

## Maryland Wood Duck Initiative (MWDI)

### Activity Report #1 - September 28, 2004

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#### **Collaborator Status** - most recent activity

**MD DNR** - met w/officials Sep 20th. . Discussed DNR Advisory role, WMA cooperation/ coordination, MWDS goals and objectives. May meet Millington representative Oct 6th. Waiting on info re: habitat classifications and possible nomenclature conventions, possible use of wetland inventory layer.

**Chesapeake Farms** - meeting Sep 30 to review nest box locations, begin profiling boxes, discuss status of Kent County Initiative (KCI), 2005 nest box research projects.

**Ducks Unlimited** - various communications. Meeting Sep 30th.

**Eastern Neck Refuge** - seeking box location data and profile review date within next 3 weeks.

**Napley Green Farm** - sample box to be dropped off by Oct 7th for Greenwing DU group to construct 6 by winter 2004.

**Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage** - contact planned by end October.

#### **Local volunteer recruitment**

Initial discussions with Clint Evans - KC guide. Follow-up first week October. Alan Joiner - KC wood duck banding cooperator - meet in October.

#### **Habitat Survey / Database Activity**

Final aerial photos for KCI to be available in about 30 days. Nov 30 goal is to submit draft procedures and samples for comment before digitizing and categorizing the inventory of breeding, brood rearing and migration habitat for KCI. Digitizing training will also occur in the interim.

Preliminary habitat classifications have been submitted for review re: conformance with existing guidelines, nomenclature conventions etc. DNR providing assistance in this regard. Will also determine if existing wetland layer (via DNR) can be incorporated with aerial photos and overall habitat inventory objectives and database protocols.

KCI wood duck box locations to be digitized into the habitat layer this fall. Box profiles will also be data based as data is compiled. This activity will accelerate and include other Maryland counties box locations once a press release about the formation, etc of MWDS is distributed.

A source for Freon canisters has been located - Presidential Heating and AC (Gaithersburg). Accumulation of 30 canisters is in progress to make 15 nests. 2-3 will be installed each at Eastern Neck, Ches. Farms, Drum Point and possibly Millington WMA. Several will be used for a temperature study. Additional conversation with Union Slough former refuge staff indicates Freon canister use in wooded site areas will not have heat buildup issues. Box modification to enhance air flow may address any other concerns.

**Organizational Matters**

Discussion with the Minnesota Wood Duck Society indicates that they have now recently incorporated and have a website [www.woodducksociety.com](http://www.woodducksociety.com). Thus, a name change from Maryland Wood Duck Society is likely. They may agree to this designation regardless. TBD.

Announcement of the formation of MWDS is targeted for November 30th. A draft release will be circulated to all collaborators for review and comment.

Your continuing interest and assistance is most welcomed.

Cliff Brown

**Tuesday, September 28, 2004**