

GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS OCTOBER 2016—DECEMBER 2016

GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of Great Swamp NWR are pleased to present our Calendar of Events. Take a look at the educational programs, work days, volunteer opportunities, a book group, and more! We hope you'll join us for one—or many—of these events.

HELEN C. FENSKE VISITOR CENTER
Enjoy state-of-the-art exhibits, Discovery Den activities for kids, the Great Swamp quilt, native plant gardens, trails including the Nature Detective Trail for kids and the one-mile White Oak Trail. Shop in the Friends Nature Shop—all proceeds support Refuge projects. Start your visit here!

OCTOBER 2016

OCTOBER 9—OCTOBER 15 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK SUNSET WALKS EVERY NIGHT!

Sunday, October 9—Saturday, October 15
5:30 pm—dark

Join us to watch the many species of migrating ducks that descend into the Refuge pools to spend the night. It's awesome! Easy walk on service roads. Meet at Bluebird Parking Lot.

Special Photographer Walk, Thursday, October 13, 4:45—dusk. Get out to the impoundments and set up your cameras early. Reservations required; call 973-425-9510 to sign up.



Citizen Science Opportunity

Sunday, October 9, Dawn to dusk
FRIENDS' SWAMP SITTERS HOST THE BIG SIT!
Learn more about birds and bird identification during this annual citizen science event. Stop by during the day and join the count—for a little while... or longer! Event takes place at the Overlook on Pleasant Plains Road.

Second Sunday, October 9, 1:30—3:00 pm
SO WHAT EXACTLY IS AN IMPOUNDMENT—AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT? Refuge biologist Dorothy Wells presents an informative program on the impoundments at the Refuge—how, and why, they are being managed for waterfowl. Visitor Center.



Volunteer Opportunity Friday, October 21, 9:00—Noon
GREAT SWAMP STRIKE TEAM WORK DAY See Oct. 7 for details.

Friday, October 21, 2:00—3:30 pm
REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP *The Lady and the Panda* by Vicki Croke. New members welcome. Copies available for loan at the Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity
Saturday, October 29, 9:00—Noon
ROADSIDE CLEANUP Pick up litter along refuge roads. Meet at Refuge Headquarters, 241 Pleasant Plains Rd. Harding Twp.

NOVEMBER 2016

Saturday, November 5
YOUTH DEER HUNT—Refuge closed; Visitor Center open.

Wednesday, November 9 through Saturday, November 12
ANNUAL DEER HUNT—Refuge closed; Visitor Center open.

Volunteer Opportunity Sunday, November 6, 9:00—Noon
GardenKeepers Work Day. Join us for Fall garden cleanup and to put up the winter bird feeders. We'll also be working on the Nature Detective Trail. All are welcome. No experience necessary. Visitor Center.

Sunday, November 13, 1:30—3:00 pm
SECOND SUNDAY—EELS AT GREAT SWAMP—WHO KNEW?
Join Deputy Refuge Manager Lia McLaughlin and learn more about the fascinating life of eels. Visitor Center.

Friday, November 18, 2:00—3:30 pm **REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** *The Wild Duck Chase* by Martin J. Smith. Copies for loan at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, November 26, 1:00—2:30 pm
ANNUAL TURKEY WALK
Join us as we walk off that Thanksgiving turkey on an informal walk into the Management Area, normally closed to the public. Easy walk along service roads. Meet at Bluebird Parking Lot, 197 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township.



DECEMBER 2016

Friday, December 2 through Sunday, December 4
10:00 am—4:00 pm
DOUBLE DISCOUNT DAYS AT THE FRIENDS NATURE SHOP
10% off all purchases—20% for members. Get your holiday shopping done early and help your favorite place—Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. All Nature Shop proceeds are used to fund Refuge projects. Visitor Center.



Saturday, December 3, 5:00—7:00 pm
FRIENDS MEMBER MEETING & POT LUCK DINNER
For all Friends Members. Pot luck dinner and business meeting. Bring a favorite dish to share.

Citizen Science Opportunity
Saturday, December 17 **117TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**
This is an annual count when thousands of people, all over the country, spend a day counting birds and gathering data on the birds seen and heard. Even if you are a novice birder you can join a team. It's fun, easy, and a nice day outdoors. Call the Visitor Center for more information and contacts.

Prefer to stay indoors? The Friends will be counting the birds at our feeders. Join us and learn the common winter feeder birds and contribute to the Christmas Bird Count data.

Note: Visitor Center will be closed November 24 (Thanksgiving Day), December 24—26, December 31—January 2, 2017. Happy Holidays.



GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY—MARCH 2017



JANUARY 2017

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1 & Monday, January 2. Refuge Open, Visitor Center Closed.

Sunday, January 8, 1:30–3:00 pm

SECOND SUNDAY... with Friends

MOVIE—TO BE ANNOUNCED

Join us for popcorn and cocoa... and spend Sunday afternoon at the movies. Visitor Center.

Friday, January 20, 2:00–3:30 pm *(3rd Fridays)*

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Discussion of: Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose. New members welcome. Copies available for loan at the Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, January 28, 1:30–3:00 pm **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** Come learn about volunteer opportunities at Great Swamp NWR. Visitor Center.

FEBRUARY 2017

Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, February 4, 10:00 am –1:00 pm **REFUGE WORK DAY** Join us for Winter Work Day at the Refuge. We may be inside painting or outside clearing out vernal pools, depending on the weather. Visitor Center. RSVPs requested; lunch will be provided.

Sunday, February 12, 1:30–3:00 pm

SECOND SUNDAY... with Friends

ALL ABOUT OUR WATERSHEDS

Join NJ Watershed Ambassador Alexandra Cavagrotti for an informative program on watersheds, the state of the Passaic River, pollution issues, and how we can help. Visitor Center.

February 17–19, 10:00–4:00 pm

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT *You can be a citizen scientist!*

- Join us for a census of winter birds at our feeders and report results to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.
- Continue the count outdoors on a guided walk.
- Learn the names of common feeder birds with Bird Bingo!
- Make a suet feeder.
- Make a bird house gourd to take home and paint your own design.
- Activities and crafts for kids.



Did you know that the Dark-eyed Junco (shown here) was the most reported bird during last winter's count?

This is a great way to learn about birds and to get started birding. Bird watchers of all ages and skills are welcome. Visitor Center.

Friday, February 19, 2:00–3:30 pm *(3rd Fridays)*

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Discussion of: John Muir and the Ice That Started a Fire by Kim Heacox. New members welcome. Books available for loan at Visitor Center.

MARCH 2017

Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, March 4, 1:30–3:00 pm **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION** Come and learn about volunteer opportunities at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Visitor Center.

Sunday, March 12, 1:30–3:00 pm

SECOND SUNDAY ... with Friends

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY FROM OUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES Join wildlife photographer Jim Gilbert for a scenic photo journey of Refuges across the country. In celebration of the Refuge System's anniversary, there will be cake! Visitor Center.

Friday, March 17, 2:00–3:30 pm *(3rd Fridays)*

REFUGE READERS—A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

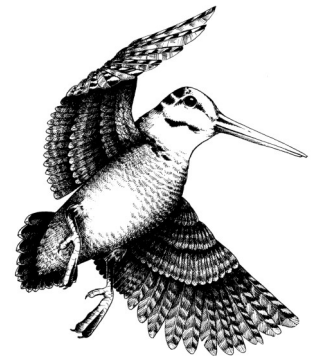
Discussion of: The Pine Barrens by John McPhee. New members welcome. Copies available for loan at the Visitor Center.

Two Nights!

Thursday, March 23 & Sunday, March 26, 6:30 pm–dusk

SPRING WOODCOCK WALKS

Watch and listen to the elaborate mating displays of the American woodcock. Half-hour indoor program followed by a guided walk on Pleasant Plains Road. Program and walk led by Pete Axelrod. Dress warmly. Visitor Center.



Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, March 18, 9:00–Noon **ROADSIDE CLEANUP** Help pick up litter and debris along Refuge roads. Meet at Refuge Headquarters, 241 Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township.

Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, March 25, 10:00–Noon **REFUGE WORK DAY** Join us for Spring Cleanup at the Wildlife Observation Center. Bring lunch and stay for the Migration Staffing Kickoff at 12:30. Volunteers can earn their own Junior Refuge Manager badge! Wildlife Observation Center.

Volunteer Opportunity

Sunday, March 26 through Sunday, June 18 **SPRING MIGRATION STAFFING SEASON** Volunteers Needed! Wildlife Observation Center.

