

# **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center Renovation Fall/Winter of 2010-2011**

The Blackwater NWR Visitor Center will be undergoing some major renovations in the coming months. A new addition will add 1,200 square feet to the Visitor Center, increasing the capacity to orient visitors, host meetings, and provide public programs. This 'West Wing' will include a multi-purpose room with a separate entrance, and additional restroom facilities.



In addition to the construction of the West Wing, the same contractor will be making major renovations to the main entryway of the Visitor Center. These renovations will involve an all-glass front entrance and a vaulted ceiling with glass skylights running from the front entryway to the back doors leading to the butterfly garden. These changes should allow for more natural light in the Visitor Center and create a more visually appealing entrance.

Once the renovation work to the main entryway begins, public access to the Visitor Center will not be possible. As a result, the Friends bookstore and Visitor Contact Station will be relocating to the Environmental Education building (near the start of the Wildlife Drive) while the renovation work takes place. At this time we hope to have our Eagle Cam and Osprey Cam (from the Friends' website) on computers at the Environmental Education building, but unfortunately we will not be able to offer the live camera feed (video) at the building since our microwave transmitters cannot send the signal to that location.

Due to the construction work taking place in the Visitor Center and the impending relocation of the bookstore to the Environmental Education building, the Friends of Blackwater have decided not to host their Eagle's Nest Christmas Open House this year, which was originally scheduled for December 4th.

We'll keep you posted as to when the major changes will begin. And please note that the construction will not affect access to the Wildlife Drive or trails at the Refuge.



U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
WEST WING ADDITION AND MAIN ENTRANCE MODIFICATION  
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

