

Blue Goose Alliance Bulletin

#1 - June 27, 2000 (Revised January 26, 2002)

What is the Blue Goose?

Some may not know that the Blue Goose is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System. But, it isn't the Blue Goose species which is the symbol. Actually, it is a stylized Canada goose, painted in blue on a white background. It was designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling and for years was used on entrance signs and boundary markers. After some years of non-use, it is being reinstalled as the nationwide symbol of the Refuge System.

What is the Blue Goose Alliance?

The Blue Goose Alliance is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization. Its mission is to promote the establishment of the National Wildlife Refuge System as a separate agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior.

General membership in the Alliance is open to all. There are no annual dues. It operates entirely on donations from members and others. Its general membership list is confidential. Because members are scattered throughout the nation, the Alliance is an Internet based organization and communications are distributed primarily via the Internet. Messaging is enabled among Alliance members. Anyone interested in joining the Alliance can send a blank e-mail to BlueGooseAlliance-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Why was the Alliance formed?

A number of people interested in the National Wildlife Refuge System came to believe that the time was right to organize a campaign which would lead to a separate agency for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Years of experience have shown that the Fish and Wildlife Service cannot install the type of organizational structure, provide the leadership, or obtain the level of funding needed by the Refuge System to achieve its full potential, i.e., to "Fulfill the Promise" made in 1903 with the establishment of Pelican Island NWR, the first unit of the Refuge System.

The Refuge System is America's only federal land conservation system devoted primarily to the conservation of our fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats. Refuges are found in all states and U.S. Territories. They benefit people in many ways including providing places to experience and learn about wildlife in their natural environment. The many challenges faced by wildlife in today's complex, human-dominated world require a Refuge System operating at its highest potential rather than one hampered by inattention and diversions.

How will the Alliance accomplish its objective?

A substantial and effective informational and educational effort is required. Many people within and outside the Fish and Wildlife Service do not support the Alliance's mission. Each probably has a slightly different reason, or reasons. Given the opportunity for open dialog and debate, it is believed that creating a separate National

Wildlife Refuge Service can be demonstrated to be in the best interest of both the Refuge System and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Accomplishing the Alliance's mission will take time. It would be fitting that the creation of a new National Wildlife Refuge Service occur simultaneously with the celebration of the Refuge System's Centennial, but that is not a fixed goal.

Does the Alliance expect Bulletin subscribers to endorse its objective?

No. The Bulletin is for information purposes only. Bulletin subscribers need not be Alliance members.

Where do these Bulletins come from?

The Alliance uses the email services of Yahoo! Groups to distribute the Bulletins. The Bulletin website can be accessed by going to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BGA-Bulletin>

All issues of the Bulletin may be found at <http://www.bluegoosealliance.org>.

Is there a cost for the Bulletins or the subscription?

No. The subscription service for the Bulletin is free.

Is the list of subscribers available to everyone?

No. The Subscribers List is not available to subscribers or non-subscribers.

Can email messages be sent to this website?

No. At this time, exchanging messages among Bulletin subscribers is not possible. However, a subscriber may send email to the moderators of the Bulletin website by addressing the message to:

BGA-Bulletin-owner@yahoogroups.com

Or, private email messages may be directed to any of the following addresses:

Les Beaty	lbeaty@bwn.net
Ed Crozier	ecro@aol.com
Don Redfearn	Postrest@aol.com
Phil Morgan	philm4@juno.com

Will Bulletins be sent out regularly?

No. The purpose of the Bulletin is to pass along current information relevant to the Alliance's mission. They may be published every few days or not for several weeks.

What is the best way to read the Bulletins?

Bulletins are distributed in two forms. A text version is sent as a regular email message, and a version in Rich Text Format (rtf) is attached to each email message. The text version can be read just as any other email message. However, to benefit from the formatting of the Bulletin, the RTF attachment must be downloaded and opened.