



LANGLADE COUNTY COMPLETES COLLABORATIVE PROJECT TO ASSIST WOOD DUCKS IN LANGLADE COUNTY.

Recently the Langlade County Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department collaborated with the Antigo High School Cabinetry 1 shop class, members of the Langlade County Wildlife and Fisheries Council, various businesses and the Wisconsin DNR to construct, install and maintain wood duck houses in various areas across Langlade County.

Starting in the fall of 2023, Luke Williams, Department Forester, contacted shop teacher Justin Gravitter to seek assistance from the Antigo High School for construction of wood duck houses. The material for the project was funded through County forest wildlife funding called the nickel per acre program.

According to Williams, teacher Gravitter provided excellent assistance with the project, was a joy to work with and deserves a lot of credit for this project. The teacher and the Antigo School Cabinetry 1 students constructed 21 wood duck houses by the middle of January.

An additional 18 houses were donated by volunteer Dave Smith of Three Lakes. Dave donates 100 wood duck houses each year to various people and groups in an effort to promote wood ducks. He constructs the houses from lumber that he manufactures from trees salvaged from his property near Thunder Lake. He mills the trees into lumber and constructs the houses by himself as a hobby to serve the public and wildlife. Al Murray, Forestry, Parks and Recreation Administrator arranged for this donation. The DNR donated an additional 10 houses from their inventory.

In early February volunteers from the Langlade County Wildlife and Fisheries Council sought assistance from local groups and businesses to obtain additional materials needed for installation of the wood duck boxes. The Northwoods Sportsman's Club provided funding for posts and materials. Dejnors Inc. donated wood shavings for inside the wood duck houses and Cousineau's Recycling donated some of the posts that the houses would be placed on.

The second week of February volunteers from the Wildlife and Fisheries Council members Jim Frisch, Gene Rustick, and John Carbonari, DNR Staff Eric Borchert and Zach Zuleger and Department staff Luke Williams and Tom Lazars completed placement of the 49 new wood duck houses. Most of the houses were placed in the Ackley Wildlife Area and in the greater Jack Lake area. In addition to new houses, old

unmaintained houses were repaired and with fresh bedding placed in them. In total 68 wood duck houses on county forest and state lands are now ready for spring nesting season.

In future years, Langlade County will be looking for volunteers to check the houses and change the shavings. The Langlade County Wildlife and Fisheries Council is also seeking assistance with other wildlife and fisheries projects. Those interested should contact the Langlade County Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department at 715-627-6300.