



PENNSYLVANIA DUCKS UNLIMITED WING WATCH

SEPTEMBER 2008

Saving Wetlands with a Stamp

Welcome to the first electronic edition of PADU Wing Watch. Publication will occur every quarter.

My name is Fred Senderoff. I am the Pennsylvania Ducks Unlimited State Chairman. For the present I will be both the editor and publisher. My main goal during my tenure is to establish communications with as many of the Ducks Unlimited members in Pennsylvania as possible.

I have chosen this cost effective electronic method to accomplish this. I welcome any help, including ideas any of you have for inclusion in future newsletters. My contact information is available on the PADU web site.

Each newsletter will be emailed to all PADU members that have email addresses on file with Ducks Unlimited National headquarters. It will also be available on the PADU web site.

Volunteer

Can you picture yourself sitting around in your rocking chair someday when you've retired sharing stories with your grandchildren about the numbers of ducks you saw filling the skies during the opening mornings of the duck seasons you enjoyed while the sun rose on your favorite duck hunting spot? And have those children who listen to you ask, "Why don't we see that many ducks any more?" or "What did a Pintail look like?" Or "What was a Scaup?" Over time, it could happen. I don't want to experience a discussion

like that. I don't think any of us do! That's why we need to Strengthen our Ducks Unlimited Volunteer Numbers. We must restore wetlands at a pace faster than they're being lost! Are you willing to HELP! Please give strong consideration to volunteering for your local committee. If you do not know who are the members of your local committee, forward your name, address, phone numbers and email address to me at: senderoff@comcast.com and I will put you in contact with them. If there is not a chapter in your area perhaps you would be willing to help [start a new Ducks Unlimited Chapter](#)

Fall migration is nearing and it will not be long before our American black duck females fitted with GPS satellite radio transmitters start to make their way south for the winter from Labrador, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec. This winter another 38 satellite radios will be deployed on captured females in Delaware, Long Island, New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Virginia. Be sure to tune in to the Black Duck Research Initiative Web site and Black Duck Tracker Map site at:

<http://glaromaps.ducks.org/blackduck> and <http://www.ducks.org/blackduckstudy> to learn more about this exciting research and watch the birds as they return south this fall.

Ever wonder about the connection between wetlands and clean drinking water? The connection between flocks of waterfowl and watching wildlife? The connection between a national prestigious art contest and a beautiful collectible stamp that's not used to mail letters? What makes all these connections possible is the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly known as the Duck Stamp.

For more than 70 years, the sale of federal Duck Stamps has directly benefited the American people and the nation's wildlife. More than \$500 million has been raised since 1935, and this money has been used exclusively to conserve America's irreplaceable natural heritage. This stamp has been at the heart of one of the most successful conservation initiatives in America. And what a heritage it is!

Not only does the federal Duck Stamp help conserve this amazing natural heritage for our children and their children, but this amazing stamp helps clean the nation's water. Most of the land purchased from willing sellers with federal Duck Stamp dollars are wetlands. Wetlands are lands often covered or saturated with water that can't be farmed and are often too expensive to drain and fill for other purposes. These wetlands hold and collect excess water,

reducing damage from property destroying floods. Rain water washing from farms and streets carry water that is often filled with pesticides, eroded soil, and excess fertilizers. This runoff enters wetlands and has a chance to settle out. The results ... Cleaner water. Wetlands play a crucial role in cleaning water and in preventing floods.

For most of America's history, the value of wetlands was not realized and little appreciated. These lands were condemned as useless and a waste. Over a 100-year period, these lands were ditched, drained, filled in, and paved over.

In the 1930's, sportsmen began to notice that ducks and geese were becoming scarce. It wasn't hard to figure out why, as the ponds and wetlands the birds visited were disappearing. One of the sportsmen that became concerned was J. N. "Ding" Darling. A Midwest editorial cartoonist, Ding's cartoons created support for conservation and helped raise public awareness. His most important contribution to the recovery of the nation's waterfowl was lobbying for the creation of the Duck Stamp. Following President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing legislation in 1934 to create the federal Duck Stamp, migratory bird hunters were required to buy a Duck Stamp.

The money raised from the sale of federal Duck Stamps was earmarked to buy wetlands. Wetlands which benefited waterfowl, songbirds, fish, and other wildlife. Most of the lands purchased with Duck Stamp money became part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

During the 1930's and 1940's, national wildlife refuges were being established along the major migratory bird flyways. These national wildlife refuges were stepping stones on the bird's journey where they could rest and eat before continuing their journey

to and from their breeding grounds in the north.

These amazing stamps are works of art; collectible; simply beautiful! The winning design is selected at a contest held in Washington, D. C. Every fall. Any US citizen can enter the contest, from professional wildlife artists to amateurs. The main reward for the winning artist is the international prestige of being selected as the federal Duck Stamp artist of the year, and the knowledge that one had a part in conserving America's precious natural heritage.

Waterfowl hunters have contributed most of the money to buy wetlands. For many different reasons, the number of waterfowl hunters across the nation is declining; thus money to buy and conserve our rapidly disappearing wetlands is decreasing. As our population continues to increase, the open space that is being swallowed up by development that was once habitat for wildlife is decreasing. Open space that was once habitat for wildlife. Buying a Federal Duck Stamp is an inexpensive way for those who cherish our wildlife and open spaces to make a big difference. Just ten people buying a Duck Stamp means 1 acre of wetlands will be conserved. An acre of wetlands helping clean our water; an acre of wetlands that will remain wildlife habitat; an acre of wetlands that we know will be there around for future of generations to enjoy. Buy a Duck Stamp for clean water ... to help our wildlife ... and to protect our natural heritage, for you and your community.

Recent Conservation Accomplishments in Pennsylvania

Completed projects –
In 14 Counties:

100 Wetland Acres Conserved
291 Upland Acres Conserved
Technical Assistance On 2,095
Acres

Wetlands Restored in Lebanon County

In October of 2007 Ducks Unlimited partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania to restore 3.3 acres of palustrine wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay Potomac River priority area. The project is located along the Swatara Creek in Lebanon County. The Swatara Creek is known for its spring wood duck production and wintering black duck waters as well as being a popular roosting area for migratory Atlantic Population Canada geese.

DU and USFWS Restore Perry County Wetlands

Ducks Unlimited (DU) partnered with the US. Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to conserve 11.6 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 13.4 acres of associated uplands on a private lands project in Perry County. The USDA's Wetland Reserve Program provided funding for this project. The USFWS and Ducks Unlimited provided technical assistance aimed at the delivery of the project. The wetland complex lies within the Susquehanna River watershed and benefits waterfowl, as well as ospreys, bald eagles, chorus frogs, Virginia rails, marsh wrens, great blue herons, and leopard frogs. The restoration will also help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay.

The Susquehanna River is the largest tributary and single source of fresh water to the Chesapeake Bay. It is also the largest single source of nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus associated with non-point pollution sources. The Bay once housed more than 3 million wintering waterfowl, but now sees only one-third of that historic number.