

Maryland Waterfowler's Association Accomplishments



These MDWFA accomplishments have been made possible through the continued support of the organization's dedicated members. As we move forward in this new century, the MDWFA will be your voice to make sure that we, with our sons and daughters, can one day all sit by the fire and tell stories of magical sunrises over the river or marsh, with plentiful waterfowl, fine friends and loyal dogs. Here are a few of our more prominent accomplishments:

During 2007, the MDWFA:

- Added blind sites on St. Mary's Lake and Sandy Point State Park;
- Built and installed 25 Wood Duck Boxes on the lower shore;
- Inspected Wood Duck Boxes throughout the state with the Maryland Wood Duck Initiative;
- Held its second annual waterfowl Swap Meet in Trappe;
- Provided member survey recommendations to DNR for scaup season formulation;
- Held regional meetings around the state for members to voice opinions to staff.

In 2006, the MDWFA:

- The President of the MDWFA, Jeff Plummer, was asked to participate in the Governor elects Environmental and Natural Resources Transition Work Group Living Resources Committee.
- Reorganized as a new statewide organization with separate regions to better serve the diverse member population in Maryland, elected a new board and officers and appointed local field representatives within most counties;
- Exposed the Gunpowder Park blind site reservation abuses and finalized new corrective regulations with Maryland DNR for the 2006-2007 season;
- Successfully passed legislation allowing the Baltimore and Harford County Offshore Waterfowl Zones minimum yardage to be reduced from 800 to 400 yards;
- The Executive Director of the MDWFA was appointed by the Governor to be a member of the Maryland Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee;
- Assisted Maryland DNR in persuading the Atlantic Flyway Council to maintain the 2 bird limit for bluebills;
- Created a new membership program with more incentives;
- Created a new web site and newsletter format to keep you connected to all the waterfowling news around the state;
- Held several events for both members and non-members: first Swap Meet on the Eastern shore; the first ever annual member picnic and clay shoot in August; two raffles with fantastic packages; and most recently held the first MDWFA Maryland Retriever Gundog Championship;
- Doubled our membership!

In 2005, the MDWFA:

- Sponsored legislation (HB-380) through General Assembly to reduce the shore distance requirements, from 800 yards to 400 yards in the "offshore" zone for waterfowler's on the lower Potomac River.
- Made recommendations to Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to address management, hunter access and create additional hunting opportunities at Gunpowder and Susquehanna State Park blind sites.

In 2004, the MDWFA:

- Provided wood duck boxes for DNR public lands and private lands to increase habitat production of Maryland's wood duck population.
- Guided our future hunters on waterfowl hunts in three regions of Maryland.
- Was instrumental in motivating opposition of the elimination of non-landowner blind site access on SB-59 in the General Assembly in three Eastern Shore counties, defending vital public access for 2000 waterfowlers.
- Provided DNR recommendations from members for increased offshore hunting opportunities on DNR lands on the eastern shore and Monocacy River NWMA.

In 2003, the MDWFA:

- Defeated the Natural Park Service's second attempt to eliminate access to blind sites at Piscataway Park and assisted DNR on lease renewal.
- Assisted MDWFA members in Brunswick to re-open waterfowl hunting within city limits on the Potomac River.

In 2000: The MDWFA saved Upper Potomac River waterfowl hunting by defeating a proposition which would have allowed out of state licensing of the river and eliminated Maryland waterfowler rights and access.

In 1996, the MDWFA: Participated in the DNR Blind Site Committee that revised 70 years of waterfowl regulations in a comprehensive package that included a four-year commitment and contributions to the 2000 Omnibus Bill.

and in 1995:

- The MDWFA sponsored HB-74 to allow hunting by anchored boat on the non-tidal Potomac River.
- Created 3 additional access points on the Upper Potomac River with National Park Service for increased waterfowl hunting access.

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