

# Maryland Wood Duck Initiative

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## **ACTIVITY REPORT # 11**

**October 17, 2005 - Updates July 27, 2005 report**

### **1. Organizational Status & General**

*Website partially drafted. Standardized nest box profile & monitoring forms finalized and available. Contact us for details. Starting to expand nest box ID efforts, reporting compliance, develop work schedules & volunteers for the 2006 nest season.*

### **2. MWDI / DNR Partnering Agreement**

*2006 WMA plans finalized, implementation started. Materials for 100 nest boxes being procured. Freon canisters and donated boxes will supplement wood box totals in each area. Numbers still being defined. Need an industrial metal cutting capability to cut Freon canister lids off and a laser cutter for 3x8 foot sheets of 26 gauge flashing.*

#### **2006 activities:**

*Millington WMA (Kent Co) – phase 2 replacement of older boxes and moderate expansion planned (40+/-). More Freon canisters planned. Route maps being finalized.*

*McKee Beshers & Dierssen WMA's (Montgomery Co) – Phase one program of 40-50 boxes planned. Field inspection completed. Areas selected. Access arrangement defined. Existing boxes may total 80, 60 of which are maintained & monitored by Izaak Walton – Rockville Chapter (Ron Kuipers). Another 20+ may exist in uncertain condition. Box profiles of all boxes are planned and location / access maps generated. 2 DU chapters have indicated interest in providing nest box assistance and an inspection, refurbishment outing is planned by Montgomery Co DU and Md Waterfowler's Assoc. Program scope with credible monitoring access, could reach 250-300 boxes*

*Myrtle Grove WMA – 70+/- existing boxes maintained by DNR. Field inspection and scope for additional boxes needs to be finalized.*

*Taylor's Island WMA – 8-10 boxes planned due to recent success of private adjacent program. Program supervision to be provided by private sponsor. Site selection in progress.*

## 3. County Initiatives

*MWDI hopes to establish program coordinators in each county / region as nest box program sponsors and identification matures to a meaningful level in a given area. Presently, the Kent & Harford Co Initiatives have been organized. Updates on each County's activities are provided below. The website will have this information archived. Coordinators for most other Maryland Counties are being sought.*

### **Kent Co** (Cliff Brown, Coordinator)

*MWDI display was included as part of the Chestertown Wildlife Exhibition (CWE) Oct 14-15. New box programs have been ID'd as a result of this publicity. Implementation of CWE funded activities has started at East Neck (6 boxes and 8 poles installed) and Chesapeake Farms (3 boxes moved, 4 poles and guards installed) after approvals of the 2006 activities by the host properties.*

### **Harford Co** (Fred Gillotte, Coordinator)

*This Initiative is well advanced to collaborate on data sharing. The current organizations and private program manage approximately 216 nest boxes which are estimated to be more than 65% of the Harford Co. inventory. They have each traditionally managed their wood duck programs in a "best practices" mode and exhibit a very well established, diverse and commendable educational component. MWDI hopes to emulate their experiences across Maryland. Several cross – pollination benefits are expected to result from their collective participation in MWDI sponsored research projects and the development of new educational program elements. With support from MWDI, these Collaborators will take the lead in identifying the remaining nest boxes, additional undeveloped brood rearing habitat and potential new box program areas. Once nest data has been collected for the 2005 season, their traditional results / trends will be presented. Targeted research next season will include (1) the installation of some additional Freon canisters, (2) the impact on human disturbance and, (3) with other MWDI participants, predator guard effectiveness (metal cones versus PVC sleeves).*

*The wood duck program at the Izaak Walton Leagues' 350 acre Bosley Conservancy involves about 69 boxes. It was started in 1988 as a cooperative effort with the Anita C. Leight Estuary (part of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Reserve – Otter Creek area). In 2001, the Harford Christian School became involved to participate in monitoring and other activities. The Harford Glen Environmental Education Center maintains and monitors approximately 91 nest boxes in the Harford Glen marsh (Gunpowder River) managing the field activities of various grade school aged classes in the Fall and Spring semesters. The Harford County Ducks Unlimited Chapter manages about 45 boxes in Day's Cove in the Gunpowder State Park and the Sennett marsh (Baltimore Co) as well as 6 boxes in the upper Bush River. Rain River Farm (Ned Grassi) manages a successful 12 box program along Little Deer Creek and has the distinction of hatching the first woodies from a Freon canister in Harford Co.*

*Fred Gillotte, Bosley Conservancy manager, DU member and volunteer field editor for Waterfowler.com has agreed to help coordinate MWDI's activities in Harford Co.*

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## ***4. Nest Box Identification & 2005 Results***

*Please continue to provide referrals of nest box programs and [roved data on your own program results !! The sooner you check nests, the more accurate the results observed will be.*

*Your continued input is appreciated. To those I met or spoke with last year, I will be contacting you to go over nest profile and reporting forms I request you use to help us standardize data input*

**Cliff Brown**