

Blue Goose Alliance Bulletin

#15 - January 26, 2002

Alliance Meets in Jacksonville Beach, Florida

The Blue Goose Alliance held its second annual meeting at the Days Inn Beach Hotel in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, on November 18 and 19, 2001. Last year's meeting was held in Tijeras, New Mexico, near Albuquerque.

The meeting in Jacksonville exceeded expectations. On the first day, the progress over the past year was reviewed. Beyond the necessary, complex, and time-consuming duties of becoming organized as a 501(c)(3), there were significant accomplishments in the areas of media and congressional outreach, as well as initial non-governmental organization (NGO) contacts. At least two major congressional outreach visits occurred and are continuing to be pursued, as well as several "feelers" put out. Numerous media events happened, including interviews and articles with High Country News, the Albuquerque Tribune article, and a notice and discussion of the Alliance and the annual meeting in the Jacksonville Times Union. Positive responses are being received from NGO contacts. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has joined The National Audubon Society in expressing unqualified support for the Alliance's mission. As the Alliance's educational outreach expands, others are expected to join the campaign.

The majority of the meeting focused on planning for the coming year. A brief, but to-the-point action plan was developed, targeted in four areas: NGO contacts, Congressional contacts, media outreach, and grant funding. The plan named contacts and identified Alliance representatives to make the contacts.

Several proposals for expanding the individual membership in the Alliance were discussed. It was decided to create a new membership category for those who are interested in the Refuge System but who cannot, for one reason or another, be actively involved in the Alliance's campaign. Similar to most nonprofit organizations who value their membership list as a proprietary asset, the membership list will be kept confidential. This also protects people from personal repercussions by virtue of their membership. Naturally, members in this group will be free, and encouraged, to volunteer their time if and when they feel inspired to do so.

It was also decided to form a separate working group of Alliance members which would carry the bulk of the workload in advancing the mission. This group would consist of the Board of Directors and other Alliance members.

More information on these membership categories will be made available when they are set up and become operational.

Finally, it was decided to not have membership dues at this time, but to continue to encourage contributions.

On another front, the Alliance is currently developing a new standalone Internet website, not associated with Yahoo! Groups. It will be several months before this website is operational. Once it is functioning, it will serve as a "home page" for the Alliance and will become an integral part of educational outreach efforts.

A new, full-color, professional quality brochure for the Blue Goose Alliance is also under development. This brochure should be ready for distribution in a few months. Once it has been printed, its availability will be announced in a Bulletin.

Six Alliance members were nominated and approved as new Board Directors. They are John Oberheu, Florence LaRiviere, Jim Hubert, Joe White, Tom Early and Mike Daulton.

The coming year promises to be even busier for the Blue Goose Alliance. The enthusiasm and commitment are present to make the progress required to achieve the Alliance's goal!