

# Blue Goose Alliance

## Internet Organization and Functioning

In order to serve its communication needs, the Blue Goose Alliance has developed a website and 5 related email groups/lists.

### Website:

The website is hosted by an internet company called Webfactions. They physically provide the online space for our website. The website's internet address is <http://www.bluegoosealliance.org>, and it has two main functions.

First, the website is our "public face". It is where we meet the public and provide our views. The more information we can provide, the better and more effective the website will become. The public, including congressional folks and the news media can find out about us and our mission here, as well as a description of who we are, why we feel the way we do, news alerts, past bulletins, questions and answers, and links to other organizations interested in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Second, the website provides private areas for the general members, for the affiliates, and for the board to conduct the business of the Alliance. The private areas provide links to the various email groups, archival documents, printable handouts, and much more.

### Email Groups:

There are 5 different email groups/lists supporting the activities of the Alliance. These groups are related to but separate from the website and are hosted on the internet by the same hosting service that provides space for our website.

There are 2 different types of email groups/lists. The first one is a distribution only newsletter type group/list. People who are subscribed to it receive information posted to it, but can not themselves post messages to it. The second is a discussion email group/list. Subscribed individuals receive all posting to the group, and can themselves, post messages to the group

## Bulletin List (distribution only list)

The Bulletin list is used to distribute Alliance Bulletins. People can go to the website and self subscribe themselves. Once subscribed, they will receive Bulletins as they are released. They can not themselves post to the list. The Bulletins are a primary means of distributing Alliance information to the public. An archive of all past bulletins is located on the website.

## Refuge Manager List (distribution only list)

The Refuge Manager List is used to distribute Alliance information directly to Refuge Managers across the country. Primarily, the list is comprised of all current refuge managers that the Alliance has been able to acquire email addresses for. They are manually subscribed and people can not self subscribe themselves - though any refuge manager who is not subscribed may ask to be subscribed. Refuge managers can not post to this group. It is an information type of newsletter distribution.

## Members List (discussion list)

The members list is a discussion type list for all *General Members*. All *General Members* receive all postings to the list, and any *General Member* can post to it. This group is available to anyone interested in the goals and activities of the Alliance. They can go to the website and "join" the Blue Goose Alliance as a *General Member*. It is a self-subscription email group/list. Information is periodically posted to the group, and members are encouraged to enter into email dialogue about the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Blue Goose Alliance. The *General Membership* group includes all members of the Blue Goose Alliance. Messages posted to this group will reach the entire membership. Postings to this group should be addressed to: [members@bluegoosealliance.org](mailto:members@bluegoosealliance.org).

## Affiliates List (discussion list)

The affiliates list is a discussion type list for all Affiliate Members. All Affiliate Members receive all postings to the list, and any Affiliate Member can post to it. This is the working group or heart of the Alliance. Individuals desiring to join and willing to work must be nominated by and sponsored by an Affiliate Member. Nominated and sponsored candidates are approved by the Executive Committee before becoming a member of this group. No one can simply "join" the affiliate ranks. This is the group where the business of the Alliance is done through electronic communications. While all Affiliate Members are also General Members, not all General members are Affiliate Members which means postings to this group will reach all Affiliate Members but not those General Members who are not Affiliates. Postings to this group should be addressed to: [affiliates@bluegoosealliance.org](mailto:affiliates@bluegoosealliance.org). Since much of the traffic of this group is developmental and/or draft in nature, it should not be released to the general membership (members group) until after such a time as it becomes official policy or position.

## Board List (discussion list)

The board list is a discussion type list for all Board Members. Regional Representatives are also included as non-voting members for informational purposes. All Board Members receive all postings to the list, and any Board Member can post to it. Affiliate Members are elected to the Board at the Annual Meeting. This is the group where the business of the Alliance's Board of Directors is completed through electronic communications. Postings to this group will only be received by the currently elected members of the Board of Directors and Regional Representatives. Postings to this group should be addressed to [board@bluegoosealliance.org](mailto:board@bluegoosealliance.org). The work of the board should not be shared with either the affiliate or general members groups until after such a time as it becomes official policy or position.

## General Information for the Email Discussion Lists:

There are a number of points that should be made concerning email discussion lists. First and foremost, messages posted to the group/list go to all members of the group and **are not private**. If you have a private message for someone, you should email them directly - not through the list.

It is not appropriate to post humorous or frivolous email to any of the groups. We all get a lot of stuff forwarded by friends that is either humorous, inspirational, promoting good luck, or something similar. This material is definitely not appropriate to any of the Blue Goose Alliance Groups. If you want to send something of this nature to a friend, you should send it directly to them and not through our groups.

The discussion forums are intended for open discussion from everyone. No one should feel like they should not contribute their thinking to the groups. Consequently, there may well be opinions or ideas expressed that you do not agree with. Each and every member deserves the courtesy and respect of the rest of the group. So please keep all responses professional and positive in nature. It is alright to disagree with someone, but treat them with the same respect you would like for yourself.

While the lists support attachments to the messages, the archives do not store attachments. Consequently, it is best to embed the text of an attachment into the message body itself, as well as attaching it. Doing this will assure the message in the archive file also contains the text of the attachment. It is still sometimes important to also provide the attachment, especially where formatting is concerned or you are looking for editorial assistance from others.