



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Waterfowl Mini-Grant Program Open for Applications

Non-profits of all kinds encouraged to develop programs connecting people and environment

Waterfowl Chesapeake (WC) is excited to announce its second year of connecting financial resources with environmental needs across Delmarva through its “Community in Conservation” funding program. These mini-grants, supported by proceeds from Waterfowl Festival, offer non-profits and community entities the chance to receive monies for projects and initiatives at the intersection of conservation and community.

“For many years, Waterfowl Festival distributed a portion of its proceeds to projects across the region, with a focus on supporting waterfowl habitat in the mid-Atlantic flyway,” explains Margaret Enloe, Waterfowl Chesapeake Executive Director. “While WC is supporting a large restoration project in Blackwater this year, these small grants are a simpler way for us to build environmental science and communities at the local level each year.”

This program is unique for its three-pronged approach that recognizes that restoring waterfowl populations and wetlands means working across science, education and restoration at the community level. Waterfowl Chesapeake hopes that the broad emphasis on “community”, which draws on the Festival’s long history, will encourage organizations to think creatively about who they can serve and will help generate new ideas to bring people and regional conservation work, research and education together. In 2017, this program supported three initiatives: research into biological mosquito control to reduce pesticide use on wetlands, wood duck box construction and community engagement and efforts to get all Dorchester County 9th graders and their teachers outside and in to wetlands.

WC FOCUS AREAS

- Projects must be or support:
1. Initiatives at the intersection of conservation and community - a broad new category meant to allow for new thinking, projects and applicants;
 2. Education of current and future generations of enthusiasts, conservationists and educators;
 3. Research and scientific work of graduate students, volunteer groups and non-profits that affect waterfowl populations; and,
 4. Restoration & conservation projects to benefit waterfowl.

Interested organizations should submit a simple Letter of Inquiry & Support online at www.waterfowlchesapeake.org/community-conserv-funds by July 20, 2017. Requests *must* align with WC’s focus areas and make the connection between the project or initiative, the community of people engaged and waterfowl-related issues.

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About us *With a focus on communities, stewardship and the waterfowl-related resources and heritage on Delmarva, Waterfowl Chesapeake: Connects financial resources from the Festival and environmental needs in communities, Serves as a neutral convener for events, forums and discussions leading to solutions, and Engages and educates communities about the benefits of healthy waterfowl populations and habitats.*