



PHOTO PROVIDED
 Chester County Ducks Unlimited Co-chairs Everett Stubbs, left, and Tony Pope shared Chairman of the Year Award honors at the South Carolina Ducks Unlimited State Convention held in Charleston on July 14 at the Francis Marion Hotel.

Pope, Stubbs of Chester Ducks Unlimited receive Chairman of Year Award

From release

Chester County Ducks Unlimited had a big night at the 2018 State Convention receiving the Silver National Excellence Award, Top 10 Chapter (third in the State) Award, and Highest Growth Award by posting a year that included the third largest event in the state and being fifth in total chapter income.

Only Columbia and the East Cooper Chapters finished higher than Chester Ducks Unlimited within the state. Columbia hosted an event in collaboration with the South Carolina Sportsman's Classic at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia and the East Cooper Chapter hosted their famed oyster roast at the South Eastern Wildlife Expo in Charleston to lead the way yet again for SCDU.

Tony Pope and Everett Stubbs received the "Chairman of the Year Award" as co-chairmen of the Chester County Ducks Unlimited. The "Chairman of the Year Award" is an annual award typically given to one chairman within the State of South Carolina who carries out exemplary service of their

Ducks Unlimited chapter through membership growth, sponsor growth, volunteer growth, green-wing membership (under 18 years old) growth, efficiency and overall dollars raised.

Pope and Stubbs co-chair the Chester County DU Committee and have a large group of volunteers that help make the Chester chapter a big success.

For the first time in decades, the state of South Carolina joined the top ranks of Ducks Unlimited placing 10th among all states in dollars raised for wetlands conservation among other qualifying figures.

New partnerships are being developed within the state as well. South Carolina Ducks Unlimited has teamed up with South Carolina Youth Shooting Foundation (SCYSF) as the top financial sponsor of SCYSF in furthering their mission.

A key element of Ducks Unlimited on the national and state level is to promote and further the mission of Ducks Unlimited through the DU Varsity Youth and Education Program. Pope as former state chairman of South

Carolina Ducks Unlimited was the visionary that put these two groups together along with the help of SCYSF Director Sharon Roddey (also of Chester County).

South Carolina Ducks Unlimited donated \$15,000 to SCYSF of which \$5,000 went directly to SCYSF members in the form of two \$2,500 scholarships for seniors heading to college this fall.

South Carolina Ducks Unlimited was able to gain over 700 new green-wing members (under 18 years old) as shooting participants in SCYSF events throughout the year.

SCDU's financial contribution helped SCYSF have the financial stability to lower costs for their participants while furthering their own mission.

Chester County Ducks Unlimited is proud of this year's accomplishments, but hopes to continue to improve. Pope and Stubbs believe that the volunteers and the many sponsors and members are who truly deserve the credit for the sustained success of Chester County DU.

"The people of Ducks Unlimited are what makes it one of the best conservation organizations in the

world.

The fiscal responsibility of what happens with the money we raise is just astounding.

Ducks Unlimited does a wonderful job of maximizing the efficiency of every dollar raised and multiplies what we raise by obtaining matching grants and getting funding from programs that double, triple, quadruple and sometimes match up to eight times the amount of money we raise to amplify the acres conserved.

"A pile of that money is spent right here in South Carolina too. Over \$40 million dollars from Ducks Unlimited have been put back in the ground of South Carolina.

When compared to the fact that SCDU has only raised about half of that it makes you feel good to give your time, energy and money to an organization that sees your state as a priority," Stubbs said.

For more information about what SCDU is doing, you can visit their website at <http://www.ducks.org/south-carolina>. You can find out more about SCYSF by visiting their website at <https://www.scysf.org/home>.