

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 # 7
March 22, 2005
Updates March 6, 2005 report

1. Organizational Status

Moving ahead w/ more detailed and complete website than previously planned. Now targeting May 1 rollout as a result. Presentation made Mar 16 to DNR Game Bird Advisory Committee. Presentation planned for Apr 3rd Kent Co DU sponsor reception.

2. State wide data base

With field work largely over, focusing on ID'ing all nest boxes in state and developing a perception of nest monitoring data quality. Increasing contacts w/ nest box program sponsors as identified. Referrals sought from mailing list recipients.

3. Kent Co Initiative – field work almost completed

With the final Phase 1 work at Millington and Chesapeake Farms completed together with the East Neck Refuge prior work, nest boxes now total 185+ up from 72 previous ones in various conditions. A significant increase in “private” box initiatives is also underway and will be reported as part of the Apr 3rd DU presentation. Habitat highgrading for the remainder of the county is in progress and nest box ID efforts are now elevated to complete the “inventory” of one county as a template experience.

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MD DNR – Millington WMA

Finished assembly and installation of 70+ new boxes which together with the repair of some 30 other boxes bring Millington back to its former levels of 105+/- . Still need predator guards and base map. Kudos to DNR staff – Josh Homyack, Bill Martin, Edmund Cook, John Moulis, Don Webster, Pete Jayne and MWDI volunteer's Kevin Colbeck, George & Hank Schuman, Ned Shuman, Brian McCartney, Mark Stevens, Buzzy Abbott, Jerry McCarty, Emory Eldrets and Randy. 26 man days of effort went into the remediation, assembly and installation of these 105 boxes. Ongoing nest box monitoring is about to be finalized. Details next report.

Chesapeake Farms (Kent Co conservation property)

Completed nest box cleaning, R&M and new installations. Now have 51 functioning boxes including 7 new installations. Nest monitoring adopted by Drum Point Gunning Club. Freon, camo nests and other “experimental” techniques being tested.

East Neck Refuge

Nest box monitoring adopted by New Yarmouth Farms (Clark Family). One box left to install on pole, Bring the total to 30 functioning boxes including 14 new installations.

4. Collaborator Update

Ducks Unlimited

MWDI pre-announcement flyer distributed at Frederick and Calvert Co functions. Obtained a second source for used Freon canisters, 20 picked up. (Thank you Corbin Fuel). Participated in Harford Co Ed Ctr / Bosley Conservancy meeting. Freon canister testing to expand.

Kent Co NRCS

Scheduling habitat review session ahead of Apr 3rd presentation.

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage

Plan meeting before end March to ID nest box locations and determine how MWDI can assist CWH's substantial nest monitoring / maintenance challenge.

US F&W

Ongoing discussions about habitat potential / nest box program candidates.

MD DNR

Various contacts, meeting likely in March. Historic WD band recovery data being provided.

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Other Program sponsor contacts / discussions / meetings held

Joint meeting w/ Harford Glen Educational Center, Bosely Conservancy, Rain River Farm (Ned Grassi) – Harford Co Initiative may be formulated, preliminary market research agreed. Aberdeen Proving Ground to be contacted among others.

Md Dept of Environment – program review. WD component in MDE projects a distinct possibility similar to Jackson Lane Preserve (Nature Conservancy project, Caroline Co., just completed). 6 boxes initially, expansion potential.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation – overview discussions pending, box ID – monitoring posture sought.

Meeting sought before end of March - Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Isaac Walton – National and selected Montgomery Co chapters, Washington College, RC&D . Numerous others identified and will be contacted in due course. MWDI goal is to contact every nest box sponsor group in 2005. so that most state wide nest boxes can be ID'd and a profile of current nest monitoring practices can be established. Referrals are actively sought from current email list recipients.

Thank you for continuing consideration and assistance.

Cliff Brown