

The Environment and Conservation

Ducks Unlimited elevates Dr. Karen Waldrop to Chief Operating Officer to continue DU’s expansion of conservation delivery footprint

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – April 27, 2026 – Ducks Unlimited (DU) announced that Dr. Karen Waldrop has been elevated to Chief Operating Officer. Waldrop joined DU in 2019 as Chief Conservation Officer and has overseen an expansion of DU’s conservation delivery footprint across the United States.

“Since Karen joined DU in 2019, her impact on our conservation delivery has been historic,” said DU CEO Adam Putnam. “Her steady hand and ambitious vision have helped guide our Conservation team to new heights – conserving more than one million acres in a single year, not once, but twice – and raised the bar for wetlands conservation across North America. Karen has a deep, unwavering passion for our mission and an

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infectious enthusiasm for preserving our sporting traditions for the next generation of hunters and outdoorsmen and women. Her continued leadership will be critical to Ducks Unlimited’s future success, and I’m thrilled to welcome her into this new role.” Under Dr. Waldrop’s leadership,

DU Conservation has expanded its reach, diversified partnerships, and established new benchmarks, often under challenging environmental circumstances. For the first time ever, DU surpassed one million acres of conservation in FY24 – and again in FY25.

“Working for Ducks Unlimited for the past seven years has been a dream come true, and I’m honored to continue working to conserve North America’s waterfowl habitat in this new role,” said Waldrop. “It’s a privilege to work alongside the passionate volunteers, staff, and members who make DU a uniquely effective force for conservation. Everything we’ve accomplished so far has been a team effort, but there is still much more work to be done to combat North America’s

continued wetland loss and habitat degradation – that’s a challenge we readily accept.”

Prior to joining Ducks Unlimited, Waldrop spent 20 years at the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, starting as a graduate student and lead researcher for the state’s elk restoration program. She progressed to leadership roles, including Wildlife Division Director and then Deputy Commissioner. Waldrop earned her Ph.D. in Wildlife Biology/Forest Sciences from Clemson University and both her Master of Science degree in Wildlife Biology/Forest Resources and Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia.

For more information, visit [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org), and be sure to follow DU’s Twitter feed –

@DucksUnlimited and @DU-Conserve – to get the most up-to-date news from Ducks Unlimited.

Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world’s largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America’s continually disappearing wetlands, grasslands and other waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has restored or protected more than 19 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science, DU’s projects benefit waterfowl, wildlife and people in all 50 states. DU is growing its mission through a historic \$3 billion Conservation For A Continent comprehensive campaign. Learn more at [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org).

Children’s book carries late author’s passion for wildlife

USA, April 23, 2026 — As wildlife around the world faces mounting threats from climate change, habitat loss and over-exploitation, the late author and activist Claudia Clark leaves behind a powerful call to action for young readers. Through her heartfelt children’s book, *Hannah’s Call to Care: How One Girl Discovered the Power of Protecting Wildlife*, Clark inspires the next generation to see themselves as protectors of the natural world.

Clark, who passed away in December 2025, wrote the book as both a tribute to Australia’s remarkable wildlife and a guide for children eager to help. In the story, 12-year-old Hannah’s quiet life in rural New South Wales changes forever when her father brings home an orphaned kangaroo joey, setting her on a journey into the realities of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

With the help of a seasoned wildlife rescuer, Hannah is introduced to the real work of caring for injured and orphaned animals: checking wombat pouches, freeing a flying fox caught in barbed wire, learning the truth behind a “cute” koala in a store, building a possum box and more. Along the way, she also discovers one of the hardest lessons in rescue work: the courage required to let go.

Based on real-life experiences shared by Australian wildlife rescuers, Hannah’s Call to Care is both educational and deeply moving. Written primarily for children ages 10 to 14, the book teaches that wildlife protection is not reserved for adults or experts. Small acts of awareness and kindness can ripple outward, creating lasting change. The book also features a state-by-state guide on how to report and assist injured or orphaned animals across Australia.

“This book offers an inspirational nudge to young readers,” Clark said. “Kids have so much compassion. They just need to know how to use it.”

Perfect for classrooms, libraries and family reading time, Hannah’s Call to Care continues Claudia Clark’s mission to empower young people to take thoughtful action for the animals who share our world. A portion of the book’s proceeds will be donated to wildlife conservation efforts in Australia, extending the author’s lifelong commitment to protecting these remarkable creatures.

For more information, please visit <https://www.claudiackarkauthor.com>. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of Hannah’s Call to Care will be donated to wildlife conservation efforts in

F.Y.H. = For Your Health

B.A.S.S. partners with Tedy’s Team to promote Stroke Awareness Month; Lake Murray Elite event to highlight initiative, May 7-10 in conjunction with benefit 5K run

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 23, 2026 — B.A.S.S. announced a new partnership with Tedy’s Team Foundation to promote Stroke Awareness Month in May, using the platform of professional bass fishing to educate anglers and fans about stroke prevention and the importance of recognizing warning signs. As part of the partnership, Tedy’s Team will serve as the title sponsor of the Bassmaster Elite at Lake Murray, May 7-10. In conjunction with the tournament, a 5K race and raffle will be held, with all proceeds benefiting Tedy’s Team and its mission to raise awareness and support stroke prevention efforts.

Tedy’s Team, founded by former NFL linebacker, three-time Super Bowl champion with the New England Patriots and stroke survivor Tedy Bruschi and his wife Heidi, is dedicated to raising awareness, supporting stroke survivors and advocating for



education around stroke prevention and recovery. The organization has worked nationwide to empower individuals with knowledge of stroke warning signs and the importance of immediate medical response. The event will be a focal point for awareness efforts, with anglers, fans and attendees encouraged to wear red during one day of the tournament to show support for stroke awareness and those affected by stroke.

A central component of the awareness campaign is educating fans on the BE FAST warning signs of stroke — Balance difficulties, Eyesight changes, Face drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty and Time to call 911. Recognizing these

symptoms quickly and taking immediate action can save lives and significantly improve outcomes, making education a critical part of the partnership’s mission.

“We’re proud to partner with Bassmaster for the upcoming Lake Murray Elite event,” said Tedy Bruschi, Co-Founder of Tedy’s Team Foundation. “This collaboration allows us to engage with a passionate community while raising critical awareness about stroke prevention and the warning signs everyone should know.”

The partnership carries special meaning within the B.A.S.S. organization. B.A.S.S. CEO Chase Anderson, a stroke survivor, has been a strong advocate for rais-

ing awareness and hopes to use the Bassmaster platform to make a difference beyond the water.

“Partnering with Tedy’s Team is incredibly special for me,” said Chase Anderson, B.A.S.S. CEO. “As a stroke survivor, I’ve experienced how quickly a stroke can occur and how important it is to recognize the warning signs and act fast. A message I would like to share with the bass fishing community is that Stroke is Preventable, Treatable and Reversible. Tedy Bruschi and the Tedy’s Team Foundation do an outstanding job promoting stroke awareness and the importance of immediate action. I was fortunate that the severity of my symptoms led to quick medical attention, but that’s not the case for many, as strokes often begin with subtle warning signs. I’ve stayed close with the medical team who helped save my life, and that experience continues to drive my passion for raising awareness. I met Tedy at the Bassmaster Classic Celebrity Pro-Am and was inspired by his commitment to promote stroke awareness. I’m proud to work together and engage our anglers and fans throughout May to make a meaningful impact far beyond the water.”

Through the Lake Murray Elite event and additional activations throughout May, B.A.S.S. and Tedy’s Team will work together to share educational messaging around stroke symptoms, prevention and the importance of quick response. The initiative will leverage Bassmaster’s reach

across events, digital platforms and social media to connect with millions of anglers and outdoor enthusiasts.

“This partnership represents an opportunity to use the power of our sport to deliver an important message,” said Phillip Johnson, Chief Operating Officer of B.A.S.S. “Our anglers and fans are a tight-knit community, and when we come together around a cause like this, we can make a meaningful impact. Working with Tedy’s Team allows us to raise awareness in a way that’s authentic, personal and far-reaching.”

The Tedy’s Team Bassmaster Elite at Lake Murray will showcase the world’s best anglers competing on one of South Carolina’s premier fisheries while also serving as a platform to promote a life-saving message.

For more information on Stroke Awareness Month and Tedy’s Team, visit [Bassmaster.com](http://Bassmaster.com) and [Tedyteam.org](http://Tedyteam.org).

Tedy’s Team was created in 2005, after Tedy Bruschi suffered a stroke at the age of 31. Their mission is raising awareness of stroke and heart disease while supporting survivors on their journey, giving them the means for a comeback. 20 years in and over \$15million raised, Tedy’s Team is proud to be a catalyst for change, in regard to stroke and heart disease. Tedy and Heidi, are dedicated to helping survivors through their new Comeback Assistance Program. Visit [www.tedyteam.org](http://www.tedyteam.org).



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