



DUCKS UNLIMITED

in
Virginia



2008 CONSERVATION REPORT | GREAT LAKES/ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE

PAMUNKEY FARMS: MODEL FOR HABITAT CONSERVATION

In partnership with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), Ducks Unlimited (DU) restored a 15-acre wetland in June 2007, which is providing much-needed shallow-water habitat containing high-energy foods. This wetland will trap excess sediment, as well as nutrients from cattle and agriculture, resulting in improved water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. David Norris, senior private lands biologist for the VDGIF, designed the wetland and provided on-site construction management. This wetland was dedicated to the memory of Hill Carter Sr., a passionate conservationist from the Hanover area.

A collaboration of nine agencies representing state and federal government and nonprofit organizations turned Hanover County's Pamunkey Farms into a model for conservation. Other partners on the project include the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, VDGIF, Walker Family Foundation, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department of Corrections, Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Pamunkey Farms is a model of how agricultural best management practices (BMPs) can improve and protect water quality while providing important wildlife habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Scientists estimate that the BMPs used at Pamunkey Farms can reduce nitrogen runoff by 12 million pounds if installed on farms throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

This project is a critical piece of DU's larger effort to encourage eastern Virginia landowners to consider wetlands, cover crops and other BMPs on their riparian lands, not only because it keeps valuable soil intact, but also because these practices provide important habitat for waterfowl, grassland birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife.

Because grazing cattle can damage streams, riverbanks and wetlands, as well as contribute significant pollution to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Pamunkey Farms now rotates cattle between fenced-in 10-acre paddocks with a central water source. This grazing system more evenly distributes cow manure, conserves tillage and cover crops and decreases the dependence on manufactured fertilizers.



Members of the Hill Carter Sr. family and Walker Family Foundation gather around the memorial display during the Pamunkey Farms dedication.



PORTER FORESTED WETLAND

In 2003, Ducks Unlimited partnered with a private landowner in Southampton County to enhance a 50-acre forested wetland. The project was completed in 2007 after several delays caused by weather and permitting.

The wetland was constructed by rehabilitating old logging roads and reshaping them to act as levees. Five water control structures were installed to manipulate water levels in order to promote the growth of understory plants that will benefit wintering waterfowl

and songbirds. Examples of these plants include various species of sedges, rushes, smartweeds and millet.

This site is flooded temporarily during the fall and winter months in order to attract ducks, mainly mallards and wood ducks, by providing important feeding and loafing habitat. It is designed to hold water while trees are dormant. The flooding of bottomland hardwoods to a depth of 1 to 18 inches provides ducks with access to fallen acorns and other seeds.



The Porter site in Southampton County, shown above, will provide wintering waterfowl with 50 acres of prime wetland habitat in SE Virginia.

DU GOES TO WASHINGTON...

and Annapolis, and Dover, Richmond and Harrisburg

Since its 1937 inception, DU has survived by evolving to confront the barrage of impacts on waterfowl habitat. A few years ago, DU introduced its expanded vision and goals, which briefly include “Wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.”

Our new vision involves strengthening our ability to affect waterfowl habitat not only by focusing on and increasing wetland restoration and protection, but also by supporting public policy initiatives. This increased focus on public policy and outreach efforts will strengthen our influence across the waterfowl habitats of North America.

Recently, DU added two public policy positions to our mid-Atlantic team to address state and watershed issues in the Chesapeake and Delaware bays. Grace Bottitta has transitioned into one of these positions, focusing on advocacy and outreach. The second position (to be filled in spring 2008) will focus on state-level policy and its influence on DU’s conservation programs.

In the mid-Atlantic, DU is now in the position to increase waterfowl conservation dramatically in the Chesapeake and Delaware bays by speaking to a broader, more powerful audience in our state and local governments. Let’s do it!



DU HEADS UP BLACK DUCK RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Spanning the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways

BACKGROUND

American black duck populations have declined by as much as 60 percent in traditional wintering areas. Several possible explanations exist for this decline, one of which is the loss and degradation of quality wintering habitat in the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways. In response to this issue Ducks Unlimited and its partners initiated multi-year studies in New York, New Jersey and Virginia to examine wintering ecology and to quantify food resources and carrying capacity for wintering and spring-staging black ducks along the Atlantic Flyway. This year the black duck research initiative will be expanded to include the use of satellite transmitters with GPS technology, which will allow researchers to track birds for up to three years as they move between wintering areas in New Jersey, Virginia and Ohio, and breeding areas.

OBJECTIVES

The **primary objectives** of the black duck research initiative are to document the local habitat use, movement and activities of wintering black ducks in Ohio, New Jersey, New York and Virginia and to determine the availability and depletion of important black duck food sources along the Atlantic Coast during winter. The study also will provide insights on current food habitats and an estimate of

the energetic carrying capacity (how many ducks can be supported) of black duck wintering habitats along the Atlantic Coast. Deploying satellite radios on black duck hens will allow us to examine geographic connections between breeding and wintering areas, as well as answer questions regarding habitat use, migration chronology and stopover duration (use days). This information is critical for local conservation efforts and efforts to manage black ducks on a range-wide scale.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

This research will identify important black duck wintering and staging (spring and fall) areas leading to improved decision making with respect to ongoing habitat protection and management efforts. Information regarding chronology and duration of stay (use days) also will be used in conjunction with energetic carrying capacity models currently being developed to generate habitat objectives during the non-breeding period. In addition, a better understanding of settling and habitats used on breeding areas will be gained through this work.

You can find more details regarding this study and follow its progress by logging on to www.ducks.org/blackduckstudy.

Ducks Unlimited would like to recognize the cooperators and funding partners who supported this critical research:

Waterfowl Research Foundation, John & Elaine Kanas Family Foundation, North Fork Bank, Camp Fire Conservation Fund, Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin—Wetlands and Waterfowl Research Fellowship through Ducks Unlimited, Nunnally Foundation, Beirne Carter Foundation, NewMarket Corp., Ducks Unlimited Inc., Black Duck Joint Venture, Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, Upper Mississippi River & Great Lakes Joint Venture, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey Duck Stamp Committee, New Jersey Waterfowlers Association, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Southern Illinois University, University of Delaware and many private DU donors.



VIRGINIA HABITAT HAPPENINGS

DU BUILDING CONSERVATION PROGRAM ON EASTERN SHORE

DU is looking to build its conservation program and habitat on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Up to four habitat projects in Northampton and Accomack counties will be restored in 2008, and DU is searching for funding to complete several more projects in the area. DU is also in discussions with the U.S. Fish and Wild-

life Service regarding its ongoing work in the Pocomoke watershed on the Virginia-Maryland border. An important part of habitat projects on the Eastern Shore of Virginia is to provide more diverse plant and invertebrate communities to which waterfowl, particularly black ducks, will be attracted.



SUPPORT DUCKS UNLIMITED IN A MAJOR WAY



I/WE BELIEVE IN THE CONSERVATION MISSION OF DUCKS UNLIMITED AND WANT TO SUPPORT THIS MISSION WITH A GIFT OF \$ _____, PAYABLE OVER _____ YEARS.*

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Home Phone _____
Business Phone _____
E-mail _____
Fax _____
Chapter Committee (if applicable) _____

PLEASE DESIGNATE MY GIFT TO THE FOLLOWING WETLANDS FOR TOMORROW INITIATIVE (check one)

* Must be pledged to pay within 5 years in order for gift to be restricted to an initiative.

- Mallard Initiative Project Code: US-VA-0-I
- Threatened Wetlands Initiative Project Code: US-VA-0-I

Signature _____
Date _____

I WISH TO PAY THIS PLEDGE IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER (check one)

- Single payment, to be paid by _____.
- Regular payments. Please send reminders on the following schedules:
 Quarterly Semi-Annually Annually
- Please contact me about making monthly credit/checking account payments.
- Please count my cumulative giving towards this pledge.

MANY COMPANIES WILL MATCH GIFTS MADE TO DUCKS UNLIMITED.

Please check with your employer's human resource office to see if this opportunity is available to you.

- My employer will match my gift.

Employer's Name _____

Ducks Unlimited (DU) qualifies under the provisions of Section 501© (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization created for charitable, educational, scientific and conservation purposes. Donations to DU are deductible by the donor(s) as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes.

To allow DU to take advantage of unanticipated conservation opportunities and to ensure long-term financial stability, a 10 percent Conservation Reserve Allocation is applied to all Major Sponsor commitments.

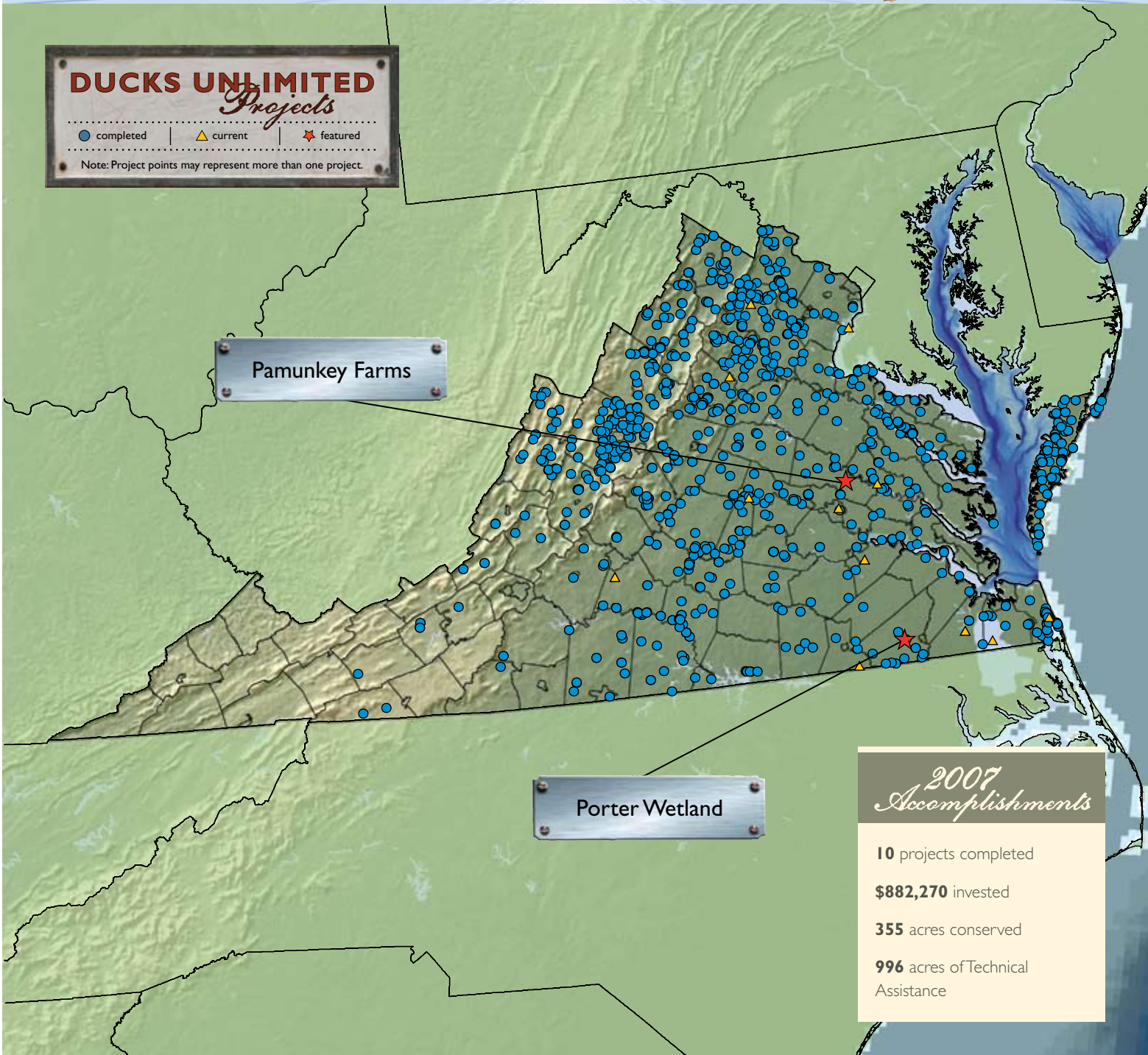
Please return this form to: Ducks Unlimited | Phil Poux Director of Development—Mid-Atlantic | Mid-Atlantic Field Office | 34 Defense Street, Suite 200 | Annapolis, MD 21401



DUCKS UNLIMITED
Projects

● completed ▲ current ★ featured

Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



2007 Accomplishments

10 projects completed

\$882,270 invested

355 acres conserved

996 acres of Technical Assistance

MEET YOUR VIRGINIA BIOLOGIST



Mike Budd
Regional Biologist

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GLARO'S CONSERVATION VISION



Remember the family vacation to your grandparents' farm?

Or that first morning in the hunting blind with your uncle?

Nearly all of us have a bond with land. Build on that connection with Ducks Unlimited's CONSERVATION LAND SERVICES.

*What your Land can do for you
and how **DUCKS UNLIMITED** can help!*

HABITAT DEVELOPMENT AND WETLAND MITIGATION

Ducks Unlimited projects on private lands provide tremendous benefits to waterfowl, other wildlife and you! DU has teams of biologists and engineers that provide wetland restoration, management and protection services directly to landowners. When a private land project is matched up with wetland mitigation funds, the result is habitat for wildlife and financial gain to the landowner. Let us know if you are interested in a wetland project on your land!

Get Informed HABITAT PROTECTION AND YOU

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Conservation easements provide a unique opportunity for the protection of private lands by restricting development and assuring that the property remains open as wildlife habitat in perpetuity. Each easement is tailored to meet the needs and interests of each individual landowner, allowing for the protection of key natural habitats while continuing to use the land for economic gain or recreation. Such protection assures that large areas of riparian wetland habitats and important uplands will be preserved for the benefit of waterfowl and other wildlife, and for future generations.

TRADE LANDS

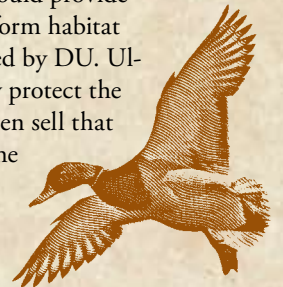
Property can be donated to Ducks Unlimited with the understanding that DU will sell it. Some may be personal residences or commercial properties with no conservation value whatsoever. DU's objective is to sell the parcel for top dollar and use the proceeds to fund habitat-saving transactions. DU typically will accept only such donations when we believe the property can be converted readily into cash to fund our urgent wetlands conservation mission.

CONSERVATION LANDS

If you own land that contains prime wetland habitat, you can donate it to DU; it benefits our mission and could provide you with tax benefits. DU may choose to perform habitat enhancement on the property while it is owned by DU. Ultimately, though, DU's goal is to permanently protect the property with a conservation easement and then sell that habitat to a conservation buyer. We reinvest the proceeds to protect further habitat!

CONSERVATION BUYERS

These conservation-minded individuals are an integral and necessary component of DU's ability to accomplish its mission. These buyers purchase protected properties from DU and DU, in turn, reinvests those proceeds to protect more wetland and wildlife habitat that is at risk of being lost forever to development. If you are interested in becoming a conservation buyer, please visit DU's Web site: <http://prairie.ducks.org/index.cfm?&page=/cld/listings.html>





WHAT CAN YOUR LAND DO FOR YOU?

If you own land and care about wetlands and wildlife, you can help DU protect and restore wetlands and other types of habitat on your land! By letting DU know that you, or someone you know, own land and are interested in conservation, you are helping DU achieve its mission of protecting, restoring and managing wetlands for waterfowl, other wildlife and people.

Unlike a state or federal wildlife agency, DU is not a land-holding organization. Ducks Unlimited believes the urgency of its conservation mission is best served by acquiring, permanently protecting and divesting itself of the protected land.

Visit our Web site and participate in Ducks Unlimited's conservation efforts today! <http://www.ducks.org>



Leave a Legacy AND HELP THE DUCKS

There are many ways that members, volunteers and private citizens are crucial to DU's success in conserving wetlands. One way that has become increasingly important is offering conservation opportunities on your land. Our ability to leverage grants, grassroots funds and yes, your donations, is becoming increasingly dependent upon having a solid database of potential properties. That means having a list of landowners in every state that are interested in protecting and restoring wetland habitat on their land.

Within the Great Lakes/Atlantic Region, residents of the states of Delaware, Maryland, New York and Virginia may also qualify for significant state income tax benefits for the donation of conservation lands or easements on their properties.

Wetlands for Tomorrow

North America's Vanishing Wetlands: Facing the Challenge

Poets write about it. Conservationists strive to continue it. Sportsmen dream about it. The migration of North America's waterfowl and other birds is one of nature's grandest and most anticipated events.

Wetlands make this migration possible. Wetlands also provide the foundation for North America's water supply. We rely on them for clean and abundant water, flood protection and recreation. Wetlands are vital to us all, yet every 10 minutes another acre of wetlands is drained.

Ducks Unlimited: Answering the Challenge

To answer the challenge to save North America's wetlands, grasslands and waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited has embarked on the *Wetlands for Tomorrow* campaign, an ambitious continental effort to raise at least \$1.7 billion for wetland habitat conservation.

With a proven track record of partnering with the private sector, government and other conservation organizations for nearly 70 years, Ducks Unlimited has restored and conserved nearly 12 million acres of crucial habitat that benefits waterfowl, other wildlife and people.

Please join us to learn more about *Wetlands for Tomorrow* and the initiatives to conserve North America's critical wetlands.





Al and Elaine Wilson | naturepicsonline.com

**Virginia Conservationist of the Year:
DAVID NORRIS**

David Norris, DU's 2008 Virginia Conservationist of the Year, has been a wetland project leader with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) since 1996 and an important partner for Ducks Unlimited throughout his career. David was raised in Iowa, where much of his family still resides and farms. He currently lives in Toano, Va., with his wife, Libby, and their two daughters, Colby and Dylan.

Habitat conservation is a family affair at the Norris household. Libby Norris is a biologist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and works across the state to address water quality issues impacting the Chesapeake Bay, while David works on projects to protect, restore and enhance wetland habitat in Virginia.

David's biggest accomplishments include the acquisition and restoration of habitats adding to VDGIF's Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), including the Beasley Tract in Virginia Beach, the Blue Wing Tract in Charles City and Cavalier WMA in Chesapeake. Da-

vid's projects are on private lands owned by conservation-minded farmers and landowners. David knows that landowners who understand the high value of wildlife habitats, over that of marginal cropland and timberland, are able to manage their habitats in ways that benefit all Virginians.

Ducks Unlimited would like to thank David for his personal and professional support of waterfowl and wildlife habitat conservation in the Commonwealth, and we look forward to his valuable efforts and experience on joint projects in the future between DU and VDGIF.



Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people.



DUCKS UNLIMITED

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