

News Release

Great Dismal Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge



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City Officials Attend Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to Honor Local Eagle Scout

SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA— Great Dismal Swamp’s Refuge Manager Chris Lowie, Mayor Linda T. Johnson, and Council Member Charles D. Parr, Sr. took out their oversized scissors and red ribbon to honor the efforts of Eagle Scout Clayton Poffenberger. Poffenberger and Boy Scout Troop #30 managed to assimilate to the atmosphere of the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge for three days to refurbish the refuge’s Washington Ditch observation pier on Lake Drummond. Poffenberger and his troop raised \$1, 283 for supplies, which motivated the refuge to match those funds and watch the troop’s project mature from an idea to an authentic reality. Parents and members of the troop gathered at the ceremony to indulge themselves in the excitement of re-opening the pier. Mayor Johnson and Council Member Parr took pictures while admiring the efforts of Poffenberger and his fellow troops.

The observation pier’s ribbon cutting ceremony highlighted Poffenberger and Boy Scout Troop #30’s dedication to the Suffolk community. The observation pier located on Lake Drummond can be accessed by following the Washington Ditch Trail located on White Marsh Road in Suffolk, VA. The Washington Ditch Trail is a 4 ½ mile trail used for hiking and biking to and from Lake Drummond and is useful for enjoying defined views of the lake while allowing yourself to experience what the refuge considers, “a unique ecosystem.” This most recommended trail is home to a diverse population of wildlife including deer, songbirds, butterflies, and turtles.

The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is a wonderful place to connect with nature. With over 112,000 acres of forested wetlands and 3,100 acre Lake Drummond at its center, the refuge contains some of the most important wildlife habitat in the mid-Atlantic region.

For more information, please contact the refuge headquarters at 757/986-3705 or visit us on the web at www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp.