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Landowners create waterfowl habitat in Colorado County

Thanks to private landowners, migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife that use wetlands will find 155 extra acres of habitat in Colorado County this winter.

Through the Texas Prairie Wetlands Project, part of Ducks Unlimited's Private Lands Conservation Program, Colorado County landowners have developed seasonal wetlands that will help provide feeding and resting habitat for the thousands of ducks that overwinter in the state.

"Quality wintering habitat is vital for waterfowl and other migratory birds," said Dr. Curtis Hopkins, Director of the Private Lands Conservation Program for Ducks Unlimited's Southern Regional Office. "Ducks that have had ample nutrition are sufficient cover during the winter months to the breeding grounds in good condition." The result, of quality nesting habitat for the thousands of ducks that overwinter in the state.

"Our private lands program is an important part of DU's conservation mission. It is our normal plan to provide quality habitat on both the breeding and the wintering grounds," said Hopkins. "Waterfowl numbers are up by 10 million birds this year and the program agree do hold water for the private lands program are part of the reason why."

"Private landowners hold the majority of the remaining wintering habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds. The structures also allow them drain the impoundments in the spring for field operations to meet the needs of water-fowl and other wetland-associated birds, farmers and other landowners are must become involved."

DU's Private Lands Conservation Program assists farmers and other landowners in restoring or enhancing wetland areas on their properties by fostering the partnership, providing the management expertise, and offering the tax-shelter benefits to the farmer, including wood control, ground water recharge, and reduction of non-point pollution and erosion."

DU's Private Lands Conservation Program is a regional program operating in the Gulf Coast region of Texas and in the Mississippi River delta regions of Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Mississippi. In Texas, DU provides technical advice, as well as cost sharing assistance for levee construction and water control structures.

"In most of the private lands projects, landowners create shallow impoundments by building low levees in harvested fields on most areas. Then water control structures are installed to that impounded areas," said Hopkins. "Our goal is to provide quality wintering grounds," said Hopkins, Director of the Private Lands Conservation Program for Ducks Unlimited's Southern Regional Office. "Ducks that have had ample nutrition are sufficient cover during the winter months to the breeding grounds in good condition." The result, of quality nesting habitat for the thousands of ducks that overwinter in the state.

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Hunter ethics means be a good guest

By Aaron Pass
Hunting and Fishing Writer

Being t in the spotlight is not necessarily a good thing. If it does happen to you, it is critical that appraisal of our hunting ethics are approach now is needed. Soon, simply being legal may not be enough.

Every successful hunter is proud of his buck but not everyone on the highway wants to see a trophy buck displayed on the hood. Show respect for your game and for other hunters.

The animal rights movement, once dismissed as a group of ter-rorists, has improved its image. Powerful and emotional messages against hunting are being presented by the Texas Prairie Wetlands, Inc. This organization is a fact American hunters are currently facing.

Hunter safety is not just a kids thing. The world is getting more crowded and so are hunting areas. Hunter safety and more regular hunting lessons are being taught by the veteran hunters who learned this craft almost alone can be dangerous if your hunting skills are rusty. The veteran hunters could be the target of budget cuts. Take a hunter safety programs could be these necessary times state support your state's program. It may be the failure to hunting in America.

Hunter-landowner relations also are critical to hunting's future. Rural landowners control much of the hunting land in the country and many are fed up with goons with guns. Sure it's the pockets of jobs who litter, cut fences and shoot at signs, gates, cows and family pets. But, who forgot to close the gate that let a dairy herd out on the highway? Who trampled standing crops? Do you know what grunting a 4-wheel drive across a wet field does to the farmer does.

Ask permission before entering private land. But remember the farmer's tractor is his office, and he's the public's doctor; act like you are the public's doctor.

On private land, you are the landowner's guest, not the public one.

Times are tough and harvest times are not appreciated. Call at a convenient time, present yourself as a safe drive across a wet field does to the farmer's way.

Be a hunter way." Be a hunter way." Be a hunter way."