



RETRIEVER CLUB HELPS RESTORE WETLAND

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Del Bay Retriever Club, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and DU completed a restoration of an existing wetland north of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. This wetland project was targeted to restore the functionality of water level management. The lack of fluctuating water levels created a variety of invasive plant species, making it unusable to the retriever training club and an undesirable stopover for migrating waterfowl and other wildlife. A failing water control structure was replaced so water levels can be better managed for invasive control and benefit vegetation growth in the 15-acre wetland. Del Bay Retriever Club, which is, can now use the wetland for training and demonstrations. Del Bay Retriever Club, a steward of this wetland and the surrounding area, was founded in 1937 and has over 50 active members. The members hold trainings, clean up days, and assist with policing the grounds.

★ SHALLOW WATER WETLAND RESTORATION AT PRIME HOOK

DU, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) completed a 50-acre restoration at Prime Hook NWR. By plugging a drainage ditch and building a shallow berm in a fallow agricultural field, natural hydrology was restored to the site. This created critical shallow water wetlands with emergent moist soil vegetation to benefit waterfowl and wildlife. The conservation work specifically impacts American black ducks and greater snow geese. Water from rain runoff will filter nutrients and sediment before reaching Delaware Bay.



NRCS PROGRAMS BENEFIT BLACK DUCKS

The Delaware working lands team converted a two-acre agricultural field into a managed moist soil wetland. Located in Smyrna, the restoration project was funded through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Working Lands for Wildlife Black Duck Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Mid-Atlantic supports the largest populations of North America's wintering black ducks. Private landowners in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia are helping black ducks by making wildlife improvements to working lands and protecting lands not suitable for farming with conservation easements. EQIP, another NRCS program, assists farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners in implementing on-farm conservation practices that result in



improved soil health, water quality, reduced soil erosion, and much more. DU's role is to meet with landowners to determine if it is feasible to implement these conservation practices. If the landowner is selected, DU provides technical assistance, which includes planning and engineering, design, and construction management.

WATER MANAGEMENT IMPROVES AT BLACKWATER

DU and the USFWS restored a failing berm in an existing impoundment at Blackwater NWR. Clay was brought in from off-site to repair 3,700 feet of the eroding berm. The berm is critical for proper management of 78 acres of waterfowl impoundments. Blackwater NWR is one of the largest wintering areas for wintering waterfowl, and shorebirds in the Atlantic flyway. At peak times Blackwater will hold hundreds of thousands of migrating birds. Since it is such an important wintering area for waterfowl, maintaining the functionality of these impoundments was a priority. This wetland system is not only critical to wintering waterfowl but also contributes significantly to water quality in the Chesapeake Bay, filtering nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended solids from the water before entering the Bay.



DELAWARE 2025 State Report

MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 6,679
Members: 6,368
General Members: 5,816
Greenwings: 226
Legacy Greenwing Members: 45
Sponsor Members: 281
Major Sponsors: 311
Feather Society Members: 31

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised:
\$985,398
Number of committees: 14
Number of fundraising events: 46
Local chapter volunteers: 292

FY24 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: \$1,875,153
Location of projects:
New Brunswick, Nova
Scotia, Prince Edward Island,
Newfoundland, Maritimes

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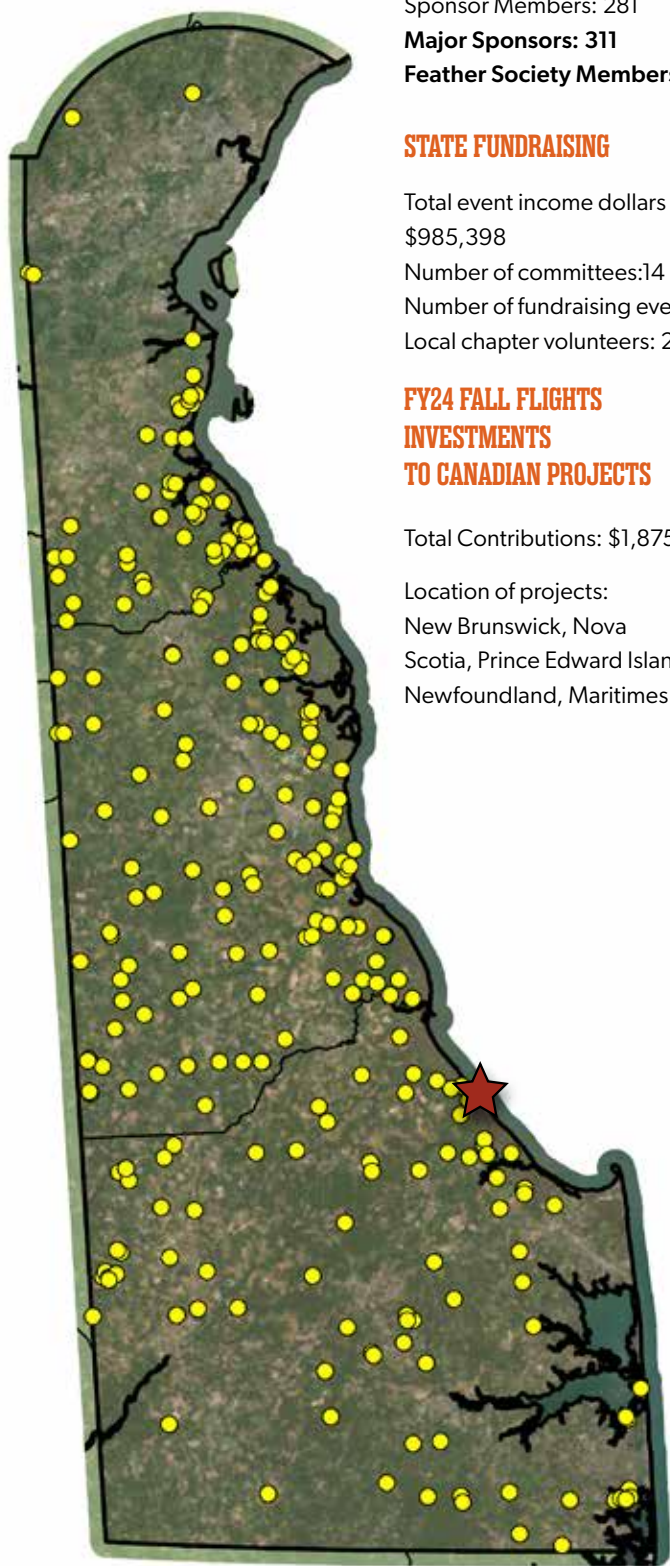
US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in
the state (*historically since
FY1984*): **18,415**

Total Acres of Conservation
in the state (FY2024): **55**

Amount spent on projects in
the state: **\$6,077,718**

Amount spent on projects
in Atlantic Flyway (*through
FY24*): **\$309,257,281**



GREAT LAKES /
ATLANTIC REGION

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For more information about
DU's work in your state visit

ducks.org/delaware