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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex  
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Volunteers Donate Over 13,000 Hours in 2007 to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge**

On April 22, 2008 Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) held a volunteer recognition dinner. During the year 2007, 109 volunteers contributed 13,004 hours of their time to Blackwater NWR. There were 37 volunteers and 13 staff members present. The event was co-sponsored by the Friends of Blackwater (FOB) who provided the buffet dinner at the Madison Bay Restaurant and Raw Bar, in Madison, MD. Following the delicious dinner and power point photo presentation on how the volunteers assisted the Refuge in 2007 by Maggie Briggs, Project Leader Suzanne Baird and Visitor Services Manager Maggie Briggs presented the awards to the Volunteers.

The highlight of the evening was the addition of two names engraved on the Volunteer of the Year plaque that is displayed in the Visitor Center. The Volunteers of the Year Nancy Kreek and Sharon Glock received a framed certificate in appreciation for the donation of over 600 hours and 880 hours respectively of their time and effort to many activities at the Refuge.

A Director's Award signed by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Dale Hall, was presented to Tom Hook for volunteering over 2,000 hours.

Paul Smail, Helen Davies, and Stan Trice received a 10 year pin for 10 years of continuous service. Chuck Mock and Lisa Mayo received certificates for 5 years of continuous service. Having already received a 20 year pin, honorable mentioned was made for Helen Combes's 23 years of service, and Harry Armistead and Terry Allen for 24 years of service.

There were forty two volunteers who donated over 100 hours in the year 2007. Two Volunteers, Brooke Miller and Sharon Glock, received a Blackwater NWR jacket for working over 100 - 800 hours for the first time in the year 2007. Erin Smail, Paul Smail, Nancy O'Connor, Mary Lynch, Jennie Rideout, George Anzalone, Merriam Brown, Tom Wolfle, Nancy Kreek, Wolf Hehn, and Charlotte Hehn received a vest and a brass name tag for their second year of earning over 100 -

800 hours, having previously earned a jacket. Donna Harms and Levin Willey, donated over 100 - 200 hours for the third year and received a 14 oz. copper mug with the volunteer logo on one side and Blackwater NWR logo on the opposite side. Erna Hammerton, Dave Wilford, Mary Konchar, Marty O'Connor donated over 100- 600 hours for the fourth year and each received a Blackwater NWR key chain engraved with their name, year, and number of hours that could be placed around their necks like a medallion on a red, white, and blue ribbon. Alice Zalik, Shirley Bailey, Jeannine Hook, and Chuck Mock donated over 100-200 hours for the fifth year and received an official FWS Volunteer T-Shirt. Frannie Malley, Mary Beth Goll, and Lisa Mayo donated over 100 - 500 hours for the sixth year. Each received a padfolio with the Volunteer logo on it. There were 16 Volunteers who worked over 100 - 500 hours for the seventh consecutive year. They each received a white polo shirt with the Volunteer logo on it. They include: over 100 hours - Pam Jennings, Madeline Parker, Helen Combes, Cynthia MacDonald, Duncan MacDonald, Gordon Jennings, Dennis Ewell, and Bob Hammerton; over 200 hours - Tom Hook and Cindy Bech; over 300 hours - Bill Reybold, Rose Mary McDermott, Thelma Insley, and Ron Tillier; over 400 hours - Peggy Tillier and over 800 hours - Zeeger de Wilde.

Award pins and/or certificates were also presented for the accumulation of total hours Volunteers have worked at the Refuge since they each began to volunteer. Award pins were given for 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, and 8000 hours. Those Volunteers who have accumulated 1,000 hours or more have their name engraved on a Volunteer Hall of Fame plaque displayed in the Visitor Center. For each 1,000 hours they have volunteered, they receive a goose engraved on their name plaque. Seven new names were added to the plaque this year with Paul Stone, Mary Beth Goll, Alice Zalik, Wolf Hehn, Dave Wilford, Charlotte Hehn, and Mary Konchar each accumulating over 1,000 hours. Others who received an additional goose for their 1,000 hours included:

2,000 total hours	Dennis Ewell
3,000 total hours	Cindy Bech
8,000 total hours	Zeeger de Wilde

Other volunteers received a 500 hour or 100 hour pins and/or certificates. They include:

900 total hours	Helen Davies and Paul Smail
800 total hours	Sharon Glock
700 total hours	Nancy Kreek
600 total hours	Barbara Stevens, Terry Allen, Priscilla Tolley
500 total hours	Ellie Butehorn, Donna Harms, Wayne Potter, Nan Beckley, Tom Wolfle, Mischelle Nalley
400 total hours	George Anzalone and Merriam Brown
200 total hours	Richard Ball, Ellen Myerberg, Arnella Trent, Mary Lynch, Nancy O'Connor, Jennie Rideout
100 total hours	Robin Benfer, Barbara Murphy, Elaine Wright, Brooke Miller

Other presentations included a ceramic traveling Volunteer mug to Harry Armistead, Terry Allen, Shirley Bailey, and Norm Saunders for leading bird walks, and a Volunteer lunch bag to Robin Benfer for her assistance in coordinating the volunteer schedule.

The Friends of Blackwater President Marty O'Connor presented Forester Dawn Washington and

Invasive Species Biologist Rachel Cliche with a \$50 gift certificate to the Friends of Blackwater Eagle's Nest Book Store for their terrific assistance (tree planting and GPS/invasive species activity) in the environmental education programs recently held at the refuge for all the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the Dorchester County.

The volunteer program, which started in 1983, has enabled the Visitor Center to remain open for the public when it would have been closed because of staff shortages. Their enthusiastic assistance and cheerful greetings are appreciated by the visitor and Blackwater NWR. If Blackwater had a full time Volunteer Coordinator, there would be a great deal more that this program would accomplish.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).