

# MARYLAND'S WOOD DUCK INITIATIVE

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## ACTIVITY REPORT # 5

Update from February 8, 2005 report

### 1. ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS

Announcement draft, revised letterhead, website still pending. Focusing on field work for spring nesting season as highest priority. Creating Kent Co Private Land Box Program based on recent feedback. Followup to KC Initiative phase one completion at East Neck, Ches. Farms & Millington, seeking template approach for other counties. Advisory Board to be created.

### 2. Collaborator Update

2.1 MD DNR – Millington WMA. Feb 14-15 repaired & rationalized existing boxes. 5 man days volunteer labor provided by DU (C. Heaps), MDWI, Clark Farming and Chesapeake Guide Service (Tom Marvel) plus DNR staff (Josh Homyack, John Moulis and Bill Martin). Salvaged 30+, added 11 more donated by Drum Point Gun Club. Expect to obtain funding from DNR to buy materials for another 60 boxes, mid-March installation. MWDI volunteer labor arranged to build boxes and assist w/ installation. This will bring Millington back to its former status of about 100 boxes in excellent habitat. 2 Freon canisters installed.

2.2 Chesapeake Farms – waiting on preferred scheduling to work on existing boxes, add some new ones and establish certain R&D variables

2.3 East Neck – attempting to schedule March 2-3 for box work.

2.4 Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage – finishing Freon canisters to swap for predator guards. Planning visit March 1-3. Obtained input on portable auger to be obtained by MDWI.

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## **ACTIVITY REORT #5 continued**

- 2.5 Ducks Unlimited – introductions & referrals continuing. Ongoing discuss / emails w/ Reg Dir. (C. Heaps) & Kent Co Chapter Chrm (T. Crow). Presentation at Sponsor’s reception Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> arranged. Pre-announcement flyers to be distributed at Annapolis Feb 24<sup>th</sup> dinner. Kent Co Greenwing function Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> to build 20 boxes plus 10 from Wood Duck alley as initial inventory for KC Private Land Box Program.**
- 2.6 Kent NRCS office – will now seek existing box locations & brood rearing habitat candidates for new boxes re: data base goals & KC Private Land Nest Box Program. MWDI referral (Colin Jones) to Golts family results in 3 box sites, volunteer support.**
- 2.7 Other potential “collaborators” and project participants**
- **Maryland Sportsmen’s Association – interested. Meeting TBD.**
  - **Potomac Waterfowler’s Group – Interested. Meeting TBD. Group has 25 boxes in current inventory designated for Potomac River area.**
  - **Washington College (Prof. Bell) – letter sent. Waiting on response.**
  - **Chestertown Wildlife Exhibition (Bill Susen) – letter sent w/ Talking Points. Discussion. Positive response. Interested to meet w/ other members and evaluate participation further.**
  - **Harford County Educational center (100 boxes), the Bosley Conservancy (Otter Creek –Harford Co - 80 boxes) – meeting Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.**
  - **Riggin’s Promise Farm (20 nest boxes - Buzzy Abbott) – providing procurement and nest box construction assistance for Millington boxes. Adding 20 boxes to his 20 box program, 100% use in first year. Near Taylor’s Island, Dorchester Co.**
  - **Several other current and prospective nest box program owners contacted and response all positive re: participation in profiling boxes and nest monitoring. Details at a later date.**

**EOR**