higdon Outdoors</td>
<td>Signature Products Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axalta Coating Systems</td>
<td>Identity Check Printers</td>
<td>SportDOG Brand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ball Watch Company</td>
<td>Itasca Footwear</td>
<td>Star Fish Vision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bass Pro Shops</td>
<td>Bass Pro Shops</td>
<td>United Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carolina Hosiery Mills</td>
<td></td>
<td>Visa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Check Gallery</td>
<td>CigarClub</td>
<td>W.R. Case and Sons Cutlery</td>
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<tr>
<td>CigarClub</td>
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<td>War Eagle Boats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desperate Enterprises</td>
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<td>Winchester Ammunition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drake Waterfowl Systems</td>
<td>DucksUnlimitedStore.org</td>
<td>Yamaha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Premium Ammunition</td>
<td>Outdoor Cap Company</td>
<td>YETI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These leading corporations and brands recognize the value in the Ducks Unlimited brand and DU’s leadership position in the outdoor industry and wetlands conservation delivery. They understand the importance of conservation and the critical need to support DU through financial commitments, marketing resources and quality products and services.

FEDERAL PREMIUM AMMUNITION

Federal Premium Ammunition became a Proud Partner of DU in 2019 through a brand sponsorship associated with their TSS waterfowl loads. Since 1922, Federal has been innovating all things ammunition. They are one of the world’s largest producers of sporting ammunition.

Throughout the initial three-year term, the Federal partnership continued to evolve and grow as their parent company, Vista Outdoors, proved they were committed to supporting DU’s wetland and waterfowl conservation efforts. Vista Outdoors invested further by adding a brand sponsorship for Remington Ammunition, making Remington a Proud Partner in February 2021.

Federal invests in DU programs, advertises through DU media channels, donates products for fundraising events, sponsors the Ducks Unlimited Expo (DUX) and underwrites the cost of gun banners provided to chapters nationwide.

GENERAL TIRE

Ducks Unlimited is proud to welcome General Tire as its newest Proud Partner. DU’s Proud Partner program is all about unique partnerships and programs that provide people with new ways to express their love of nature, enhance their trips afield and support their commitment to sharing nature’s rewards with future generations.

The partnership between DU and General Tire is a multi-year brand sponsorship, offering comprehensive support across multiple fundraising platforms throughout the organization. The revenue generated from this sponsorship will allow DU to fund conservation projects in its highest-priority landscapes, where ducks need it the most.

For more than 100 years, General Tire has produced quality tires for passenger, SUV, truck and commercial vehicles, delivering exceptional performance in all conditions.

GUNNER

Gunner, one of Ducks Unlimited’s newest corporate partners, offers an exclusive line of DU co-branded products, including the G1 Kennel in four sizes. This DU collection also includes the Gunner Food Crate and other accessories. In addition to the co-branded products, the line features a unique green color explicitly formulated for DU. Each kennel displays the iconic DU logo on the front door, and a portion of every sale of the product line directly benefits DU’s wetlands conservation efforts.

“DU is thrilled to welcome Gunner Kennels to our corporate partner family,” said DU CEO Adam Putnam. “Not only do they offer products built to last a lifetime, but they also offer products tested and proven to provide a safe haven for your pet.”
The President’s Council continues to be one of the most important and influential groups in conservation and the backbone of many Ducks Unlimited programs and our success. The council honors your loyalty, leadership and generosity as one of our most dedicated and enthusiastic supporters.

I am excited to report that the President’s Council had a record-breaking year for membership. We ended calendar year 2021 with 517 dedicated members. As a member of the council, you are among the select group of philanthropists across North America who cumulatively contributed more than $16 million to DU’s conservation mission. Thank you!

Your continued dedication to our mission has helped conserve more than 15 million acres since DU’s founding in 1937, and your generosity enabled DU to conserve more than 575,000 acres of habitat in FY22.

On-the-ground conservation takes place through the general fund, regional initiatives, scholarship funding and policy support on state and national levels. As part of the President’s Council, you were instrumental in making conservation happen. Along with private funding matches and other federal and state agency grants, you have given unprecedented support to keep the mud moving, ensure that our water is clean and fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

World class wood carver supports DU’s conservation mission

Growing up on a Nebraska farm, Cliff Hollestelle was inspired by the wildlife he observed. This inspiration turned into unique carving skills that would help people across the continent see and appreciate the wild creatures of North America.

At a young age, Cliff made his first carvings from soap bars. Now his work is featured at zoos, hospitals, parks and many other public locations across America.

Cliff and his wife, Marcia, have been ardent supporters of DU’s work in Nebraska to conserve the Rainwater Basin and Platte River corridor. Over the past 40-plus years, they have supported conservation fundraising efforts by donating carvings, attending DU events and directly impacting DU’s mission by becoming Sponsors in Perpetuity and President’s Council members.
Major sponsors and volunteers significantly impact wetlands conservation by supporting Ducks Unlimited’s conservation mission. These supporters lead the effort to secure our continent’s wetland habitats. Their generosity of treasure and time make our vision of skies filled with waterfowl a reality.

The donors on the following pages made a gift during FY22 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) or have donated at least $1,000,000 to DU in their lifetime. Thanks to the leadership of more than 39,000 volunteers, the states and chapters listed performed at the highest level in FY22. Also listed are volunteers who have given the organization 25 years or more of dedicated service. For more information about being included in next year’s annual report, contact Keri Cincurak at (901) 758-3712 or email kcincurak@ducks.org.
What a fantastic year it has been! Ducks Unlimited volunteers, major donors and Feather Society members showed up and showed out in FY22. Future generations of conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts and the waterfowl and wildlife that depend on wetlands will be forever grateful for your continued dedication and generosity. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to wetlands conservation across North America.

Your ongoing commitment to conserving wetlands for waterfowl, other wildlife and people has enabled Ducks Unlimited to conserve more than 15 million acres of habitat since 1937. We are pleased to recognize those on the following pages who have gone far above and beyond to help DU meet its organizational goals. This year your organization has had record-breaking performances in philanthropy and restored, enhanced and protected many valuable wetlands. We hope you feel great pride in the conservation work you have accomplished.

We celebrate with you today but know we still face many challenges. North America is losing wetland habitat at an alarming pace. Still, with your continued support, we will accomplish our vision of sufficient waterfowl to fill the skies today, tomorrow and forever. Filling the skies above begins with saving the wetlands below.

It is an honor to represent you as the Senior Advisory Vice Presidents of Membership, Development and Events and Volunteer Management. We will continue to work beside you to foster support for DU.

We are truly grateful for your commitment. Because of you, our mission to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America’s waterfowl will continue for generations to come. Thank you!
These collegiate chapters exceeded $25,000 in funds raised in a calendar year through the following streams:

- Event income from all events (minimum $5,000 in event income to qualify)
- Chapter silent bid auction income
- Donor directed major gifts

### 2022 UNIVERSITY ALL-AMERICAN CHAPTERS

![Ducks University logo]

National Champion

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln DU Chapter gather for a group photo.

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**Gold All-American $75,000+**

- East Carolina University
- Louisiana State University
- North Carolina State University
- Texas A&M University
- University of Mississippi
- University of Virginia

**Silver All-American $50,000–$74,999**

- Auburn University
- University of Minnesota
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- Virginia Military Institute

**Bronze All-American $25,000–$49,999**

- Bemidji State University
- California State University, Chico
- Clemson University
- Ferris State University
- Mississippi State University
- Montana State University
- Texas State University
- Texas Tech University
- Tift Collegiate
- University of Arkansas
- University of Georgia

- University of Louisiana Lafayette
- University of Nevada, Reno
- University of North Carolina Wilmington
- University of Tennessee Knoxville
- University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

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South Carolina 1,806 Volunteers 14,597 Members, Sponsors and Major Donors 2,570,509 Event and Major Gift Income
2022 VARSITY
ALL-STAR CHAPTERS

These high school chapters exceeded $10,000 in funds raised in a calendar year through the following revenue streams:

• Event income from all events (minimum $2,500 in event income to qualify)
• Chapter silent bid auction income
• Donor directed major gifts

NATIONAL CHAMPION
Springfield High School
SPRINGFIELD, LOUISIANA

Gold All-Star
$30,000+

• Broughton High School, NC
• Buckshot Varsity Chapter, TX
• Christian Brothers High School, TN
• Collegiate School, VA
• FPCA Coastal, GA
• Honeoye Lake Varsity Chapter, NY
• Jackson Academy High School, MS
• Memphis University School, TN
• South Florida Varsity Chapter, FL

Silver All-Star
$20,000–$29,999

• Bellevue Youth for Conservation Chapter, WA
• Jackson Prep High School, MS
• Leon County Varsity Chapter, FL
• Panther Chapter, LA
• St. Agnes Academy, TN
• St. Christopher High School, VA

Bronze All-Star
$10,000–$19,999

• Canandaigua Varsity Chapter, NY
• Pacelli High School, GA
• Sussex Tech High School, DE

Members of the Springfield High School DU Chapter from Springfield, Louisiana.
2022 GREENWING HONOR ROLL CHAPTERS

The Greenwing Honor Roll comprises the 11 largest youth program chapters in the country based on equal rating of membership and event income from their Greenwing events.

1. Chattanooga–Hamilton County Chapter, TN
2. Snoqualmie Valley Chapter, WA
3. Tennessee Valley Chapter, TN
4. University of Louisiana Chapter, LA
5. Golden Triangle Chapter, FL
6. State Committee Chapter, DE
7. Walton County Chapter, GA
8. Clinton Sampson County Chapter, NC
9. State Committee Chapter, VA
10. Winona County Chapter, MN
11. State Committee Chapter, MS

Caden Nunley and Coleman Nunley receiving their Greenwing Legacy Awards. Left to right, Tennessee DU Youth and Education Chairman Ross Malone, Jean and Duane Southerland (Caden and Coleman’s grandparents), and DU President Doug Schoenrock.
State Excellence Awards are based on growth versus the prior fiscal year in three categories: volunteers, event attendance and event income. Using growth in event income as a base qualifier, a Bronze award is given for growth over prior year in one category, a Silver award is given for growth over prior year in two categories, and a Gold award is given for growth over prior year in all three categories. States with three years in a row at the Gold level are awarded Platinum status. States with five consecutive years at the Gold level are awarded Diamond status.

Top 10 Traditional Events
1. East Cooper, SC, Oyster Roast at SEWE
2. Lakeland, FL, Dinner
3. Ellis County, TX, Dinner Number 2
4. Blackhawk, CA, Gala
5. Charlotte, NC, Ducks Unlimited Gala
6. Appoquinimink, DE, Spring Fling
7. Brandywine, DE, Dinner
8. Reno, NV, Dinner
9. Ellis County, TX, Dinner Number 1
10. Corsicana, TX, Ducks Unlimited Dinner

Top 10 All Income Events
1. Lake Forest, IL, Evening of Conservation
2. Houston, TX, Legacy Gala
3. Blackhawk, CA, Gala
4. Galveston, TX, Dinner & Dance
5. Lafayette, LA, Sponsor Event
6. Charlotte, NC, Fall Gala
7. Nashville, TN, Annual Corporate Shoot
8. East Cooper, SC, Oyster Roast at SEWE
9. Kenosha, WI, Dinner
10. Denver, CO, Sponsor Gala

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<th>BRONZE</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maine</td>
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Texas 2,078 Volunteers  51,270 Members, Sponsors, and Major Donors  $11,346,917 Event and Major Gift Income