

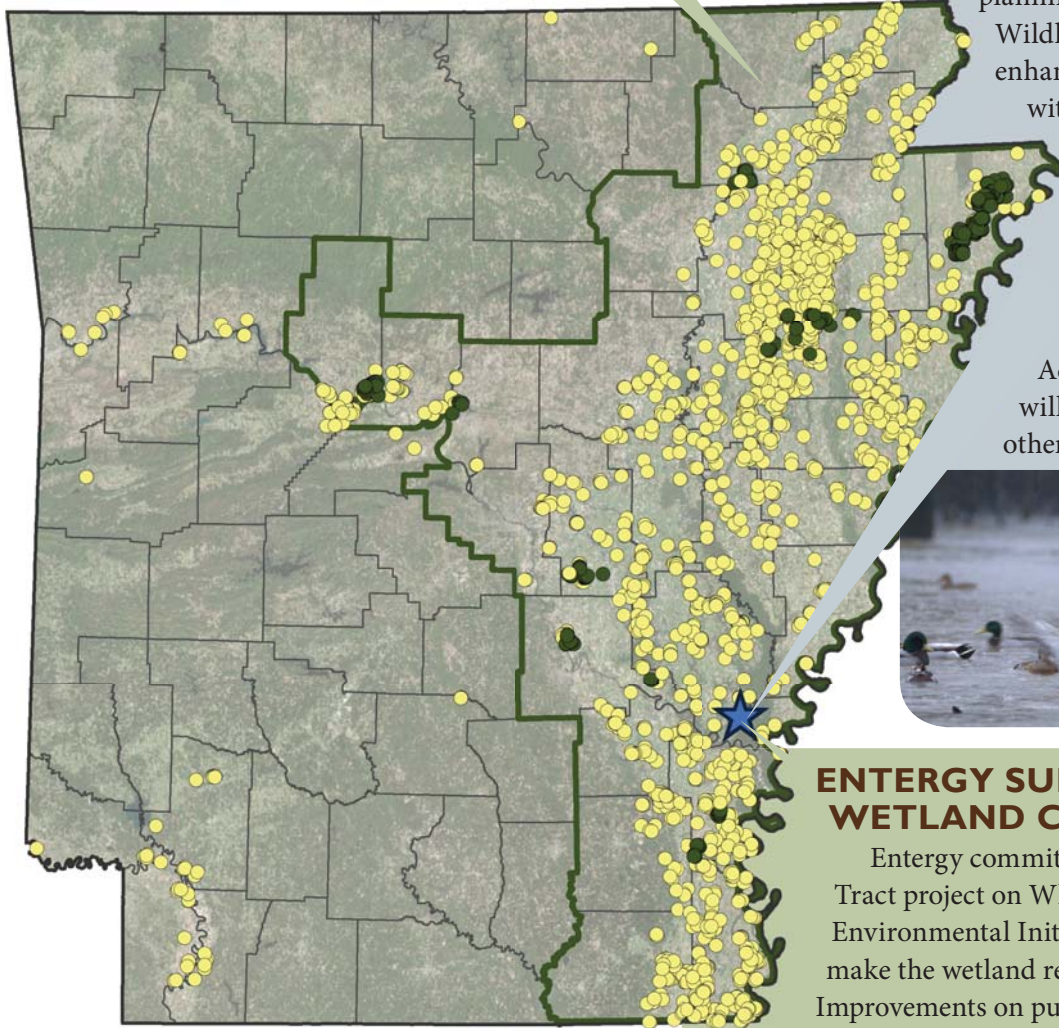
NESTLÉ PURINA LATEST TO JOIN RICE STEWARDSHIP

Full story on page 2.

TWO PROJECTS ENHANCE WHITE RIVER NWR

DU has completed one project and is planning another on White River National Wildlife Refuge. The Dry Lake project enhanced 121 acres of moist soil wetlands with management infrastructure.

The Turner Tract Phase II project will enhance 146 acres in two new impoundments. This project is supported in part by a recent grant from Entergy and a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant. These two sanctuary areas will enhance waterfowl hunting on other portions of White River NWR.



ENTERGY SUPPORTS ARKANSAS WETLAND CONSERVATION

Entergy committed \$150,000 for the Turner Tract project on White River NWR through their Environmental Initiatives Fund. Partners like Entergy make the wetland restoration work we do possible. Improvements on public lands like the White River Refuge enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for everyone, including Entergy's employees and customers. At the same time, we are enhancing habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife, we are enhancing water quality and flood protection in the area.

The White River NWR is one of the nation's largest remaining seasonally flooded bottomland hardwood forests. The area is part of DU's America's River Initiative, aimed at ensuring sufficient wetland habitat within the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley.



Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

- ★ Featured Projects
- Rice Projects
- Completed Projects
- Rice Stewardship Area

SOUTHERN REGION MARKS 2 MILLION ACRES

The Southern Region marked more than 2 million acres conserved at the close of Fiscal Year 2017. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, sponsors and staff, waterfowl will have more habitat and better resources for the winter across the 13 states of DU's Southern Region.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Volunteer fundraisers are the heartbeat of Ducks Unlimited, and Arkansas has some of the best. Arkansas boasts nearly 23,000 members, including more than 2,300 volunteers who hosted 105 events and raised more than \$1.4 million to support DU's conservation mission in 2017.

Since re-starting in 2013, the South Mississippi County DU chapter in Osceola has raised more than \$207,000 and is one of the fastest growing chapters in the state. Co-chairs Jimbo Bishop, Lee Malone and Stu Petty attribute their success to a strong core of more than 50 volunteers, with each person held accountable for their part.

Besides their annual banquet and golf tournament, the committee added a BBQ event, and two monthly Gun Giveaway events in 2017. The chapter also sells tickets on a Browning Winner-Take-All Giveaway, and then use the proceeds from this giveaway to help underwrite the cost of their banquet.



WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION CONTINUES SUPPORT

Arkansas's State Campaign Committee moved the major gift needle forward in 2017, securing 20 new Life Sponsors and 16 upgrades. Their efforts saw them finish in third place in the nation in 2017!

For nearly a decade, DU and the Walton Family Foundation have partnered in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley to improve water resources. In 2017, the foundation committed to a three-year, \$1.5-million grant in support of adding capacity for private lands conservation in Arkansas and across the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV). The new biologist will work with landowners and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to deliver Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) projects.

The Walton Family Foundation supports conservation solutions that make economic sense such as those provided through NRCS programs like WRP. The foundation has supported DU's wetland conservation work with more than \$2.7 million over the years, and we look forward to continuing our work together.

NESTLÉ PURINA, DU PARTNERING FOR WORKING WETLANDS

Nestlé Purina PetCare Company is the newest corporate sponsor of the USA Rice/Ducks Unlimited Rice Stewardship Partnership. Through a \$2-million commitment over four years, Purina will help keep working ricelands healthy, preserve wetlands and create habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. This commitment is part of Purina's long-term sustainability strategy to add value to the agricultural supply chain and ensure high-quality ingredients to feed people and their pets are available well into the future. Purina's contribution will support Rice Stewardship efforts, especially



those focused on young farmers. To date, 97 Rice Stewardship projects have improved 64,000 acres in Arkansas through the NRCS' EQIP and CSP programs.

Rice Stewardship funders include the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Walmart Foundation, the Mosaic Company Foundation, Nestlé Purina PetCare, Chevron U.S.A., Freeport-McMoRan Foundation, Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation, RiceTec, BASF, American Rice, Inc. – Riviana Foods, Inc., Delta Plastics, Anheuser-Busch InBev, Wells Fargo, Farmers Rice Milling Company, Horizon Ag, Turner's Creek & Bombay Hook Farms, MacDon Industries, Dow AgroSciences, Riceland Foods and Ducks Unlimited major sponsors.

ARKANSAS BY THE NUMBERS

2017

- **\$1.4 million raised**
- **105 events**
- **1,630 acres conserved FY17**

HISTORICAL

- **363,192 acres conserved**
- **\$52,268,565 invested**

AGFC's cumulative contributions to DU for habitat conservation in Canada: **\$6,634,500.**

(Information through 1/1/18)

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

Visit us online at www.ducks.org/conservation/sr



**SOUTHERN
REGION**