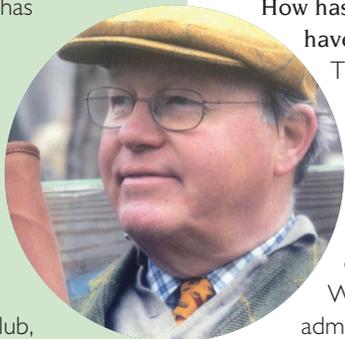


# The change in leadership

We speak to new GCUSA President, Ronald N. Beck, and his predecessor Bruce D. Sargent

**B**ruce D. Sargent has been a Portfolio Manager and Director at Morgan Stanley and its predecessor firm Smith Barney for over 50 years. Bruce is a member of The Gunmakers Livery, Mashomack Preserve Club, Camp Fire Club of America and The Leash. He has been President of GCUSA since 2009. During his tenure as President, GCUSA raised over \$4.0 million in support of GWCT, U.S. membership doubled, and its geographic coverage greatly expanded.



**How has the GCUSA changed while you have been in charge?**

The breadth of support has expanded, both in number of people and financial contribution.

**What have been the biggest challenges during your tenure?**

We had to improve the administrative support and structures to make them more professional and effective, an example being bringing Robyn Hatch (Director, GCUSA) on board.

**What have been your biggest achievements?**

There has been recognition that the US has raised substantial resources for GWCT largely through UK-sourced lots, but also from lots secured here in the US.

I'm also pleased that the UK estate owners who provide the lots, look very favourably on delivering lots to the US, confident that they will secure premium prices because of their quality and ambience.

**What do you think is the biggest issue facing game and wildlife conservation?**

The lack of understanding by non-participants of how the whole fabric of sporting interests fits into the wider countryside.

**Can you give your reasons why you think people should support the GCUSA/GWCT?**

Among the host of reasons to join, I'd single out the need to preserve the very important component that sporting interests contribute to the UK and the real economy – you only need to look at last grouse season to understand the economic impact.

**Why support the work of the GWCT?**

GWCT's scientific recommendations enhance the efforts of the sporting estates to encourage a flourishing indigenous insect and bird life in a well-balanced countryside.

Such efforts also include, for example, limiting "post to post" agricultural farming in the rural communities. ↩

**What is the GCUSA and why was it formed?**

The Game Conservancy USA is an independent organisation. Its mission is to promote the conservation of game and wildlife and their habitats worldwide through the support of the research and educational initiatives of the GWCT.

**R**onald N. Beck is currently an advisory partner at Oaktree Capital Management, LP, and previously co-managed Oaktree's private equity investment portfolios. He serves as the President of the Board of The New York City Ballet, and is a member of the boards of Lincoln Center and the American Associates of the National Theatre. Ron is also an avid sportsman who travels extensively throughout Europe and the Americas.



The work of GWCT is relevant to wildlife and habitat conservation globally.

**Where do you see GCUSA in 10 years time?**

I hope to accelerate the growth of interest in the GWCT research and conservation work. There are many opportunities for regional expansion of GCUSA, particularly by promoting the continued exchange of scientific research.

**Why is the work of GWCT important?**

The solutions to the challenges facing conservationists in the UK are global in their ramifications. Because of the rapid and historically recent rate of change to land use in the UK, there is an advanced awareness of how quickly local environmental changes can impact both native and global species. GWCT's long-term research projects and development of land management best practices will become increasingly relevant.

**What do you think are the main challenges for the future?**

The main challenge is getting people to care. Education and effective communication are critical. Today, everyone is bombarded with increasing quantities of information through expanding media, which poses a formidable challenge to conveying one's message. At the same time, the ever-increasing availability and accessibility of good information is a benefit that can be leveraged.

**What is the best advice you have received?**

I had a discussion in the early 1990s with Dr William Conway, who was then the president of the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York City. I asked him whether the goals of WCS were at odds with those of Ducks Unlimited, and he related that Ducks Unlimited had likely preserved more wildlife habitat in the US than any governmental body or NGO in history. It resonated with me that both the preservation of habitat and wildlife management are ultimately of great benefit to all of us who enjoy the countryside anywhere in the world. ↩

**Why did you take on the President of the GCUSA role?**

My wife and I lived in London for four years in the mid-1980s. As a result of those explorations, combined with our keen interests in outdoor activities, I developed a deep appreciation for the unique qualities of the British countryside.