



DELAWARE WILD LANDS NEWS

Update

DECEMBER 01, 2005

DELAWARE WILD LANDS, INC.

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Administrative Assistant

JACK DUKES
Land and Farm Manager

IMMINENT MAJOR ACQUISITION

Delaware Wild Lands, Inc., in partnership with The Conservation Fund and others, is just weeks away from completing a major acquisition in southeastern New Castle County.

A remarkable combination of rolling uplands, steep slopes, old growth forest and pristine coastal saltmarsh, this breathtaking property of 430 acres contains excellent examples of both coastal plain and piedmont topography on the same property and has very strong potential for both upland and marsh waterfowl management.

We anticipate settlement on this acquisition, the most costly in our history, to occur in December. At that time a formal announcement will be made and will outline the unique partnership that made it possible.

TRANSFER OF ANGOLA NECK HOLDINGS TO STATE OF DELAWARE WILD LANDS

Delaware Wild Lands, Inc. began acquiring properties in the Angola Neck area on the western side of Rehoboth Bay in 1967, nearly 40 years ago. It was the beginning of an effort to preserve a significant portion of those unspoiled lands before they were developed out of existence. Over the next fifteen years or so we purchased nearly twenty parcels ranging in size from 1/2 acre to 348 acres and totaling 750 acres.

By 1990 we realized that although a meaningful amount of acreage was acquired, it fell short of achieving a reasonable balance between protected

natural land and development property in the Rehoboth Bay region. We began negotiating with the State of Delaware in an attempt to place the lands in public ownership. Finally, some fifteen years later, the bulk of the holdings were transferred to the State of Delaware last August under a generous bargain sale agreement whereby the properties will be managed by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. It's Division of Parks and Recreation will operate it as a low-impact State park designed to strongly protect its unspoiled natural qualities.

PHRAGMITES CONTROL

In last year's Update we reported that our Phragmites Control Program had begun in earnest with over 1,000 acres of the pest plant being sprayed, representing a large part of our holdings at Taylor's Bridge. We also expressed hope that control measures could begin on our Kent and Sussex County holdings by 2006.

Thanks again to a major cost-share program offered by the State and Federal governments, together with a liberalization of the maximum acreage limits, we were able to treat phragmites on all of our New Castle and Kent County holdings this fall.

Although the final figures are not in yet, we estimate that approximately 4,000 acres of phragmites have been sprayed. Most of the phragmites on our Sussex County properties was on the Angola Neck area on the western portion of Rehoboth Bay. These lands were transferred to the State of Delaware last August so it is no longer our responsibility. Phragmites is not a major problem in our Cypress Swamp holdings at present, but control measures will begin within two years.



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AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

On February 26, 2005 the Delaware Branch of the National Quality Deer Management Association presented Delaware Wild Lands, Inc. with its 2004 Private Sector Quality Deer Management Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Implementation of Quality Deer Management on Private Lands and Critical Natural Areas.

This was in recognition of Delaware Wild Lands, Inc.'s role in promoting and practicing the best principles of the Quality Deer Management Association, mainly through our Field Ecologist Pete Martin's enthusiastic and tireless efforts statewide.

On September 15, 2005 Delaware Wild Lands, Inc. Executive Director Holger H. (Rusty) Harvey was awarded Ducks Unlimited's Conservation Service Award.

This award was for outstanding contributions to the cause of migratory waterfowl conservation and the preservation of North America's waterfowl heritage for generations to come.

Delaware Wild Lands has won this award previously, but this is the first time Rusty has been individually honored.

GREAT CYPRESS SWAMP OLIPHANT PROPERTY FISHER HOMESTEAD RESTORATION

Delaware Wild Lands, Inc. has entered into a contract with David W. Dutton and the Architect and Engineering firm of George Miles and Buhr, LLC to develop recommendations and a restoration plan for our Roman Fisher Farm. This is a follow up on the Sussex Historical Planner, Brian Page, report that identified this farmstead to be of high preservation value. The plan will delineate structures of high value and the method of site restoration.

The farmstead defines a cultural legacy that developed within the natural history environment of the Great Cypress Swamp and represents an opportunity for Delaware Wild Lands to preserve this legacy. We hope to have the completed plan sometime during the summer of 2006.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Susan Crawford retired as Administrative Assistant after twenty-four years of exemplary service to Delaware Wild Lands. She has moved to Lewes to enjoy her beloved beach and its peaceful lifestyle, but rumor has it that she will come back up to New Castle County from time to time, especially during waterfowl season. All of us wish her all the best and hope she will drop in and visit occasionally.

Debbie Turner joined us as Administrative Assistant in May, starting one day before our Annual Meeting, a truly brave endeavor. She has quickly learned the ropes and is doing an excellent job running the office and performing all of the unexpected tasks that go with the territory. We are delighted to have her here. Please stop in and meet her.

GREAT CYPRESS SWAMP COMPREHENSIVE FORESTRY PLAN UNDER DEVELOPMENT

This past spring, Delaware Wild Lands entered into an agreement with Vision Forestry, LLC to develop a comprehensive sustainable forest plan for our Great Cypress Swamp property. Vision Forestry is a regional innovator and leader in the management of forest lands for habitat protection and enhancement as well as for sustainable and certified forestry product operations. They have worked closely with The Conservation Fund to develop plans for the Chesapeake Forest lands acquired by the State of Maryland. Although our requirements differ somewhat from the State of Maryland, many of the features of our properties are similar. The plan will consider biodiversity preservation and enhancement as well as habitat restorations for Atlantic white cedar and bald cypress wetland associated communities. In addition, the plan will include certified sustainable forestry operations under both The Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative guidelines. Delaware Wild Lands will be the first in Delaware to conduct certified sustainable forestry under both guidelines.

Central to the development of the plan is an inventory of the resources currently present on our property. We have conducted numerous surveys including our 1978 forest cover type inventory and more recently the 1999 Delaware Natural Heritage Program EPA-funded study. In addition, we have considerable geological and hydrological data developed by DeDOT when they were considering development of a wetlands mitigation bank on parts of our property. We, however, needed a more accurate survey of the entire property. Vision Forestry has developed a relationship with the forest management services group at WINROCK, International. WINROCK is a non-profit technology based organization that works worldwide to encourage sustainable use of natural resources. WINROCK has developed a computerized system and analysis program, Multi-Spectral Three-Dimension Aerial Digital Imagery (M3DADI). The system utilizes high resolution stereo imagery that can distinguish individual trees, crown areas and heights. The resultant data can then be used to estimate biomass and carbon stocks and replaces the lengthy process of a traditional timber cruise. The equipment has been used in several foreign locations, but never in the mid-Atlantic region. A rare window of opportunity to utilize this equipment occurred during late summer and enabled us to contract this technology for the development of our forest plan. The imagery is currently under analysis by WINROCK and Vision Forestry.

We are looking forward to the completion of the plan by the spring or summer of 2006. At that time we will enter into a forest management agreement with Vision Forestry. The long-range goal is for the forestry operations to become the economic engine to drive our preservation and restoration activities in the Great Cypress Swamp.