



# DELAWARE WILD LANDS NEWS

JUNE 15, 2012

## NOTABLE FIRST

## GREAT CYPRESS SWAMP FIRST IN NATION TO BE NAMED QDMA "LEGACY LANDS"

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*We are now on Facebook:*

Delaware Wild Lands



QDM founder Joe Hamilton presented the award and certification to DWL Board of Directors at a QDM event hosted by Tom Draper, Hank Draper, Ben Jones, Everett Moore, and Chip West.



Pictured l. to r. – DWL staff members Andrew Martin, Ron Haas, Pete Martin and Joe Hamilton, QDMA.

Delaware Wild Lands' long-standing commitment to responsible land stewardship of the Great Cypress Swamp yielded the first ever "Legacy Lands" certification by the Quality Deer Management (QDM) Association. This certification is awarded for achieving high standards in habitat management, hunter management, herd management and herd monitoring.

When the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) announced its land certification program, management practices already underway at the Great Cypress Swamp quickly elevated Delaware Wild Lands as a candidate for QDM's Legacy Lands designation, the highest

and most stringent category of QDM's land certification program. To be eligible for this designation, land managers must: 1) demonstrate a long-term commitment to habitat protection and conservation, 2) have identified special sites for conservation, and 3) be implementing land management practices throughout the site that protect biodiversity, identified conservation areas, and air, water and soil resources. Delaware Wild Lands passed an initial property inspection and, to maintain this certification, is required to document improvements or changes in site composition, occurrence of educational events, and enhancements to our land management practices. These

practices are verified every five years through rigorous site inspection and audit processes. Delaware Wild Lands has successfully worked with, implemented, and advanced the principles of Quality Deer Management for 15 years, and maintained an active and fruitful partnership with the QDMA for more than a decade. Our thanks to QDMA Delaware Branch President Chip West; Jay Klaverweiden, owner of Wildlife Property Management; and the Lower Sussex Sportsmen Association President, Debbie Daisey, who all lent a hand in preparing and submitting Delaware Wild Lands' application for QDMA Legacy Lands status.

## DWL Celebrates 40 Years of Delaware's Coastal Zone Act

The Delaware Coastal Zone Act, passed by the State Legislature in 1971, is described as a landmark piece of legislation. Then contentious at the local, State, and Federal levels, the Act is now renowned throughout the United States for its success in protecting Delaware's coastal resources by limiting industrial development and the amount of land that can be used to support manufacturing. Because of this unprecedented and unique environmental legislation, the coast of Delaware remains largely undeveloped and teeming with wildlife and waterfowl and unspoiled coastal forests, marshes, and sand dunes.

To celebrate 40 years of the Coastal Zone Act and recognize local citizens' initial support of and opposition to the development of the Coastal Zone Act, Delaware Wild Lands hosted a celebration last November called "40 Years of the Delaware Coastal Zone Act: A Community Perspective". Participants viewed a new documentary about the Act, featuring an interview with Rusty Harvey, former Executive Director of Delaware Wild Lands. Community members from the Smyrna, Taylor's Bridge, and Blackbird Creek areas offered reflections about fighting to protect generations of investment in their lands and their way of life and, conversely, supporting industrial development that promised new jobs and income for friends, neighbors, and Delawareans throughout the state. Current Executive Director, Kate Hackett, highlighted Delaware Wild Lands' role in the passage of the Coastal Zone Act, including our public outreach and advocacy supporting this legislation and our behind-the-scenes work with Governor Russell Peterson and key decisions makers.



Photo courtesy of 302 Stores, Inc.

## DWL WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### THOMAS H. (HANK) DRAPER, JR.

Mr. Draper is Vice President of Draper Holdings, the parent company for WBOC-TV 16, FOX21, and Draper Digital Media. He also serves as President of Loblolly LLC, a real estate holding and management company focused on agriculture and wildlife habitat restoration on lands throughout Delaware. Mr. Draper attended Cape Henlopen High School and completed training at the Wharton School of Business. He is a multi-generational Sussex Countian and enjoys hunting, fishing, surfing, and restoration of wildlife habitat.

### GREGORY A. PETTINARO

As Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Pettinaro sits at the helm of Pettinaro Management LLC, a second generation family-owned and operated construction company with architectural, design, development, and leasing divisions. In Mr. Pettinaro's tenure as CEO the company has grown exponentially and solidified its leadership position in the Delaware real estate community. Mr. Pettinaro attended Lynn University and Florida Atlantic University, in Boca Raton, Florida and the University of Delaware. He is a native Delawarean and avid outdoorsman interested in hunting, fishing, skiing, mountain biking, hiking, and tennis.

### ROBERT W. TUNNELL, III

Mr. Tunnell is a partner at Tunnell Companies LP, a third generation real estate development company, where he oversees the day-to-day operation and management of seven land lease communities. Mr. Tunnell is also Vice President of Blue Hen Organics, the first state-approved composting facility in Sussex County working with businesses and communities throughout the Delmarva Peninsula. Mr. Tunnell received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geosciences from Franklin & Marshall College and a Master's of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Delaware. Mr. Tunnell's grandfather, Robert W. Tunnell, served as a founding Director of Delaware Wild Lands and helped establish Delaware Wild Lands as a leader in land conservation and protection.





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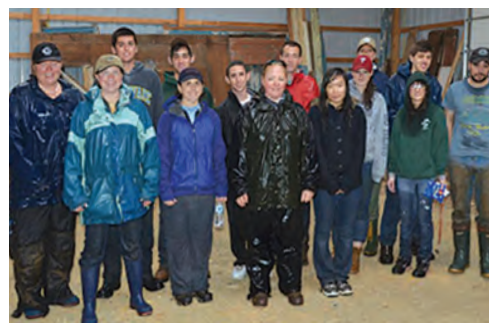
## DWL Launches Invasive Species Control Efforts at the Sharp Farm

If unchecked and allowed to grow, invasive species propagate more quickly than native species leaving the underlying vegetation with insufficient access to sunlight and air. Over time, invasive species outcompete and overgrow native species, degrading the ecological biodiversity in proximate areas and limiting the availability of insects and plant life that bird and wildlife populations need to survive.

On Earth Day, April 22, 2012, Delaware Wild Lands hosted the first of several upcoming volunteer days at our Hugh R. Sharp Family Tract to deter growth of invasive species and promote faster regeneration of native species in the forest there. Despite a constant rain and temperatures in the mid-40s, fifteen hearty University of Delaware students and other community members removed wineberry from approximately 15 acres.

This event and Delaware Wild Lands' efforts to remove invasive species at the Sharp Farm is made possible, in part, with assistance from the GreenWatch Institute and the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife and will enable Delaware Wild Lands to enhance and restore biodiversity and foster faster regeneration of native vegetative and forest communities on Delaware Wild Lands' Sharp Farm.

*Special thanks to all participating staff and volunteers and check Delaware Wild Lands' Facebook page for future volunteer events!*



*Volunteers gather after event.*



*Removal efforts focused on forest perimeter and interior.*



*Ron Haas takes trees to planting site.*



*Atlantic White Cedar trees await planting.*

## DELAWARE FOREST SERVICE *Supports Forest Regeneration in the Great Cypress Swamp*

In 2010, the Delaware Forest Service completed a statewide forest resource assessment and associated Statewide Forest Strategy and Action Plan (<http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry/index.shtml>) to help the Delaware Forest Service and cooperating partners focus limited resources on the critical issues facing Delaware's valuable forestlands. This process revealed a statewide decline in desirable bottomland tree species such as Atlantic White Cedar and bald cypress, resulting from over-harvest and large-scale surface water drainage due to ditching and stream channelization.

Through a grant program designed to address identified issues and trends, the Delaware Forest Service awarded Delaware Wild Lands funding to purchase 550 small Atlantic White Cedar trees for planting at Delaware Wild Lands' Great Cypress Swamp. These seedlings are now planted in compact groups and fenced to prevent deer browse, and despite extremely dry conditions their survival rate is good. This planting complements Delaware Wild Lands' previous Atlantic White Cedar plantings by encouraging propagation of seed stock and more rapid natural expansion of Atlantic White Cedar at the site. Ultimately, this partnership facilitates the goals of both organizations: to foster faster regeneration of Atlantic White Cedar, increase biodiversity at the site, and restore and enhance forest assemblages at the Great Cypress Swamp.

## *Swing Your Golf Clubs and Support Delaware Wild Lands*

Thank you to Tidewater Utilities for selecting Delaware Wild Lands as one of two beneficiaries of its 5th annual Tidewater Utilities Charity Golf Tournament. Swing into action on August 13, 2012 and join Tidewater Utilities and Delaware Wild Lands at the Heritage Shores Golf Course in Bridgeville, Delaware. Funds raised from the event will help Delaware Wild Lands enhance our research and education collaborations with institutions and organizations that share our goals, such as Yale Forestry School; West Virginia University;

University of Georgia; Delaware Geological Survey; The Soil and Water Conservation Society; Delaware Forestry Association; Society of American Foresters; Sussex County and the Delaware Farm Bureaus; State of Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation; birding groups and other private conservation organizations.

*For more information or to sign up for the Charity Golf Tournament, contact Joe Cuccinello at (302) 734-7500 (ext. 1014) or visit Delaware Wild Lands' Facebook page!*



**TIDEWATER  
UTILITIES CHARITY  
5TH ANNUAL  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**