

Maryland Wood Duck Initiative

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ACTIVITY REPORT # 12

December 6, 2005 - Updates October 17, 2005 report

1. Organizational Status & General

Initial website almost drafted! Even have a logo design in the works! Nest box profile & monitoring forms available to report 2005 hatch results. Contact us for details & email copies. MWDI has been accepted as a workshop presenter at the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators Conference in February 2006.

2. MWDI / DNR Partnering Agreement

Implementation of 2006 nest box program underway. 40 poles and guards being prepped for installation at McKee Beshers Dec 14th. Volunteer installation group almost finalized but can always use a few more hands! Holler if interested. 100 front panel sections cut – holes and ladders to be installed ahead of primary construction in Annapolis in early January. Millington WMA master reference maps being iterated. Volunteer source for a computerized laser cutter found ! Chasing details and implementation.

McKee Beshers – helped inspect, repair and add several new boxes sponsored by Izaak Walton – Rockville Chapter. Very good nest results. Boxes profiled, numbered and reference mapped. Reference map obtained for 10 recently installed Potomac River DU / MD Waterfowl Assoc boxes.

Myrtle Grove WMA –Taylor's Island WMA – no action since last report. Initial meeting in January.

3. County Initiatives

Coordinators for most other Maryland Counties are being sought.

Kent Co (Cliff Brown, Coordinator)

MWDI display provided at Kent Co DU dinner. Horizontal nest box program to try and thwart starlings planned at Chesapeake Farms. Obtained plans and protocols from Patuxent Wildlife where Frank McGilvrey has had great success over the past several decades. This passive approach seems to have been ignored as most contemporary solutions involve traps and gadgets. Eagle scout project being formed to assist this research.

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Harford Co (Fred Gillotte, Coordinator)

Fred has approval to initiate a new nest box program in excellent habitat from Harford County officials at Swan Harbor. Congratulations! Monitoring will be coordinated with Karen Cifranik (Harford Glen Educational Center) so an active school aged participation component is assured. Full details are being developed but a “show case”, extensive program is planned with an observation blind.

4. Nest Box Identification & 2005 Results

Please continue to provide referrals of nest box programs and results on your own programs !! Ask for forms to fill out or send data as you have it. The sooner you check nests, the more accurate the results observed will be.

Your continued input is appreciated.

Cliff Brown