



Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

May 2011

Michele Whitbeck, Volunteer Coordinator



Let's Celebrate!

*Volunteer Recognition Dinner
April 12, 2011*

Thanks to all of you who helped to celebrate the outstanding contributions volunteers have made to Blackwater NWR during 2010 by attending the Volunteer Recognition Dinner on April 12th. Thanks also to the Friends of Blackwater for sponsoring the awards dinner at the American Legion Hall in Cambridge. The festivities proved to be filled with good food, friends and family. During 2010, 91 volunteers contributed 11,607 hours of their time to the Refuge, equivalent to nearly 5.5 full-time staff!

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the 2010 Volunteers of the Year, Chuck Adams and Beth Burgess. Chuck and Beth each received a framed photo of refuge wildlife by Mary Konchar in appreciation for their service during 2010. Chuck Adams staffed the information desk and bookstore in the Visitor Center regularly twice a week, and more often when needed, frequently filling in when no one else was available. He also assisted with special events on the refuge. Beth Burgess played a significant role in the refuge's environmental education program, coordinating class field trips, developing programs and supporting materials, and serving as a teacher for the program. In addition, Beth staffed the Visitor Center regularly and assisted with special events, both on and off-site. Congratulations Chuck and Beth!



Chuck Adams and Beth Burgess receive the 2010 Volunteers of the Year Award from Visitor Services Manager Ray Pattera and Volunteer Coordinator Michele Whitbeck.

Special recognition was also given to volunteers reaching milestones in the number of volunteer hours and years of service contributed to the refuge. Award pins and certificates were presented to the following volunteers for reaching milestones in the number of years they have volunteered at Blackwater NWR:



- 5 Years** Rick Abend, Merriam Brown, Charlotte Hehn, Wolf Hehn, Mary Lynch, and Tom Wolfle
- 10 Years** Cynthia MacDonald, Duncan MacDonald and Arnella Trent
- 15 Years** Dennis Ewell and Beverly Waggoner
- 20 Years** Don Chlan and Zeeger deWilde

[Zeeger de Wilde and Don Chlan receive recognition for 20 years of volunteer service to Blackwater NWR.](#)

Award pins and certificates were also presented to volunteers reaching milestones in the number of total hours they have contributed to Blackwater NWR since they each began to volunteer.

- 100 Total Hours** Ed Hessler, Alex Tallent and Dee Terry
- 250 Total Hours** Mary Munro, Maggie Briggs, Dave Schmidt, Beth Burgess, and Tom Johnson
- 500 Total Hours** Mary Lynch, Curt Hayes, Chuck Adams and Tre Law

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, a goose is engraved on their name plaque. Two new names were added to the plaque this year with Erin Smail and Tom Wolfle each accumulating over 1,000 hours. Five additional volunteers reached milestones beyond 1,000 hours. They were: Chuck Mock (2,000 total hours), Bob Hammerton and Wolf Hehn (3,000 total hours), Cindy Bech (4,000 total hours) and Zeeger de Wilde (10,000 total hours). Zeeger de Wilde was presented with a special award for reaching the incredible milestone of 10,000 total hours - a first for a Blackwater NWR volunteer!

- 1,000 Total Hours** Erin Smail, Tom Wolfle
- 2,000 Total Hours** Chuck Mock
- 3,000 Total Hours** Bob Hammerton, Wolf Hehn
- 4,000 Total Hours** Cindy Bech
- 10,000 Total Hours** Zeeger de Wilde



[Zeeger de Wilde receives special recognition for reaching the incredible milestone of 10,000 hours of volunteer service to Blackwater NWR!](#)

There were 34 volunteers who contributed over 100 hours of their time to Blackwater NWR during 2010. Joining this '100 Hour Club' for the first time were Chuck Adams, Beth Burgess, Dave Schmidt, Maggie Briggs, Ed Hessler and Alex Tallent. The following volunteers were also members of the '100 Hour Club:' Tom Johnson and Tre Law (2nd year), Curt Hayes and Cindy Todd (3rd year), Sharon Glock (4th year), Charlotte Hehn, Wolf Hehn, Nancy Kreek, Mary Lynch and Tom Wolfle (5th year), Marty O'Connor, Mary Konchar and Erna Hammerton (7th year), Alice Zalik, Shirley Bailey, Chuck Mock and Frannie Malley (8th year), Lisa Mayo (9th year), and Zeeger de Wilde, Peggy Tillier, Ron Tillier, Cindy Bech, Bill Reybold, Bob Hammerton, Dennis Ewell, Duncan MacDonald, Tom Hook and Cynthia MacDonald (10th year). Each member of the '100 Hour Club' received a special recognition gift for their volunteer efforts. Thanks again to all of you who help make Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge what it is today!

Members of the '100 Hour Club'



First year members of the '100 Hour Club': Maggie Briggs, Chuck Adams, Ed Hessler and Beth Burgess. Not pictured: Dave Schmidt and Alex Tallent.



Tom Johnson receives a volunteer vest and brass nameplate for contributing over 100 hours for the second year.



Fifth year members of the '100 Hour Club' are Nancy Kreek, Charlotte Hehn, Wolf Hehn and Mary Lynch. Not pictured: Tom Wolfle.



Eight year members of the '100 Hour Club': Chuck Mock and Shirley Bailey. Not pictured: Alice Zalik and Frannie Malley.



Members of the '100 Hour Club' for the tenth year are: Peggy Tillier, Zeeger de Wilde, Bill Reybold and Ron Tillier. Not pictured are Cindy Bech, Dennis Ewell, Bob Hammerton, Tom Hook, Cynthia MacDonald, and Duncan MacDonald.