



AMERICA'S LEADER IN QUAIL CONSERVATION™

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# Quail Unlimited Chapter Newsletter

## HAPPENINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

SPRING 2009 ISSUE

### SPONSOR SCULPTURES FOR 2009-2010



The 2009-10 sponsor membership incentive will be an exclusive, life-size, collectible quail sculpture. The first year sculpture features a life-size, hand-painted male bobwhite whistling atop a fence post. Wild Wings has agreed to produce this very well crafted piece *exclusively* for Quail Unlimited. Everyone who has seen the prototype has loved it. The bobwhite sculpture will then be followed by different species in subsequent years. The

sculptures will ONLY be available to sponsor members of Quail Unlimited. After the initial year of production for any particular species, prior year sculptures will still ONLY be available to sponsors and will be offered at the retail price of \$250. Watch for additional information on this exciting series as we continue to plan for the upcoming banquet season.

### CHANGES AT QUAIL UNLIMITED HEADQUARTERS

Most of our chapters and members realize that management changes have occurred at Quail Unlimited. In March, Rocky Evans retired after serving as its president almost since its inception in 1981. Jerry Allen and Rocky Evans were the co-founders of the organization some 28 years ago.

We all appreciate his faithful service and contributions to the organization during his tenure. However, Rocky looks forward to his retirement and spending more time with his family and relaxing with his black Labrador retriever, Dave.

Craig Alderman, former Director of Marketing, was appointed by the Board of Directors to become the interim president. Craig has worked for Quail Unlimited as Director of Marketing since 2006. He has extensive business management experience and contacts in the shooting sports industry, which has led to some major corporate sponsors, including Kubota, Land Pride and Echo, joining the covey. Craig will work out of his office in Buffalo, Missouri, with frequent trips to headquarters.



Donnie Buckland will serve as Vice President of Operations and will manage the day to day operations at the headquarters in Edgefield. The headquarters staff has been reduced to a bare minimum and will operate as a "lean and mean" working machine. Our staff is extremely dedicated and strives to serve our chapters and members in the most efficient and professional manner. Commitments by our members and our chapters have helped grow the organization to become one of today's leading upland bird conservation groups. However, as your chapter prepares for the upcoming banquet season, please remember that every team member wears several "hats" and has numerous job responsibilities. So, plan early!

Quail Unlimited will also be using a new accounting firm; Cherry, Bekaert & Holland of Augusta which has CPAs who specialize in nonprofit operations. A new corporate law firm has also been retained.

## **MERCHANDISE CATALOG**

This year, there will be no new chapter merchandise catalog, so hold on to the one that you currently have. We will continue to use last year's catalog, but we will have new order forms, as well as some new merchandise flyers and new vendor direct programs available. The new order forms will be modified from last year to remove vendors or items that are no longer available. Currently, we are exploring new gun vendor programs with special pricing to be added to the current Benelli and CZ programs.

### **NO PURINA DOG FOOD IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER**

Purina, one of our oldest sponsors, graciously supplies dog food samples to all our Quail Unlimited banquets. It is imperative that you notify Kim Ayers at [kayers@qu.org](mailto:kayers@qu.org) of your banquet dates and to set dates as early as possible. Normally, we can accommodate some late shipments; however, if you want to guarantee that your attendees have dog food, Kim needs at least 60 days notice. **We have been notified by Purina that they will not be shipping any dog food in late August through the middle of September. Because of no shipments, if you have a banquet in August or September, we should already have your banquet dates on the master schedule so that you can have dog food available at your banquet. Don't miss out on your Purina dog food...get your banquet dates on the calendar early!**

### **BANQUET FUNDS SUBMITTED TO NATIONAL**

As most chapters realize, the return of some chapters' portions of funds have been delayed. We are working hard to catch up with those returns as quickly as possible. Chapters are no longer required to submit the entire 100 percent of their working net with their reports; they need only to submit the 40 percent that is due to Headquarters. **HOWEVER, THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP DUES MUST BE SUBMITTED AND ALL INCOME AND EXPENSES REPORTED. THE CHAPTER SHOULD CONTINUE TO COMPLY WITH THE DEADLINES FOR REPORTING. AGAIN, CHAPTERS MAY SUBMIT ONLY THE 40 PERCENT WITH THEIR FINANCIAL REPORTS.** For questions, please contact [sylviadavis@qu.org](mailto:sylviadavis@qu.org). Also, if you are interested in receiving credit on your account for future merchandise orders in lieu of receiving all or a portion of your working net, please contact Sylvia.

## **CHEVROLET "AMERICAN REVOLUTION" FORMS**

Your chapter should receive several half-page top adhesive bound "pads" of Chevrolet "American Revolution" forms in your pre-banquet package, along with a couple of Chevrolet caps. If your regional director is able to attend your event, then he will help collect these at your banquet. If your RD does not attend, then we ask that someone from your banquet committee assist in having these forms completed and returned to the appropriate person who is listed on the informational sheet that is packed with the caps. These forms are being used by Chevrolet as an evaluation tool to measure their support among their various conservation partners. Naturally, we want to be the group who submits the greatest number of forms. **WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE OUR SPONSORSHIP WITH CHEVROLET AND ASK THAT YOU HELP BY COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE FORMS.** As a suggestion, while folks are seated at the table for dinner, please ask them to complete the forms that have been previously placed at each table setting and tell them there will be a drawing from the forms submitted. After they are collected, have a drawing for the caps (two winners) and a grand prize winner (can either be drawn before or after the cap winners). The grand prize winner will be entered with other chapter winners for a chance for a bid hunter's slot at the annual celebrity quail hunt in Albany, Georgia, or one of two Richard Petty driving experiences.

Contact [jlocklair@qu.org](mailto:jlocklair@qu.org) if you do not have any of these "BRC" forms. We'll get some to you right away.

### **HABITAT REPORTS...WE NEED THEM... ROGER WELLS NEEDS THEM!**

Chapters are reminded to complete and return their habitat reports to Roger Wells' office. Every year, it's like pulling hen's teeth to get these reports submitted in a timely manner. This information is very important in the compilation of the annual habitat report. The report provides management, members and supporters with the accomplishments of our



chapters and members and their contributions to the overall habitat efforts of Quail Unlimited. Please make every effort to complete and return your habitat report. It's not nearly as bad as doing your income taxes!! Please remember, failure to submit a habitat report will disqualify your chapter from receiving some awards.

### **NO QUAIL UNLIMITED CONVENTION THIS YEAR**

Because of the economy and other factors, there will be no Quail Unlimited convention this year. It has become increasingly more difficult to host a convention each year and keep costs within reasonable limits. The escalating costs of lodging, food and meeting rooms at host hotels necessitates high delegate registration fees just to cover those costs. With most families cutting their budgets and limiting vacations, the decision was made to forego this year's convention and plan for the "big one" in 2010. Chapter award winners will be notified and certificates mailed to them for this project year ending June 30, 2009.

### **ARGENTINA DOVE HUNTS**

Chapters will once again be offered Argentina dove hunts for their fundraising banquets or raffles. We will continue to offer the four-man, three-day hunts and are also working on a new two-man, three-day hunt. These have been very popular and have been good items for live auctions. We have had absolutely no complaints about the hunts, and everyone who goes has nothing but praise for the hunts. We will send pricing and other information as soon as it is available. The hunts' costs will be listed on the financial report form and chapters are asked to write a separate check to Quail Unlimited for the minimum price of the hunt. Any amount over and above the cost of the hunt will be considered as income to the chapter and will be reflected in the report. Updated information will be sent to each chapter prior to their banquets. Contact Sylvia Davis at [sylviadavis@qu.org](mailto:sylviadavis@qu.org) for more information.

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES TO INCREASE IN JUNE 2009**

The QU Board of Directors has approved an annual membership dues increase effective June 2009. The

dues will increase from \$30 to \$35 with the chapters continuing to retain \$5 of the chapter dues collected. For a limited time, a three-year membership is being offered for \$70. Chapters may also retain \$5 of the three-year membership. The portion of the chapter sponsor membership that the chapter submits to headquarters that was previously \$113 will increase to \$125 beginning on July 1. This will evenly split the \$250 sponsor membership dues between the chapter and headquarters.

### **ADOPT A COVEY**

In-Bev (Budweiser) has graciously underwritten the popular landowner recognition program again for 2009. For the past two years, we have had between 150 and 200 landowners who have applied to the program and who have been recognized for their habitat work.



The enrollment period ends on June 30, 2009, and we would like for all our chapters to encourage their local landowners to submit an application. In so doing, they will receive a free gate sign and a habitat booklet. Another part of the program is the supporter program. For donations of \$50 or more, donors will receive a special gift kit which includes a wildlife print, a special decal, a lapel pin and a wildlife habitat booklet. Furthermore, for each \$50 contribution, you will receive a chance to win a CZ-USA Woodcock 12 gauge, over and under shotgun. More information is available on the website at [www.qu.org](http://www.qu.org) Remember, June 30 is the deadline!

### **ABOVE AND BEYOND RECOGNITION**

Several chapters and state councils have recently come forward and made additional donations to support operations at headquarters. We greatly appreciate their generosity and consideration during these times of financial hardship. The economy affects all businesses, especially nonprofit organizations. Those chapters that have provided additional financial support include **Quail Point, NC; Commonwealth Chapter, KY; Volunteer Chapter, TN; and Pueblo Chapter, CO.** Other chapters have taken merchandise credits toward future purchases in lieu of the return of all or a portion of their work-

ing net income. Additional support has come from **the Illinois State Council, the Indiana State Council, the Missouri State Council, the North Carolina State Council and the Southern California State Council.** These chapters and councils have gone above and beyond their call to support us and have shown their confidence in theor- ganization. We appreciate the cooperative spirit and the support of all.

### **MORE COVEY NEWS AND UPDATES NEEDED**

As always, we need more news from your chapter about your activities and especially about your projects. We know there is a tremendous number of successful projects across the country, and we need to share your success! Please take a few moments and snap some shots with a digital camera and submit them for the **COVEY NEWS** section of the magazine. Heck, we'll even help you write the article if you give us a few facts to go with your photos. Please submit your photos and stories to **[dkogon@qu.org](mailto:dkogon@qu.org)**. We can almost guarantee that your chapter stories will be published, so go ahead and send them in! We are also constantly updating our files with chapter officer changes with names and addresses and also important are your e-mail addresses. Please help us keep current with your contact information and notify Sylvia Davis at **[sylviadavis@qu.org](mailto:sylviadavis@qu.org)** with any changes.

### **QUAIL UNLIMITED TO INSTALL QUAIL HABITAT DISPLAY AT ARKANSAS FISH AND GAME COMMISSION OFFICE**

Craig Alderman and Tommy Borchert, Arkansas QU State Chairman, recently visited with the Arkansas Fish & Game Commissioners (ARFGC) in Little Rock, Arkansas, and attended a commissioners' meeting. For several years, Quail Unlimited has been the recipient of a grant from ARFGC to assist with a QU regional director position in Arkansas and to assist in chapter development. We are extremely



thankful for the support that they have given us over the years. Arkansas has established several quail focus areas in the state and has great potential for quail restoration projects. They have already achieved success with many of their projects. Steve Fowler, the Quail Program Coordinator, and other ARFGC staff have done a great job in Arkansas in promoting small game and grassland bird habitat. The Arkansas QU State Council plans to construct a diorama inside the Arkansas Fish & Game Commission office to depict quail habitat.

### **PRESIDENTIAL TELECONFERENCES**

Two teleconferences have been conducted by management staff with regional directors and state chairmen to update them on Quail Unlimited business and to allow input from state chairmen. We plan to continue these teleconferences on a regular basis to maintain transparency of the organization and to continually update our state chairmen on operations. We appreciate the time that state chairmen have taken from their work and lives to be active participants. We would also like to solicit any ideas our members and chapters have through their state chairmen.

### **SEED MIXTURES AVAILABLE**

This is the time of year for planting, and we have your seed for you! Quail Unlimited, in partnership with Sharp Brothers Seed Company, provides both an annual food plot mix and a warm season grass mix for brooding and nesting cover. Details and ordering information can be found on the QU website at **[www.qu.org](http://www.qu.org)** or you may call Roger Wells or Betty Richardson at 620) 443-5834.

