

**United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex  
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**March 10, 2009**

**INFORMATION: Maggie Briggs**

**410-228-2677**

### **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Initiates Wild Turkey Hunt**

Refuge Manager Suzanne Baird announces that Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is accepting applications for the 2009 spring turkey hunt. The hunt season will be Tuesdays and Saturdays during April 18, 2009 – May 23, 2009. Permit applications may be picked up at the refuge Visitor Center on Key Wallace Drive between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on week days and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekends. Applications accompanied by an administration fee of \$10.00 will be accepted by **mail only** and must be postmarked by March 21. Check or money order can be made payable to the **Friends of Blackwater**. Permits will be drawn by lottery and each successful hunter will be selected for one day only. Hunters wishing to qualify for the drawing hunt in Area B1 must provide a completed Blackwater NWR Physician Certification of Disability or a copy of an approved Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife & Heritage Service Application for Permit to Hunt from a Vehicle, along with the Turkey Hunt application.

A Youth Turkey Hunt will be held on Saturday April 11. Youth hunters must be at least 10 years old but less than 16 years old to participate and accompanied by a licensed or exempt from licensed, non-hunting adult, 21 or older.

All hunting will follow Maryland State regulations and bag limits, and all hunters must possess a valid refuge hunting permit, a Maryland State hunting license and photo identification. A daily maximum of 14 hunters will be selected for each of the 11 turkey hunting days. Scouting will only be permitted on the day before your hunt day from 5:00am till noon. If you have any further questions, please contact the Blackwater NWR hunt coordinator at 410-228-5018.

*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).*