

Check Out the New Eagle Scout Project!

By *Jamie Zambo*

Although the cold winter weather usually slows things down here at Jug Bay, an Eagle Scout from Troop 840, Harwood, MD, was working on his project full speed! John Gillespie, who was also a member of our “Teen Adventure” group this past summer, completed his Eagle Scout project this past December.

Taking on an Eagle Scout project is not a simple task. Once a scout discusses project ideas and building logistics with Doug Willis, Superintendent of Maintenance, he is responsible for putting the whole project together, including the materials and all of the volunteers. John felt this helped develop his management and leadership skills greatly.

John decided to tackle two different projects. First, he created and built a new gate at the Glendening Preserve, located just past the original gate off Wrighton Road. He feels the gate will improve the Sanctuary because it “will provide a barrier to vehicular traffic when a parking lot is installed at the Glendening Preserve, thus preserving the forests within the preserve.”

He also built a new door for the swamp blind and rebuilt the boardwalk that wraps around the blind (see photos below). Finishing the boardwalk the most satisfying part of his project, John said, because he could walk on it, knowing that not only

was it preventing him from getting wet, but it will also be providing “a safe experience for [visitors] walking on it.”

When asked about his overall experience, John said, “I am very satisfied with my project, for I feel it was very successful. With Jug Bay, communication with the staff was very easy and the people there were very helpful. I will definitely recommend Jug Bay as a site for future projects by other scouts from Troop 840.”

John’s engineering of the gate, the swamp blind door, and the swamp blind boardwalk was well organized and professional. On behalf of Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, we would like to acknowledge John’s hard work and thank him for choosing to complete his project here at Jug Bay.



New boardwalk and door to Swamp Blind built by Eagle Scout John Gillespie