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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***SCOTT C. PLEIN RECEIVES CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD***

**Manassas, VA – February 25, 2022** – Scott C. Plein, principal at Equinox Investments, LLC, was awarded the 2021 Conservationist of the Year Award by the Prince William Chapter of Ducks Unlimited at their 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser and Auction. The award recognizes outstanding achievements and extraordinary commitments to land conservation.

Plein, a member of Ducks Unlimited for the past several years and a Prince William DU chapter member, exhibits an unwavering commitment to conservation and has undertaken conservation efforts throughout his life that have demonstrated long-term benefits for water, soil, nature and human habitat.



Plein has worked tirelessly to promote environmental awareness and consistently advocates for sensible land-planning and a holistic approach to creating human habitat that adjoins with conserved and protected lands.

After purchasing the historic 270 acre White House property in Luray, VA in 2005, Plein established the White House Farm Foundation, a nonprofit educational foundation that educates individuals with the knowledge of and involvement in our natural ecological system, holistic community planning, conservation, and respect for local history and culture.

Through the White House Farm Foundation, Plein owns and manages the award-winning 380 acre Leopold's Preserve in Prince William County, VA, recognized as a model for preservation-oriented land planning. Plein is committed to the preservation of environmental and ecological systems, particularly as it pertains to finding a balance between human habitat needs and preserving our natural places.

The foundation also oversees the Plein Environmental Scholarship which provides scholarships to benefit graduating high school seniors in need of financial assistance who plan to attend

Northern Virginia Community College with the intent to transfer to a 4-year Virginia public university to study in an environment-related field.

Plein’s involvement, as a board director, with the Potomac River Keeper Network – an organization dedicated to protecting and restoring water quality in the Potomac – has included river clean-ups, educating the public on water quality, and of particular note, discussions surrounding the removal of toxic coal ash in Prince William County at Possum Point. Through his involvement on the newly created Possum Point Task Force, Plein hopes to help bring resolution to this important environmental issue.

As a recent member of the American Horticultural Society - an organization whose mission includes educating the public about earth-friendly and sustainable gardening practices and the restoration of historic River Farm in Alexandria, VA - Plein has been at the epicenter of discussions concerning this property which sits on the banks of the Potomac River. When asked about his involvement in this project Plein said, “I really hope to be able to facilitate outreach in the community, to make it aware of the important historical role that the River Farm plays in our community and as a place for learning about our natural and human enhanced environments.” Restoration of the riverbank and riparian area will include the elimination of invasive plant materials and the installation of native species.

In addition to the organizations mentioned herein, Plein has received recognition for his conservation efforts from Plant NOVA Natives (Champion Award), Northern Virginia Building Industry Association (Innovative Land Planning Award), Prince William County (Green Community of the Year Award), Fairfax County Tree Commission (Friend of Trees Award), and Valley Conservation Council (Better Models of Development Award).

“In light of Scott’s long-standing passion for conservation and the great outdoors, combined with his lifelong achievements and contributions to this important cause, we are honored to bestow this award to such a worthy recipient,” said Chip Rohr, PW Ducks Chapter President.



To learn more about the Prince William Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and how you can become involved at the local level, please contact Chip and Nancy Rohr at (703) 369-7821.

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*Ducks Unlimited Inc. is the world's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Established in 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 14.5 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent. Guided by science and dedicated to program efficiency, DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. For more information on our work, visit [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org).*