

# MARYLAND WOOD DUCK INITIATIVE

*“A Total Wetlands Experience “*

## *January 31, 2007 Activity Report #19*

*Updates the December 14 report*

### **1. External Affairs**

*Website feedback has been quite positive. Focusing on informational updates, available Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. Content develop to expand as nest season data / pictures obtained. Volunteer inquires have leapt and a few new educationally oriented projects have been recently developed. I am out of contact until Feb 12<sup>th</sup> on other matters but things will accelerate after that. A detailed field schedule will routinely be communicated to those who have expressed interest in being involved. MWDI's short term goal is to finalize data from public lands for the 2006 nest season and complete project enhancements outlined below. Our supply of boxes for the public sector has grown and we can initiate several new projects if the interest exists, otherwise, we'll accelerate our Jug Bay program refurbishment.*

#### **Predator Guards**

*As a result of MWDI publicity and links to other organizations, over 100 predator guards are now being ordered from Indiana, Virginia and maybe Tennessee. Contact [www.PredatorGuards.com](http://www.PredatorGuards.com) for your orders!*

### **2. Education & Research**

*Assistance from 3 Boy Scout troops has been developed. A new Frederick Co troop sponsored by Joe Hafner, Md Waterfowler's Assoc, will inspect and likely adopt 12 DNR boxes placed in wetlands in the Frederick Municipal Forest. A site tour is expected early this spring.*

*Two other troops (Fairfax Co, VA and Prince Georges Co) have been active in box assembly. The VA troop will assemble 30 boxes for Aberdeen Proving Grounds while the PG Co troop made and donated 10 to the Jug Bay restoration project.*

*River Hill High School's Honor Society (Clarksville – Howard CO) will donate and assemble 10 boxes in conjunction with an MWDI presentation on March 7. The boxes will be allocated to new projects or help accelerate the refurbishment of boxes at Jug Bay.*

### **3. Field Activities – MWDI Public Project Areas**

*1,059 boxes in 2006 in 25 sites, various box conditions.*

*1,293 est. boxes in 2007 in 34 sites, boxes & guards enhanced, some boxes removed.*

#### **New Projects – 171 new box capacity**

*Swan Harbor (Harford) – 12 boxes, observation blind*

*Muddy Creek Park (Mont) – 2 boxes (subj to final OK from park)*

*Indian Head Naval Station (Charles) – 17 boxes*

*Aberdeen Proving Grounds (Harford) – 30 boxes phase 1, 100 built*

*Chapman Landing (Charles) – 8 boxes*

*Piscataway ( PG) – 3 boxes*

*Fairmount WMA (Somerset) – 8 boxes*

*Ft Meade (PG) – 6 new boxes.*

*Chicamicomico (Dorchester) – removed 22 boxes, repaired & replaced others. (85 box program).*

*40 boxes of 85 closed up for early nest season to achieve de-clustered situation, experiment.*

***Expansion Projects / Major Refurbishments - 76 new box capacity***

***Blackwater Refuge (Dorchester) – add 10 boxes, replaced 30 others (total 40 box program)***

***Black Hills (Mont) – add 11 boxes and 25 new pred guards (total 25 box program)***

***Chesapeake Farms (Kent) – add 8 boxes, replace 12 others (total 65 box program)***

***Cypress Swamp (Somerset) – replace 12-18 boxes, new locations. (20+/- box program)***

***EA Vaughn (Somerset) – 19 box program. Better assessment needed, replace and relocate likely.***

***Nanticoke WMA (Wicomico) – replace 6 boxes / guards. (6 box program).***

***Gunpowder (Harford) – add 10+/- boxes to create more singles, de-cluster placement.***

***Pred guard repairs / replacements. (51 current boxes).***

***Jug Bay (PG) – add approx 30 boxes & 30 replacements. Capacity increase to 230+/- boxes from 162 planned within 3-4 years and placement de-clustered. Need to finalize base reference data from 2006 nest season.***

***Other Project Areas***

***Patuxent Refuge (PG) – routine maintenance. (144 box program)***

***Calvert Cliffs (Calvert) – routine maintenance (19 box program)***

***CBEC (QA) – routine maintenance. Continue box orientation study. (30 box program)***

***Smallwood State Park (Charles) – reduce program to 10 boxes from 15 until utilization increases.***

***LeCompte WMA (Dorchester) – routine maintenance. (12 box program)***

***Idlywild WMA (Dorchester) – need 2006 results, Box relocations planned. (19 box program).***

***Millington WMA (Kent) – routine maintenance, some box relocations. (112 box program).***

***Eastern Neck Refuge (Kent) – add 5 boxes, some replace. Routine maintenance. (33 box program)***

***Wye Island (QA) – repair guards, add 4 new boxes. (6 box program).***

***Frederick Municipal Forest (Frederick) – 12 box program to be adopted by scouts.***

***Indian Springs WMA (Washington) – 5 box program. Status uncertain.***

***Mt Nebo (Garrett) – replacing 25 pred guards. (45 box program).***

***Youghihey Reservoir (Garrett) – routine maintenance (22 box program on MD side).***

***McKee Beshers WMA (Mont) – replace 4 boxes, repair guards, relocate some boxes.***

***(117 box program)***

***Tridelphia /Lake Needwood (Mont) – routine maintenance. Checking box condition after flood.***

***(17 boxes)***

***Myrtle Grove / Chicamuxen WMA (Charles) – routine maintenance. Need 2006 nest season data.***

***Some box relocations. (79 box program)***

***Lake Artermesia / School House Ponds (PG) – need to evaluate nest dumping & low use n one area.***

***(11 box program)***

**Don't forget to check the website Feb 7<sup>th</sup> for updates on events and work program scheduling.**

**We need pictures of unusual nesting & predator events or other “Total Wetland Experience photos for the library and training manual!! Your continued interest and support is appreciated.**

***Cliff Brown***