



My Memories of Blackwater Refuge and South Dorchester County, by Guy Willey, Sr., 6 May 2015

Guy W. Willey, Sr. grew up during the depression of the 1930's in Kane's Ditch, in the same swamp (Green Briar) where Harriet Tubman lived during the 1800's. His family came to Dorchester County in 1668. Picking tomatoes in elementary school helped pay for clothes and support the family.

In 1949 he surveyed new lands for the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. In 1953, after serving in the Korean War, he worked at the A&P until in 1954 he was hired by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, where for the next 30 years he worked at Blackwater, Eastern Neck, Susquehanna, and Mason Neck refuges until he retired. The following 20 years he worked for the Department of Natural Resources flying eagle surveys to monitor the nests and count the young. He also worked on the Delmarva Fox Squirrel Project. He was active in increasing the population by successfully moving squirrels from populated areas to places where they were sparse and introducing them to areas where they had disappeared. Along with the Bald Eagle and Falcon, the Delmarva Fox Squirrel has now been delisted from the Endangered Species List.

