



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Waterfowl Chesapeake Commits \$20,000 Toward 2018 Ducks Unlimited Restoration Project

Waterfowl Chesapeake is pleased to announce its commitment of \$20,000 in 2018 matching funds to support the restoration of two parcels of land in Dorchester County and creating 25 acres of “managed freshwater emergent wetland” – a favorite habitat for migratory waterfowl coming to the Chesapeake Bay region.

The land is part of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and has been planted in agricultural crops for waterfowl for many years. However, the ground is often so wet that annual planting has become nearly impossible and existing crops are no longer adequately supporting the birds’ needs. The restoration work will create a wetland habitat more suited to both the location and to meeting waterfowl’s lifecycle needs. The project is a partnership between Ducks Unlimited, the Refuge, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Chesapeake Bay Field Office.

“We are very excited to commit a portion of Waterfowl Festival’s proceeds toward restoration and conservation projects like this on the Shore. It’s very rewarding to be able to continue the Festival’s legacy of year-round support for our region’s unique waterfowl habitats and heritage,” says Margaret Enloe, Waterfowl Chesapeake Executive Director.

Work is expected to begin in early fall of 2018, once remaining funding is secured in the spring. When complete, the two wetland areas, which are adjacent to the Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, will give visitors to the Blackwater area even more opportunity to enjoy watching our winter ducks, geese and swan feeding and healthy wetland habitat.

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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.*