



## **MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION AND PHIL TAWNEY HUNTERS CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT BOARD OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

**W**ith the opening of the waterfowl season October 4, the Phil Tawney Hunters Conservation Endowment and Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) proudly announce the annual grant and scholarship program committed to our hunting, wildlife and outdoor heritage.

The MWF endowment offers a one-year grant of \$500 to \$5,000 to a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization as well as \$1,000 college scholarships. In 2008 the endowment awarded \$10,000.

Established in 1998, the endowment honors the late Phil Tawney, a fourth generation Montanan, lifetime sportsman and conservation leader. The endowment mission statement reflects Tawney's passion and commitment to protecting Montana's fish and wildlife, vulnerable habitat, and the future of hunting.

"To educate and inform the general public about hunting ethics, fair chase, and values to perpetuate the sport of the hunt through efforts to conserve habitat and wildlife; and to stimulate the recruitment, mentoring, and involvement of youth in hunting and conservation activities."

Land Tawney, Phil Tawney's son and endowment board officer said, "My mother, Robin Tawney Nichols, and I are proud that the hunting legacy my father felt so strongly about can be perpetuated by offering this one-year grant for a project that shows similar commitment to our outdoor heritage. This is a way to help clubs offer a 'living legacy' through conservation projects. By awarding both grants and scholarships over the past few years, the endowment has made a significant contribution toward fostering a conservation ethic through the eyes of a hunter. We look forward to this year's applications."

### **Grants**

The endowment seeks applicants that emphasize one or more of the following: the interface between hunting and wildlife management, especially issues that affect youth; strategies to promote environmentally healthy wildlife habitat; public policy changes to improve conservation habitat; strategies to improve and promote hunting ethics, fair chase, values, and safety; and activities to stimulate the recruitment, mentoring and involvement of youth in hunting and conservation activities.

### **Scholarships**

The Tawney Endowment scholarships are given each year to Montana college students with an academic major in a field related to conservation, who exhibit a commitment to general public hunting ethics, fair chase, and who support values to perpetuate the sport of the hunt through efforts to conserve habitat and wildlife. Students should contact college financial aid offices or MWF. Scholarships are to be used during the 2008-2009 academic year.

### **2008 Awards**

In 2008 the endowment awarded five Montana non-profit organizations grants totaling \$7,200 for their work to engage youth in outdoor conservation and two scholarships to students studying at the University of Montana, Missoula totaling \$2,800.

Grant recipient's included: Plains Public Schools after school Reach Archery Program (\$1,500); Arlee Public Schools, Archery in Schools Project (\$1,500); Centerville LEAP, After-School Archery Program (\$1,500); St. Ignatius Public Schools, Making Connections

After School and Summer Archery Programs (\$1,500); and Great Falls Shooting Sports Complex, Youth Shooting Programs (\$1,200).

Scholarship recipient's included: Michel Kohl whose major course of study is Wildlife Biology (\$1,400); and Peter Brumm a student working toward his Resource Conservation degree (\$1,400).

The deadline for grant and scholarship applications is December 8, 2008. For more information contact Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT. 59624, (800) 517-7256 or Land Tawney, Phil Tawney Hunters Conservation Endowment Board (tawney@nwf.org), (406) 541-6733. Students can also contact college financial aid offices.

If you would like to contribute to the Phil Tawney Hunters Conservation Endowment, please contact MWF or visit our website: [www.montanawildlife.org](http://www.montanawildlife.org).