

Blue Goose Alliance Bulletin

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Alliance Announces New Membership Category

For some time, the Alliance has recognized the need to "open up" its membership to those who are interested in the future of the Refuge System but who cannot, for one reason or another, be actively involved in the Alliance's campaign. Similarly, there have been calls for a message forum in which people can share their ideas, questions, and opinions with others. Some might remember the old WildlifeRefugeReform forum as providing that communications vehicle.

To fill these needs, the Board of Directors decided, at the 2001 annual meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, to create a new general membership category that would be open to everyone. To avoid the cost of maintaining a paper-based membership system, this new membership group will be electronic and Internet based. It will use the same Yahoo! Groups facility used to distribute the BGA Bulletins.

There will be no annual dues for membership in the Blue Goose Alliance. For the foreseeable future, the Alliance will operate entirely on donations from its members and others. When special financial needs arise, there will likely be electronic appeals for voluntary donations.

The general membership list will be kept confidential. Only the group moderator will have access to the list of subscribers. Thus, subscribers to this group can be assured that membership will not be revealed. Each member will receive every message posted to the group. It is important to note and remember, however, that any message posted to the membership group will carry the sender's email name/address. If there are other members who recognize the sender's name/address, their membership will become known. Members can remain anonymous by either (1) never posting a message, or (2) setting up a special (anonymous) email address for the Alliance membership group.

Membership in this group will provide opportunity for electronic exchange of information about the Refuge System. It is a free, independent, e-mail network that is available to everyone, including organizations, active and retired employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, volunteers, and friends of the Refuge System. It will function as a continuous electronic town meeting that will allow subscribers/members to present, discuss, or debate issues regarding the Refuge System. It is hoped that all who participate will benefit from the bountiful knowledge and experience that exist among the active membership.

Joining the Alliance as a general member is simple! To subscribe, send a blank e-mail message to: BlueGooseAlliance-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Yahoo will send a subscription confirmation message. A simple reply to that message completes the subscription. Once subscribed, members can post messages to the group by sending an e-mail message to: BlueGooseAlliance@yahoogroups.com.

The Blue Goose Alliance group site address where previous messages can be reviewed is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BlueGooseAlliance/>.

Members who have not subscribed to the Blue Goose Alliance Bulletin, or have not been receiving their personal copies, can receive a free subscription by sending a blank email message to: BGA-Bulletin-subscribe@yahoo.com. Subscribers will receive a confirmation message. A reply to that message will complete the subscription.

Protecting member privacy and confidentiality is very important to the Alliance. Both will be carefully guarded. Any questions or clarifications about membership, or functioning of the eGroup, can be referred, via e-mail, directly to either Les Beaty (lbeaty@bwn.net) or Ed Crozier (ecro@aol.com).