

PRESIDENT'S PARTING SHOT

WHAT'S YOUR LASTING LEGACY TO THE DUCKS?

by **JOHN CARLSON, JR.**, PRESIDENT

It is hard for me to believe it, but I am now over 55.

I have spent more than four decades chasing, studying, conserving and truly enjoying all things duck, and it all began when I was a child growing up in the Mississippi Flyway. My family and friends didn't just teach me to hunt; they mentored me on the value of the land and natural resources.

So lately, I have been thinking more about what is in store for our cherished waterfowl 20, 50 and even 100 years down the line. I know I won't be around that long, but I do want to leave a lasting legacy that will help my sons and future generations conserve waterfowl populations and protect hunters' rights in California.

So recently, my wife, Michelle, and I did a full update on our Living Trust and we added California Waterfowl, among other nonprofits, for a respectable bequest.

To date, 24 families have told California Waterfowl that they've designated it as a beneficiary in their wills or trusts, and we believe many more have taken this step but kept it to themselves for now.

You might think this kind of giving is just for people in the highest tax brackets, but nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, a legacy gift of your car, boat, house, life insurance policy or 401k may be the best way to make a substantial donation in the future that you couldn't afford to make in cash now.

And if your assets are considerable, a legacy gift can lessen the current tax burden on your family, and your family may receive estate tax savings down the road as well.

You can direct any gift to general CWA operations or to specific programs, such as Government Affairs and Public Policy, Wetlands and Waterfowl Conservation (which includes Wood Duck, Mallard, Pintail and Egg Salvage programs), and Youth Education. In addition, we also have a CWA Land Legacy Fund, managed by the California Waterfowl Foundation, which helps us manage our 5,000 acres of waterfowl habitat.

The most common gifts are:

Bequest: Designate CWA as the beneficiary of an asset by will, trust or other instrument.

IRA rollover: Designate CWA as the recipient of an IRA rollover gift in 2016 and beyond.

Charitable lead trust: You transfer your cash or property to a trust that makes gifts to CWA for a number of years. You receive a charitable gift deduction; your family receives the remainder at substantial tax savings.

Charitable remainder trust: This trust provides a specified distribution, at least annually, to CWA or a number of charities for a specified period, with the remainder interest also paid to CWA or other charities.

Life insurance policies: CWA can be named a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

You can learn about these options and more by joining the 17,000 CWA supporters who have signed up for our free bi-weekly donor e-newsletter. Just go to cwagift.org. You can also contact Gordon L. Nelson, CPA, CFP®, at 435-213-9986 or plannedgiving@calwaterfowl.org.

And if you choose to designate a legacy gift for CWA, please let us know so we can invite you to our annual appreciation dinner for legacy donors. It is a special event that is growing every year, and it gives like-minded folks a chance to bond and hear about our accomplishments, projects and future plans to conserve waterfowl, wetlands and hunting heritage in this great state.

Now that Michelle and I have made some decisions about our bequests, it feels good to know that we're not just mentoring our children on being good stewards of the land; we're leaving behind the means to support habitat and hunters' rights long after we've passed. I hope you'll consider doing the same.

Thank you for your interest in helping CWA continue its mission for the next 100 years and beyond. And have an awesome summer!



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