



MICHAEL PETERS

Rice Stewardship Efforts Continue to Grow

Two new field staff members have been added to the growing USA Rice Federation–Ducks Unlimited Stewardship Partnership. USA Rice has hired Josh Hankins as the new Arkansas Rice Stewardship Partnership coordinator. The coordinator position is funded by a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant the partnership received earlier this year. From his office in Little Rock, Hankins will lead efforts to deliver on-the-ground conservation initiatives by assisting rice producers with increased on-farm energy and nutrient-use efficiencies, water and soil conservation, and wildlife management. He will work in close collaboration with the Arkansas Rice Federation and DU's Southern Region staff.

DU's Great Lakes/Atlantic Region has also hired rice specialist Dave Wissehr as part of the partnership. Wissehr recently retired from the Missouri Department of Conservation, where he spent 35 years as a public lands manager and private lands biologist. He will cover rice conservation activities in Missouri's Bootheel, the only region that has seen an increase in rice production over the past decade.

To further on-the-ground delivery of RCPP goals, Mississippi, Louisiana,

Arkansas, and Missouri have all held open sign-ups for rice producers interested in working with DU and USA Rice. California and Texas will also have open sign-ups.

In partnership with the USA Rice Federation, DU field staff are working with rice farmers to provide prime wintering habitat for northern pintails and many other waterfowl species.

DU Welcomes New Minnesota Biologist

Ducks Unlimited recently welcomed John Lindstrom as its new biologist for the state of Minnesota. Lindstrom will deliver on-the-ground habitat conservation activities in support of DU's shallow lakes and prairie pothole programs in Minnesota. He comes to Ducks Unlimited via a cooperative partnership between DU and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in North Dakota, where he helped handle conservation easements on private lands.

Lindstrom earned his bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife sciences from Valley City State University in Valley City, North Dakota, and is currently working toward his master's degree in zoology with an emphasis on wildlife ecology at Southern Illinois University.

Minnesota is part of DU's 21-state Great Lakes/Atlantic Region. Doug Gorby, director of conservation programs for the region, said Lindstrom will be a great asset identifying projects in the state with the greatest impact on breeding and migrating waterfowl and then building partnerships to get the projects completed.

"We're excited to have John join our conservation staff," Gorby said. "He's a committed biologist with a passion for waterfowl."

Lindstrom was born and raised in Minnesota and is happy to return to his home state. "Ducks Unlimited is an organization that I've respected since I was a little kid, hunting and fishing with my dad," he said. "Coming full circle and helping restore wetlands and grasslands is a dream come true."

Lindstrom will be based in Litchfield, Minnesota. He can be contacted at jlindstrom@ducks.org.



John Lindstrom recently joined DU as a biologist in Minnesota.