



DELAWARE WILD LANDS NEWS

Update

NOVEMBER 01, 2009

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KUX FARM

Acquired by DWL in December 1997 this 300-acre parcel is nestled between Augustine Creek and Market Street in Port Penn, Delaware. The farmhouse dates back to 1740 while other structures on the property are more modern. Housed on a little knoll, the Kux Farm contains a two-acre pond that DWL partnered with Ducks Unlimited to install. A portion of the property is used for agricultural purposes with the remainder generously comprised of marshland and woodlands providing a natural habitat for wildlife. Limited deer hunting is permitted to control the herd.



WATER LEVEL CONTROL STRUCTURES INSTALLED AT GREAT CYPRESS SWAMP



Planning for this project was initiated in February 2008 and project completion is expected by early fall 2009. We have been privileged to have strong technical and financial support from numerous partners: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Delaware Center for the Inland Bays; Ducks Unlimited; Sussex Conservation District; and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The administrative process of acquiring both State and Federal permits caused nearly a year of delays. Heavy rainfall and associated weather conditions have caused further delays.

The project consists of installation of four 24" Agri Drain water level control structures; two custom made aluminum 48" water level control structures; and five ditch plugs. The new structures and ditch plugs, in conjunction with two previously installed 48" structures, will give us water level control on over nine miles of drainage ditches within our Great Cypress Swamp property. We anticipate that this project will have favorable hydrological impacts on our restoration activities on nearly 1,000 acres of our swamp wetland forests.

DWL Adds to Augustine Creek Land Holdings

On September 21, 2009 DWL took possession of a 19.1 acre tract of land adjacent to our other holdings in the Augustine Creek area of lower New Castle County, Delaware. The property contains approximately 13 acres of pasture currently being mowed, two acres of woodland and the balance in marsh with two ponds. In addition to the ducks, geese and shorebirds that frequent the area, there is a healthy wood duck population utilizing one of the ponds. Acquisition of this parcel was important to us because of the threat of development. The tract will become part of our conservation efforts in this area where we currently own approximately 1,300 acres of contiguous property.

DWL Receives WMDT / Mountaire Environmental Star of the Month Award

In March of this year DWL was recognized by WMDT television and Mountaire for our combined traditional land uses with ecological restoration of critical habitat at our Great Cypress Swamp property near Frankford, Delaware. Mountaire is an integrated poultry company with operations in Delaware, Maryland and North Carolina and are committed to environmentally sound agriculture and community involvement projects. WMDT is an ABC affiliate based in Salisbury, Maryland.



Dr. Michael O'Neal and Dr. Tom McKenna at the camera controls for blimp launch at Milford Neck.

University of Delaware Aerial Survey Blimp First Flight

A University of Delaware Research team led by Dr. Michael O'Neal of the Geography Department and Dr. Tom McKenna of the Delaware Geological Survey moved in to our Milford Neck property on March 5, 2009. The occasion was the first mission of the University of Delaware 60 foot long unmanned blimp. The blimp was fitted with two cameras with the mission of recording images of the tidal marsh inundation throughout the tidal cycle. Both the blimp and cameras are controlled by ground operators. The crew of researchers resided in our South Bowers Sportsmen Hunt Club facilities at our Kyle Webb farm property. The mission was accomplished with polished perfection and resulted in excellent imagery.



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ROMAN FISCHER FARM RECONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Reconstruction activities on our Great Cypress Swamp Roman Fischer Farm were initiated in April 2008 by a generous grant from Board Member Robert Edgell and his wife Lynn. This grant funded the restoration of the farm's Sweet Potato House. Since then we have completed reconstruction of our small barn and workshop and the construction of a new large barn. We have also completed installation of a new "green" peat moss bio filtration septic system and done extensive driveway upgrades. These projects are completed only as financial resources become available and primarily with income generated by our sustainable forestry operations.

We celebrated these activities on May 30, 2009 at the farm with a picnic recognizing the individuals and contractors that were involved in the project. Several of our Board members were in attendance as well as members of the Roman Fischer family.

We will continue the project with construction of a "guest house" for occasional property visitors including scientific researchers and construction of the farmhouse to serve as a caretaker residence. The goal of the completed project is to have the farm provide necessary infrastructure for our activities and maintain the look of a turn-of-the-century farm.

This reconstruction has provided DWL with a meeting center and a focus for all of our swamp restoration activities.



A view of the new large barn at the Roman Fischer Farm.



(Front row left to right) Gene Bayard, Pete Martin, Executive Director Rusty Harvey, Pete MacGaffin (Back row left to right) Bob Edgell, Rick Fischer, Bill D'Alonzo
(Photo courtesy of Dennis Forney)



Restoration Project Moves Ahead at Sharp Farm

The farm restoration project on our 430 acre Sharp Farm is progressing with plantings of native warm and cool season grasses, legumes, native trees and shrubs. Over 90 acres of farmland has been taken out of production as part of this effort. We are in the early stages of planning for the installation of two shallow water field impoundments that will enhance our waterfowl refuge efforts. This restoration project is being performed by an agreement with Orion Land Management.