

# MARYLAND WOOD DUCK INITIATIVE

*“A Total Wetlands Experience “*

## *January 3, 2008 Activity Report #24*

*Updates the November 14 report  
See [www.mwdi.net](http://www.mwdi.net) for prior reports*

### ***1. External Affairs & Education***

*The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has agreed to provide free one year subscriptions to their Ranger Rick magazine for kids that participate in our youth activities. They will also fund 25 box kits this year and are making a banner for use at our various youth events.*

*The Maryland Envirothon also desires to sponsor another box building “ice breaker” session for their 90+/- competing high schoolers this year and MWDI will assist. Approximately 30-40 boxes will be fabricated.*

*Heidi Anthony of the Radcliffe Creek School in Chestertown has been named to Teacher of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. In addition to her other environmental educational efforts, Heidi worked with MWDI to establish a 2 box WD program on the school's drainage wetland which successfully hatched 23 ducklings last season. The kids loved it and we're pleased that her WD initiative may have contributed in a small way to her being recognized.*

#### ***Role***

*Youth box building activities continue this winter effectively utilizing our “working capital” of box kits we were able to obtain as a result of Delta Waterfowl and the NWF's support. The Somerset Vo-Tech school is now fabricating 15 kits after donating 35 boxes and, as mentioned previously, two Eagle Scout projects (managed by Tyler Littleton and Mark Salvaggio) are assembling 39 boxes. MWDI has about 15 box kits left for assembly if you have a youth or other group that wishes to become involved. Wicomico HS (Bill Giordano) reports Freon canister nest construction progressing well.*

*Embroidered hats and shirts have arrived and are being distributed to volunteers and others who ordered them. We'll circulate another order solicitation mid-year. We've got some inventory for new volunteers and look forward to running out! Thank you BG Partners for making it possible.*

#### ***Predator Guards***

*158 predator guards were delivered and are mostly distributed to the 15 private program sponsors who participated. Chappell Central in Minnesota can provide additional guards. See the website for more details. MWDI does not maintain an inventory of guards (or boxes) for sale.*

### ***2. Research***

*The full 2006 and 2007 Nesting Survey Report is still pending. Work has gotten very busy but I hope to get it out by the end of January. My bad.*

### ***3. Operations & Field Activities***

*10 replacement boxes were installed at the Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge in December. Kudos to Phil Poux, Ducks Unlimited Development Manager, and Rob Sentman, Washington College DU Chapter Chairman for their assistance. Kent Co. News provided a nice article and photo coverage (Thanks Charlie Campbell!) Financial support from the Chestertown Wildlife Exhibition & Sale continues.*

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## ***3. Operations & Field Activities continued***

*An inspection tour of the habitat involving an 80+ box private program on the Choptank River was also conducted. More such tours are planned as requests for program advice are rising.*

*Scott Jasion salvaged and delivered approximately 80 metal poles. (We're still seeking more to build a multi-year inventory.) Other non-wood supplies have also been obtained to support 2008 activities under the MWDI-DNR Partnering Agreement. 11 Boxes were delivered to be used at the Gunpowder River (Harford) and Stemmers Run (Cecil) projects.*

*Once our predator guards are available from the prison, 2008 work programs will begin in earnest. It will be a busy February - April period. I will be contacting all project managers and other volunteers in the next 2-3 weeks to begin coordinating these efforts. MWDI will post these volunteer opportunities on our website as they develop.*

Your continued interest is most appreciated.

***Cliff Brown***