

# Maryland Wood Duck Initiative



**Cliff Brown**  
**Executive Director**  
**3021 45th St NW**  
**Washington, Dc 20016**  
**202-363-9857 ofc**  
**703-447-5142 cell**  
**202-363-7121 fax**  
[\*\*cliftonabrown@aol.com\*\*](mailto:cliftonabrown@aol.com)



**ACTIVITY REPORT # 6**  
**March 7, 2005**  
**Updates February 8, 2005 report**

## **1. Organizational Status**

*Not much change due to field work. Advisory Board being finalized. Drafting website particulars. The Kent Co initiative and the informal, limited statewide awareness campaign has thus far resulted in or generated commitments to install more than 194 new nest boxes this spring. Field work has also resulted in an additional 50 boxes being salvaged while initial data base inquiries have caused numerous box cleanings and other R&M activity, heretofore, unplanned.*

## **2. Collaborator Update**

### **MD DNR – Millington WMA**

*Materials purchased and wood cut for 60 additional boxes to bring program to the 100 level. Assembly Mar 13th, installation Mar 14-15. Seeking a few more volunteers. MWDI has purchased portable auger. Chasing predator guards. Kudos to Buzzy Abbott, Mark Stevens, Brian McCartney for procurement assistance, shop space and helping!!*

*Information provided MWDI on snapper trapping, forwarded to participating nest box program. MWDI has lined up 2 trapper referrals for interested participants.*

*DNR has invited MWDI to present its program to the Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee, March 16<sup>th</sup>.*

# Maryland Wood Duck Initiative

Page 2 Activity Report, March 7, 2005

## 2. Collaborator Update continued

### ***Ducks Unlimited***

*MWDI pre-announcement flyer distributed at Annapolis, Ft Meade & Montgomery Co dinners. MWDI invited to present to Kent Co Sponsor Reception, Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

### ***Kent Co NRCS***

*Met Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>. Continuing to highgrade habitat areas for Kent Co Private Nest Box Initiative. Flyer referral and MWDI discussion w/Starkey Farms to result in new nest box program in excellent habitat near Galena. Level TBD.*

### ***Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage***

*Met Mar 2. Discussed box monitoring issues w/ Mike Rajacich. Will meet again and review how to enhance CWH maintenance and monitoring efforts on some 3,000 boxes through niche volunteer programs. Swapped 6 freon canister nests for 20 predator guards in short supply. Hoping they can meet Millington needs for Mar 14-15<sup>th</sup>. Provided referral to CWH for 2 new box programs.*

### ***US F&W***

*As a result of recent landowner complaints and challenges, the concept of transplanting beavers to selected MWDI participants' properties was discussed where wetland creation (i.e., prime wood duck habitat) is sought and where man-made permits are not possible. Consideration ongoing.*

### ***Chesapeake Farms (Kent Co conservation property)***

*Partially completed nest box cleaning, R&M activities. Installed second Freon canister as "acceptability" test. Hope to finish with rest of boxes, new installations and R&D project variables Mar 9-10<sup>th</sup>.*

### ***Eastern Neck Refuge (Kent Co)***

*90% completed work program. Installed 13 new boxes including third Freon canister. Located, repaired and cleaned 16 others. Hope to install 5 more new boxes in wood margin pond areas to balance the wooded nest sites which are almost exclusively used by screech owls.*

### ***Other Collaborator Discussions***

*Chesapeake Wildlife Exhibition – met w/ 3 board members. Recommendation to participate financially in Kent Co box initiative expected subject to MWDI proposal formulation as represented.*

*Wood Duck Alley Sportsman Educational Center (Galena) – interested to assist develop educational program aspects, box construction, etc.*

# Maryland Wood Duck Initiative

Page 3 Activity Report, March 7, 2005

*Chesapeake Bay Trust – initial conversation. Interested to consider ways to participate w/in their mandate. Data sent, followup planned.*

*Weather and scheduling changes delayed meetings w/ Harford Ed Center, Bosley Conservancy, RC&D.*

*No further feedback yet from Md Sportsman Assoc, Potomac River Waterfowler's Group, Issac Walton, Washington College. Introductory meeting w/ Md Dept of Env and other groups planned once field work accomplished.*

*Since the last report and in addition to the above activities, met with or discussed MWDI with additional owners or representatives of existing nest box programs involving another 175+ nest boxes.*

## GENERAL COMMENT

*The current perception is that Maryland may have between 6,000 – 8,000 “functional” nest boxes. MWDI has ID'd or has a “lead” on perhaps 4,000 of these at this time. This perception will be substantially clarified by July 2005.*

*Once the initial box distribution and profiles are known later this year. And once the extent of current box monitoring and maintenance is known relative to habitat / productivity perceptions, a “menu” of educationally oriented and focused volunteer programs will be developed for state-wide representation after consultation and assistance from those educational groups and schools that may new be sponsoring such programs. These efforts will be conducted in parallel with various private and public land new box initiatives which will evolve during the next 1-3 years.*

*Continuing thanks to all who are assisting MWDI. Every aspect is open to change and refinement so please sing out with your ideas, thoughts and “moans”.*

Cliff Brown