

MARYLAND WOOD DUCK INITIATIVE

“A Total Wetlands Experience “

October 8, 2006 Activity Report #17

Updates the September 7 report

1. Organizational Status & External Affairs

Website set for Oct 31 launch. Presentation prepared for Chestertown Wildlife Exhibition, Oct 21. DNR has prepared 2 WD band recovery maps to use in MWDI displays. New flyer prepared for DU functions. MWDI poster displays being finalized for better dog& pony shows.

2. Education & Research

On Sept 19, 54 high school kids from 5 schools assembled 89 boxes in 2 hours for Aberdeen Proving Ground at the Harford Glen Ed Ctr. Special thanks to Karen Cifranik and the Center for hosting the event. Certificates and a laminated bird watching leaflet were provided each participant as part of the National Public Land Day program which funded the box materials. The Harford Co DU chapter provided much help managing the event (Scott Jasion, Chip Heaps, Chris Todd and Jason Scott) and they will play an ongoing role in program installation and supervision at APG.

On Sept 25, in response to a DNR Wildlife & Heritage initiative, MWDI provided 20 box kits and a demonstration building session to wounded combat vets at Walter Reed Army Medical Center who have now assembled the boxes to help develop fine motor skills for new prosthetics. Discussions regarding field activities have been initiated.

On Oct 21, MWDI volunteers (John Chew, Josh Homyack) will participate in a Youth Fair at the Chestertown Wildlife Exhibition where box kits will be assembled for Kent County public programs.

Donny McKnight of the Harford Christian School has completed documentation of the Freon heat testing experiment this season. He compared temperatures inside wood boxes and Freons in the same environment (partial shade) and found that temperature inside Freon canisters did not exceed 100 degrees. 106 degrees is the maximum temperature eggs can withstand. Details will be forthcoming. The results are encouraging.

The Maryland Envirothon has accepted a wood duck component in this year's project which is a competition between MD high schools. 40 boxes will be built, other details are not fully known. Kudos to DNR's Bill Harvey and Jim Mullan for injecting MWDI into this affair following Josh Homyack's internal presentation at the DNR W&H Service annual meeting.

3. Field Activities

Almost all 2007 planned boxes are now assembled except as mentioned above and metal poles obtained. Predator guards are now fabricated for MWDI use and additional private orders. Contact George Schumann @ gschuman@msn.com for more details.

Chapman landing 8 box installation is planned Oct 13th. Dan Wrinn is Project Manager for Chapman and the 3 box Piscataway program. Boxes, poles and guards have been delivered to Wye Island. Material logistics will continue the next month. 14 predator guards will be replaced at Black Hills park Oct 24.

Your continued interest and support is appreciated

Cliff Brown