



**"The Blackwater Wildlife Refuge From Its Beginning", by Bill and Michael Giese, Wednesday, 2 May 2018**

Bill Giese owns and lives on a third generation family farm on Maple Dam Road near Cambridge. He began his career at the Blackwater Refuge in 1971, immediately after graduating from high school. Bill started at the refuge as a laborer, but over the years advanced through most Refuge functions. His management duties involved the Blackwater Refuge, the Fishing Bay Wildlife Management Area, and a number of other refuges and state management areas. As a Wildlife Officer, he worked in four states and Puerto Rico. As Fire Control Officer, he participated in fire details in five states. He also participated in wildfowl banding details in New Brunswick, Canada. Bill retired in 2011 with 40 years of service

Michael Giese, Bill's son, graduated from CSDHS in 1993, and obtained his PhD after attending the UMBC and American University where he has worked in the Office of the (American) University Registrar for 10 years. Michael has had a lifelong association with Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, having participated in most Refuge activities while accompanying his Dad. Much of his education and current personal interests center around wildlife conservation. He is a regular visitor to Blackwater and other refuges.

Toward the end of Bill's career, Bill was asked to write the history of the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge. Using refuge narratives, past employees' verbal histories, his own knowledge of refuge events, and information from his son's PhD thesis, Bill and his son, Michael, put together a program about the early history of the refuge, which serves as the basis for this talk.



By LGD

The South Dorchester Folk Museum (SDFM), in cooperation with the Dorchester County Historical Society, presents this FREE program in its lecture series about local history. Video DVDs of the lectures are available for purchase from our website: [www.sdfmuseum.net](http://www.sdfmuseum.net) or call 410-228-6175.