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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 21, 2011  
INFORMATION: Ray Paterra, 410-901-6124 ext. 21**

### **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Announces 2011-12 Waterfowl Hunt**

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge has initiated the application process for waterfowl hunting on the refuge during the 2011-2012 waterfowl season. This year, hunt sites will be assigned to hunters by a lottery drawing. Application packages containing waterfowl permits, regulations, and maps have been mailed to individuals who have applied within the past three years. Packets can be obtained by contacting Hunt Coordinator Allen Johnston (410-228-5018) or by stopping by the Refuge Visitor Center on Key Wallace Drive during business hours. All completed applications must be postmarked no later than October 15, 2011 to be considered for the drawing.

A total of thirteen (13) blind sites will be available for hunting this year: five (5) sites on the upper Blackwater River, two (2) sites at Beaverdam Creek, and two (2) sites each at Barren Island, Spring Island, and Bishopshead in the Chesapeake Bay. The blind sites are accessible only by boat. Only the original applicant possessing a permit and up to three additional individuals will be allowed at each site. Hunters must remain within 50 yards of the GPS coordinate of the site. Hunters may hunt from a temporary blind or from a boat directly adjacent to shore. Selected hunters are encouraged to make an unarmed scouting trip to their blind site prior to hunting.

A non-refundable administrative fee of \$20.00 will be assessed for each submitted application. Application fees for hunters who possess the Federal Golden Age/Senior pass or Golden Access/Access pass will be reduced by one-half. All applicants may choose up to five dates and five areas to hunt. All applicants will be notified by mail, after the November 1, 2011 drawing.

All hunting will follow Maryland State regulations and bag limits. In addition to a refuge waterfowl hunting permit, a hunter must be in possession of a valid Maryland State waterfowl hunting license, Federal Duck Stamp, Maryland State Duck Stamp, and valid government issued photo identification. The hunt season will be Wednesdays and Saturdays beginning November 12, 2011 through January 28, 2012 and includes Thanksgiving, November 24, 2011 and Dr. Martin Luther King Day, January 16, 2012. If you have any further questions, please call Allen Johnston Hunt Coordinator at 410-228-5018.

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