

Maryland Wood Duck Initiative

Cliff Brown
Executive Director
3021 45th St NW
Washington, DC 20016
202-363-9857 ofc
703-447-5142 cell
202-363-7121 fax
[**cliftonabrown@aol.com**](mailto:cliftonabrown@aol.com)

ACTIVITY REPORT # 13

January 31, 2006 -- Updates December 6, 2005 report

1. Organizational Status & General

Final stages of website! MWDI to make presentation to Md Assoc of Environmental & Outdoor Educators Feb 4 in Ocean City to seek educational component help. Harford Christian School will collaborate and 3 students will review their WD program experiences. MWDI will also make a presentation to the Maryland DU Annual Convention at Bass Pro's Arundel Mills store Feb 4.

2. MWDI / DNR Partnering Agreement

Implementation of 2006 nest box program is underway. 170 boxes are being built.. IWLA (Ron Kuipers, Project Coordinator) installed 10 boxes at the Diersson WMA(Montgomery Co) and has organized another inspection and new box installation effort at McKee Beshers Feb 5th. Approx 30 poles and guards are now pre- positioned here and locations GPS'd. At Millington WMA, 8 additional Freon canister nests have been built and installed by DNR staff (Josh Homyack, Bill Martin, Edmund Cook). Myrtle Grove WMA (Calvert Co) – meeting Feb 6th. 70 current boxes. Replacement needs & expansion to be reviewed in context of historic use and habitat potentials.

A work program schedule will be circulated to solicit volunteers to install boxes at Millington, McKee Beshers, maybe Myrtle Grove as well as Chesapeake Farms (Kent Co) during the next 2 months. Quotes on water jet cutting predator guards are pending and we're still seeking welders with plasma cutting abilities to help convert Freon canisters into workable pieces to assemble into more nesting structures.

3. County Initiatives

Kent Co (Cliff Brown, Coordinator)

6 horizontal nest boxes are being constructed as part of the starling deterrence efforts at Chesapeake Farms. Box rationalization, replacement and new box installation (25+/-) together with some guard replacement will occur once hunting activities cease. A work schedule & volunteer need will be circulated. At Eastern Neck, only 3 boxes are left to be installed although nest materials need to be checked/ added to others. Contact with private programs will be initiated to seek profile data and final 2005 season results.

Maryland Wood Duck Initiative

Page 2 Activity Report #13, January 31, 2006

Harford Co (Fred Gillotte, Coordinator)

Meeting to be planned to review new projects and forms use for box profiles as well as educational program feedback from the MAEOE conference. Ada Stambaugh – Harford Christian School has produced a Power Point educational testimonial about their WD project for our joint use at the MAEOE conference.

Two other County Initiatives are being discussed with prospective Project Coordinators. Details should be forthcoming by the next Activity Report.

4. Volunteer Reward Program

A program to reward and help attract MWDI volunteers will be formalized in 2006. Informally, the program was initiated this past year to “reward” several volunteers for their 2005 efforts. Invitations to duck & goose hunt were the focal point. We envision that fishing trips, sports tickets, deer and dove hunts and other “value” items will be arranged to more broadly appeal to all volunteers. Awards will be by lottery with each 4 hour volunteer segment earning one chance w/ no limit on the number of chances. Details forthcoming.

5. Nest Box Identification & 2005 Results

Please continue to provide referrals of nest box programs and results on your own 2005 nesting program results !! Ask for forms to fill out or send data as you have it.

Your continued interest and support is appreciated.

Cliff Brown