



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge  
2145 Key Wallace Drive  
Cambridge, Maryland 21613

### **News Release**

For Immediate Release: March 20, 2008

Information: Thomas Miller, 410-228-2677; Dawn Washington, 410-228-2692x108

### **Blackwater NWR to Celebrate Earth Day with Tree Planting and Litter Removal**

In celebration of Earth Day 2008, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge invites the public to become an environmental steward by participating in litter cleanup and tree planting activities at the refuge in April. Come out to the refuge and work with staff, Friends of Blackwater members and other volunteers as we clean up refuge roads and restore forest habitat. Help us continue a tradition that was begun in 1970, when over 20 million people pledged to help the environment during the first Earth Day.

Blackwater NWR's Annual Earth Day Litter Pick-Up will be held on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Trash will be collected from the roads around Blackwater NWR, beginning at the Blackwater Visitor Center at 2145 Key Wallace Drive. Snacks and drinks will be supplied by the Friends of Blackwater for everyone who comes. Individuals and groups of all ages are invited, and low-traffic litter areas will be set aside for those with young children. Participants are encouraged to bring gloves and wear brightly colored clothes for working along the roads. If you, your family, or your organization is interested in joining in the Litter Pick-up, or if you need more information, please contact Refuge Ranger Tom Miller at 410-228-2677.

Blackwater NWR will also celebrate Earth Day by planting 11,000 trees on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be two planting times on each day: 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers will meet at the Refuge Environmental Education Building located on Blackwater's Wildlife Drive at 8:45 a.m. or 12:45 p.m. on both days. Please wear clothes that can get dirty, boots or old shoes, and gloves. Drinks and snacks will be provided for all the tree planters. Groups or individuals who would like to participate in this event are encouraged to sign up by calling Refuge Forester Dawn Washington at 410-228-2692, x108.

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).

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