

FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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What Friends Do

WE HAVE A STORY TO TELL AT THE GREAT SWAMP WILDERNESS AREA

By Laurel Gould

Did you know that ...

- Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge has a 3,660 acre wilderness area.
- The Great Swamp Wilderness Area was created by an act of Congress (Public Law 90-532) in 1968.
- This was the first wilderness area in the U.S. Department of the Interior—and the first in a national wildlife refuge.
- That the Great Swamp Wilderness Area proved the legitimacy of smaller areas of wilderness and set the stage for future small wilderness areas in the eastern United States.



Kathy Woodward, Tom McFadden

At the Friends' Fall Festival on September 11, 2004—sixty-three people participated in a Walk for Wilderness to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Refuge staff and Friends volunteers led the group on a 2.6 mile walk to raise money for interpretive kiosks at the wilderness area trailheads. We raised over \$3,500—a terrific start. The Friends' Board subsequently voted to provide the remaining funds needed for all of the kiosks. We have quite a story to tell about the Great Swamp Wilderness Area—and now we'll have a way to tell it!



Wilderness Act—40th Anniversary

Forty years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law. This law defined wilderness for the first time and created a National Wilderness Preservation System to protect wild areas for future generations. The wilderness designation is superimposed on existing federal lands that meet the wilderness criteria. Each wilderness area remains under the jurisdiction of the original federal agency – namely the U.S. Forest Service (in the Department of Agriculture), and the National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (both in the Department of the Interior). Wilderness areas are created by the United States Congress which passes a separate law for each wilderness area.

Continued on page 10

THE GREAT SWAMP GOES NATIVE!

Two native plant demonstration gardens grace Refuge Headquarters and Friends' Bookstore

By Louise Jensen

In all of the heat and humidity of last summer, what a treat it was to watch two hummingbirds hovering and feasting at the purple clustered button blossoms of the Vervain (*Verbena bonariensis*) in the native plant garden at the Friends' Bookstore. And this spring a new native plant garden was installed in front of the Refuge Headquarters. The gardens have been established to encourage visitors to plant native plants in their own backyards and to attract wild-life...other than deer!

This modest, but beautiful beginning was made possible through the hard work of AT&T volunteers working through the AT&T Cares program. Here's the 'women power' hard at work. The AT&T volunteers were joined by Laurel Gould, Judy Schmidt and Louise Jensen all members of the Friends. And leading the effort was our own Craig Bitler of the Refuge staff.

Over 30 native species of trees, shrubs and perennials are represented in the gardens. The selections were made with the assistance of New Jersey Audubon and they represent plants for sun and shade, moist and dry, early spring to fall. From delicate spring ephemerals like Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) and Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) to hardy shrubs such as Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) and Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), our new demonstration gardens have something to recommend for everyone. And it's not hard to do. These are plants that thrive in our region.



AT&T Volunteers with Craig Bitler, Refuge Biologist

Visit the Friends Bookstore for a guide to the plants in the gardens and resources for locating these plants...and then all you have to do is plant them and they'll thrive here in their native habitat. The gardens are a wonderful new addition. When you next visit the Refuge, take an extra few minutes to stop by one of the gardens and breathe in the fragrance and drink in the colors...and just maybe see a hummingbird or butterfly.

DISCOVERY DEN HAS BEEN DISCOVERED...

Thanks to Dorothy Smullen and her Display Committee Judy Schmidt, Deb Scala, and Gail Rapaport, the Discovery Den is an exciting place to spend some time—and learn a lot in the process. And it's going to get even better!

The Friends have been awarded a grant by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to purchase displays and furniture for the Discovery Den. In addition the grant will fund the development of an outreach program called "Swamp in a Box". This program, to be launched later this year, will be comprised of a container outfitted with a Great Swamp video, brochures and other background material for schools to borrow and incorporate into their curriculum. If you haven't stopped by the Bookstore lately, you'll be amazed at the changes in the Discovery Den! And since it's indoors, a trip to the Swamp can be enjoyable even in the rain.

THANKS TO...

Thanks to volunteers Roger Donat and Bill Smullen the new information center at the Wildlife Observation Center is looking really spiffy! We have paneling on the walls and new vinyl flooring. There are cabinets for storage, bookshelves for our heavily used reference library, a rack for hanging volunteer vests and another rack for our clean-up tools. In just a year, a 12 x 16 foot shed was transformed into an information center we can staff with pride. Grant money for the building and furnishings came from the Mushett Family Foundation, thanks to volunteer John Engelhart, and from Lucent Technologies thanks to volunteer Linda Drace Byland.



The Friends' archives received a new donation recently – pictured here. Thanks to Friends member and volunteer Larry Fuhro who donated this pin from the early battles to save the Great Swamp from becoming the 5th area jetport.

VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE AND ARE RECOGNIZED!

By Tom McFadden, Outdoor Recreation Planner

On May 21, 2004 the Great Swamp's 18th Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held at the North Maple Inn in Basking Ridge. As usual, the food was excellent and the evening was enjoyed by 80 volunteers and guests which was a record. I am amazed how we have grown from pot luck dinners to hors d'oeuvres and dinner at the North Maple Inn.



Judy Schmidt receives 1,000-hour award

Each year all of us look forward to this event as it gives us a chance to socialize with each other and it's our way of saying thanks for all your help. The awards are just a part of this event, however an important one. Some of you have donated an extraordinary amount of time. The 100 hour club is the first stepping stone. Those volunteers who qualified this past year were: Cathy Borman, Jennifer Czar, Roger Donat, Edward Feldman, Stephan Nye, Dixon Peer, Louis Pisane, Nancy Schenck and John Wilmot Sr.

The second step is the 250 hour pin. Those volunteers this past year were: Jennifer Czar, Jack Higgins, Leo Hollein, Lisa Molinari and Kathy Woodward.

The third step is the 500 hour pin and plaque award and those that obtained that level this past year were the Morris Land Conservancy, Laurel Gould and Steve Byland.

The fourth step and the highest achieved this year was the 1,000 hour pin and award which went to long time volunteer Judy Schmidt. The next step and the only volunteer to ever achieve that step of 5,000 hours was Bernie Tulman in 1998. I wonder who will be the next Bernie Tulman!

VOLUNTEER NEWS!



Use of Help-in-a-Hurry List brings volunteers out to stain blind

Volunteer Opportunity at Refuge Headquarters

Mel Smith is looking for a volunteer to work with him for one day each week to help with and learn how to do a thousand different things including work on: buildings, machinery, plumbing, painting, and on and on. Limitless opportunities to learn and to do most everything within the scope of construction, maintenance and repair. Also the chance to have some fun, some exercise, and some pleasant conversation. Call the Refuge at 973-425-1222, x14.

Help in a Hurry E-mail Distribution List Launched

In order to get the word out about volunteer projects quickly and efficiently, the Friends have started a "Help in a Hurry" e-mail distribution list (with a telephone list for those without e-mail). When we are notified about Refuge projects, we can quickly send out notice of the project. If people are available, a reply e-mail gets them signed up for the project. If not, no response is required. So far, we have used this list twice—once for a pick-up of debris on the newly acquired Mudd property and then for a crew to stain the new blind at the Wildlife Observation Center. In both cases, the list proved to be very effective. If you would like to be added to this distribution list, just call the Friends office at 973-425-9510 and leave your name, e-mail address, and phone number—or stop by the Bookstore and let us know.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SECRETARY VISITS GREAT SWAMP

By William Koch, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Refuge Manager

At the invitation of U.S. Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Gale Norton visited New Jersey on May 22, 2004. The primary purpose of the visit was to express support for the Highlands Preservation effort.

Prior to a press conference at Wildcat Ridge in Rockaway Township later that same day, the Secretary was given an overview of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, its watershed and a review of some of the refuge partnerships. A briefing took place at the Morris County Outdoor Education Center and was followed by a half hour walk and talk on a hiking trail that passed

I believe this was the most meaningful part of the Secretary's Great Swamp visit, because federal, state, county and municipal elected officials along with conservation partners such as the Friends of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the Great Swamp Watershed Association, Morris County Park Commission and the Washington Association participated in a discussion focusing on the success of our partnerships. Although the Highlands Preservation initiative is on a much larger scale, it was good to point out the successes of working together at the Great Swamp, because the principles are the same.

The Secretary took advantage of this

Gale Norton has not been the only Interior Secretary to visit the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. In 1964, Secretary Stewart Udall came for the refuge dedication ceremony. Although retired, he returned in 1994, to the Great Swamp Watershed Association's Gala Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Refuge Dedication. In 1995, Secretary Bruce Babbitt toured the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, launching his nationwide tour of many more refuges. Babbitt became a strong refuge system supporter and personally championed the 1997 National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act, which was very significant legislation for the Refuge System.



Secretary of Interior Gale Norton, Eileen Cameron, Barbara Mitnick, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, Sharon Marino, Bill Koch

I was personally involved in the last three of these Secretarial visits and can attest that they are high profile and place us in the "lime light." Either Congressman Peter Frelinghuysen or Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen was present and in each instance there was also an impressive representation of refuge supporters. This sends a powerful message to elected officials as well as a reminder to all of us that we need each other in our common goals.

For 33 years I have been very proud to be part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service family and actively involved in the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The ever increasing complexities and demands we face are being met by a growing effort from volunteers and supporting organizations. It is heart warming and a privilege to work with so many dedicated people and organizations in preserving the ecological integrity of the Great Swamp.

My sincerest thanks for your support and let's keep doing things together.

through a portion of the Refuge Wilderness Area. The Great Swamp Wilderness Area was the first designated in the Department of Interior and this year is the 40th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. This anniversary was featured at the annual Fall Festival in September.

Following the hike an informal meeting took place in the Education Center.

assemblage to announce that the refuge was to receive a \$30,000 grant for stream bank stabilization. Project partners, the Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the Great Swamp Watershed Association, Passaic River Coalition and the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee will collectively match this with either dollars or in-kind support.

REFUGE GAINS SITE FOR NEW VISITOR CENTER

On August 12, 2004 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced the purchase of Weatherlea Farm in Harding Township, to become the site of a future visitor facility for the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The 16-acre property is located on the south side of Pleasant Plains Road on the opposite side of the North Gate bridge (the one which is closed to traffic) from the Friends and Refuge Headquarters. This is the first step in realizing a long-held goal of creating a visitor facility for the Refuge. Stay tuned...

FISHING DERBY—A GREAT SUCCESS

By Tom McFadden



Young fisherman with prize catch!

FRIENDS SPONSOR 2004 REFUGE INTERN

By Jen Murphy

My name is Jennifer Lee Murphy and I am an intern at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge for the summer of 2004. The Friends of Great Swamp NWR sponsored me, and I am very thankful they gave me the chance to have this experience!

I graduated from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA in May 2003 with a degree in International Studies, a concentration in French and a minor in English. It was not until after I graduated that I finally realized what career I wished to pursue, and that is Environmental/Outdoor Education. After graduating I worked a year in my childhood elementary school where I learned that I love to work with children. Ever since I was young, I have loved the outdoors—hiking, canoeing, camping, and rowing in college. These are the elements that have led me to my chosen career; now it's just a matter of getting my foot in the door, or I should say out of the door! At Great Swamp some of the projects I have been working on are: Canada goose round-up, wood duck release, bluebird nest box checks, stream bank restoration, tadpole survey, museum inventory, revising the mammals brochure, and wilderness area photography as well as some data entry, landscaping, painting and general maintenance work. I also got to work one day at the Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center which confirmed that my career path will be Outdoor Education. Thank you again for sponsoring my internship and giving me that first big break on the trail to my life's work!



2004 Refuge Intern Jennifer Murphy

On Saturday, June 5, 2004, Great Swamp Refuge held its 3rd annual "Take Me Fishing" event at Southard Park in Basking Ridge.

This year's event was held one month later than last year which resulted in more fish being caught by the children, due to the warmer water temperature. Many children caught their very first fish, and the expressions on their gleaming faces were captured on film by Refuge volunteer Jane Kendall, who was busy running from one side of the pond to the other!

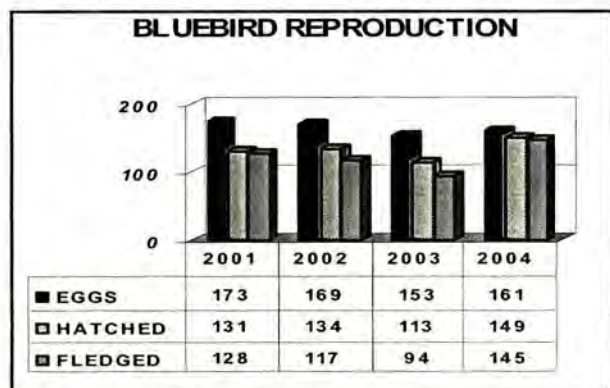
Over 100 people participated in the event which was a huge success due to all the partners and volunteers involved. The Friends of Great Swamp provided free refreshments which resulted in 160 hotdogs being given away!

The New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife stocked the pond with about 200 warm water fish and provided an enjoyable educational program allowing the children to hold some of the fish. Rays Sport Shop provided tackle, bait, and prizes for all the children. Bernards Township allowed us to use their park and facilities. Without the support of these partners we could never have had such a great event!

BLUEBIRDS FLEDGE RECORD NUMBERS IN 2004

By Leo Hollein

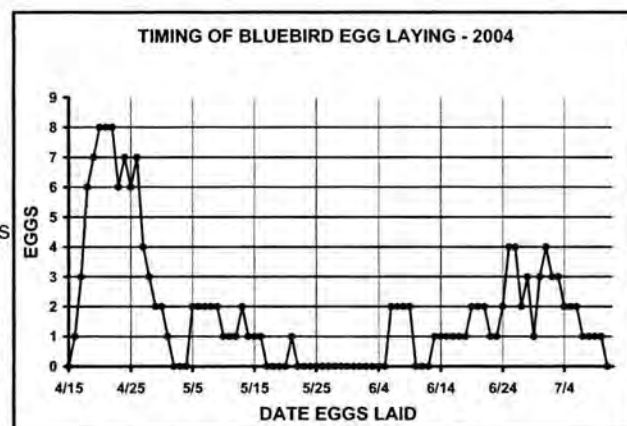
Bluebirds fledged the greatest number of young (145) in 2004 since the Friends of the Great Swamp began supporting the songbird nest box program for the 2001 season. In the three preceding years bluebird fledglings varied from 94 to 128. The 2004 success is attributable to a combination of reduced predation of eggs and excellent weather for songbird reproduction. Relocating nest boxes away from tree lines or hedgerows, trimming vegetation around boxes and upgrading predator guards have helped to reduce predation. The mild and wet weather in 2004 produced an adequate supply of food throughout the breeding season. Weather is an uncontrollable factor that can have a dramatic impact on reproductive success. This is illustrated by the difference in reproductive success between 2003 and 2004 presented in the graph below.



Bluebirds fledged about 50% more young in 2004 than 2003. The unusually cool, damp spring of 2003 presented a major challenge to bluebirds as they attempted to produce the next generation of bluebirds. It was the primary reason for the lowest bluebird reproductive success in the 2001 – 04 timeframe. The mean average daily temperatures as measured at the Great Swamp headquarters weather station for April and May were 4.2 and 8.1 degrees warmer in 2004 compared to 2003. The mean daily temperature in April and May 2003 were only 47.6 and 56.4 degrees respectively. In addition there was measurable precipitation (>0.01 inches of rain) on nearly half the days during these months. Many bluebirds in 2003 delayed laying eggs until May. Three of the pairs that did start in April were unable to find sufficient food for their young that eventually starved to death in their nests.

The bluebirds had a very efficient breeding season in 2004. Nearly 92% of their eggs hatched. Over 97% of the hatchlings fledged. This resulted in 90% of the eggs producing fledglings. This percentage is far greater than in earlier years when the percentage of eggs that fledged ranged from 61 to 74%.

The excellent breeding conditions in 2004 enabled at least nine bluebird pairs in the Great Swamp to fledge two clutches. The graph at right illustrates the egg-laying pattern for bluebirds in 2004. If the weather permits, as was the case in 2004, bluebirds will begin laying their first clutch in April. This early start gives the bluebirds a better chance to raise two clutches in the Swamp. The first clutch egg laying had a very noticeable, sharp peak centered on April 21. Most bluebirds completed laying their first clutch by the end of April. The average number of eggs in the first clutches was 4.7. Over two thirds of the nests had 5 eggs. One nest had 6 eggs, which is unusual. The second clutch egg laying was spread over a longer period and had a less dramatic peak in late June. As is typical, the second clutches averaged a lower number of 3.9 eggs. Eighty percent of the nests had 4 eggs.



Efforts Continuing To Increase Bluebird Nesting Population

The number of bluebird nestings (at least 1 egg laid in a nest) has been remarkably constant at about 40 attempts per year during this four-year period. A number of changes have been made to increase the bluebird nesting population over the last three years. These include replacing, relocating and pairing a large number of nest boxes. Bluebirds are selective in choosing a nest box. They will only nest in a box that is in an open area and at least 20 feet from a tree or hedgerow.

Both bluebirds and tree swallows defend their nesting territories from others of their own species. In 2001 a majority of the nest boxes in the Swamp were in a standalone configuration (boxes mounted on their own post over 100 yards from the next nearest nest box). Tree swallows were the predominant nester in these boxes. In the last three years most of the nest boxes have been paired (two boxes mounted on separate posts about 30 feet apart) in an attempt to make more boxes available for bluebirds. The percentage of boxes used by bluebirds has, however, remained rather constant at around 20%. Some boxes are used more than once during a season by bluebirds.

A review of the boxes used by bluebirds in the Swamp has led to two observations.

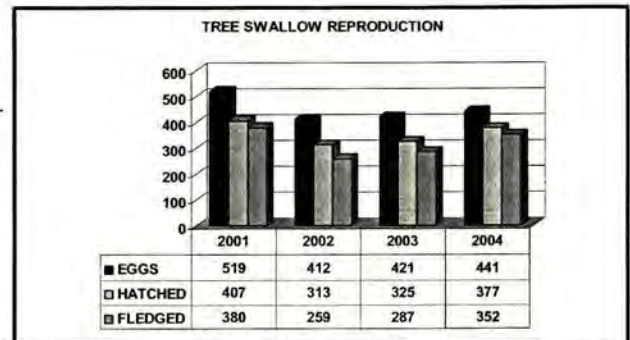
- Bluebirds tend to nest in some of the same boxes or pair of boxes every year.
- Boxes with nesting bluebirds are not visible from other boxes with nesting bluebirds.

The second observation will guide further efforts to increase the bluebird breeding population. While literature articles frequently recommend blue bird boxes or pairs of boxes be placed at 100 yard intervals, this separation is not adequate in the Great Swamp. Evidently the Swamp habitat requires a greater territory to support a nesting pair of bluebirds. Many pairs of boxes are clearly visible from other boxes. The plan will be to spread out the nest boxes over a wider area. Pairs of boxes will be relocated to recently acquired land with open fields on Carlton Road and on Pleasant Plains Road on the other side of the closed bridge.

Paired Nest Boxes Are Reducing Tree Swallow Reproduction

Tree swallows are the most common user of nest boxes in the Swamp. While pairing of boxes has not yet increased the number of bluebird nests, it has reduced tree swallow reproduction. As shown in the graph at right, tree swallow reproduction (380 fledglings) was greatest in 2001 when there were few paired boxes. As with the bluebirds, tree swallows were efficient in 2004. Almost 80% of the eggs eventually fledged compared to 73% in 2001. However, the swallows had fewer opportunities to nest due to the paired box arrangement.

Tree swallow reproduction was lowest in 2002. This was caused by draught conditions. As aerial feeders, swallows are less likely to find adequate food supply for their young during very dry weather.



FRIENDS BOOKSTORE & GIFT SHOP UPDATE

By Laurel Gould

The Bookstore & Gift Shop opened for its 5th season at the September Fall Festival. Hours are: Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 am–5:00 pm, or by appointment. Volunteers staff the shop on weekends greeting visitors, providing maps, directions, checklists and brochures, answering questions, and maintaining the wildlife and bird sightings listing. The new Discovery Den provides family fun activities for visitors, many of who extend their stay to try out some of the many entertaining educational activities available.

Some new items available in the Bookstore this year are: 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzles, musical chimes for your refrigerator door or your desk, new note cards with matching journals—great for gift-giving—or for yourself!

Wildlife artist Ron Orlando has again created an original design for our 2004 season—a magnificent great blue heron—which graces the front of our 2004 Tee-shirts and (soon) sweatshirts. This is the fourth year that Ron has donated an original design for the Friends—thank you Ron.

Federal Duck Stamps For Sale

And now, for the first time, you can buy a Federal Duck Stamp at the Bookstore! Why, you ask, would I want to buy a Federal Duck Stamp? For several very good reasons.

- **Purchase wetlands**—Federal duck stamp monies are used to purchase wetlands for migrating ducks and geese. Since the start of the program in 1934, more than half a billion dollars has been raised to purchase more than 5 million acres of habitat. Over 3,000 acres of land in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was purchased using federal duck stamp dollars!
- **Visit national wildlife refuges—free!** The Federal Duck Stamp serves as an annual entrance pass for any National Wildlife Refuge that charges an entry fee—like Forsythe, Wallkill River, Bombay Hook, Blackwater, Chincoteague.
- **Start a collection of Federal Duck Stamps.** Federal Duck Stamps have been called “miniature pieces of art” because each year the top wild-

life artists in the country compete in the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. You can collect a new stamp each year—and display them in specially-made frames (which are also available in the Bookstore). A great gift idea for a budding naturalist!

Go duck hunting. Oh yes, with the Federal Duck Stamp, and a few other licenses, you can also go duck hunting. However, the number of hunters is dwindling—so that means less money for wetlands and waterfowl habitat. You can help fill this gap by purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp and support one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated.



THEY CALLED ME... MRS. DUCK

By Judy Schmidt

It all started 30 years ago when someone gave my kids ducklings for Easter – and I got a new name – “Mrs. Duck”. From then on, whenever someone found an orphaned wild duck, they gave it to me, saying “you must know all about ducks – after all, there are a bunch playing with your kids in the back yard.” Well, it turned out I really didn’t know much about ducks – other than they need food, water, and a warm safe place – which seemed to work out fine – for mallard ducks.

But one day I received a different kind of duckling, one with a smaller bill and an eye stripe that didn’t go all the way to the bill. It was also found in a yard nowhere near water. So off I went to the Refuge with my kids and the unknown baby duck. There we were told it was a wood duck. There were some nesting on the Refuge. No, they wouldn’t take it. Yes, they would look for a wood duck family to release it with. I should take it home again, but most likely it would die.

So, home we went and put the duckling in a box. Well, it was out of the box before we got ten feet away. We put it back into the box and then watched as it promptly climbed up the side and out again. Now what? How about a screen over the top? That worked, but now the duck keeps jumping up and hitting the screen. Maybe it misses us, so let’s put it in a fish tank so it can see us and we will keep it in the kitchen. We named him Jumping Jack after the Refuge manager. After 3 days I started calling the Refuge. “See any wood duck families?” “No, is that duck still alive?” We had Jack all summer and he was released in the fall on the Refuge.

Word spread that I could raise “woodies” and keep them alive and so they started coming to me – 6, 7, 8 or more a year. Each year I learned more. Woodies need quiet – Mom calls them out of a big dark box right after they hatch. So I made their cage large and light, interesting and natural—with some water, some grass, some dirt, and some duckweed stuck on the walls and in a dish. I lined the bottom with paper towels and then sprinkled it with duck food so when they walked it moved – and they thought it was bugs. I was on a roll!

Then the Refuge manager told me I needed Federal and State permits if I was going to continue being Ma Duck. So I filled out all the paperwork. The Federal permit came right away, but nothing from the State. Ducklings started coming in, and still nothing from the State. One day the phone rang and it was the State. “Oh boy, I thought, “Now I’m in trouble. “Do you take orphaned wood ducks?” “Yes.” “Would you take six?” “Yes.” “Do you have your permits?” “No, I did the paperwork but haven’t received my permit.” “We’ll send it with the ducks.”

Now I’m all set. But what I didn’t know was that they put your name and number on a list and mail it all over the state. So over the next few years my duck count kept

growing until one summer, with help from the Raptor Trust, I raised 500 ducklings! Mallards, black ducks, and some woodies. This was getting out of hand. There were boxes of ducks all over the place. So, I turned in my permits and worked as an off-premise rehabilitator for the Raptor Trust and now I only do woodies. I receive about 40 woodies a year. The spring of 2000 I received my first hooded merganser which was found on the Refuge. It was the first duck of the season so I raised him with a mallard. After they were released the staff saw the odd couple until fall migration.

Ducklings come from the strangest places. Down a storm sewer. In garages. One lady stopped traffic on the Route 78 off-ramp at James Street because the mother duck was hit and the babies were running around in the road. Another time a fisherman saw the last duckling in line get grabbed by a snake which he bopped over the head with his pole; when he got to the duckling, Mom was gone. So he put the duckling into his pocket until he finished fishing.

One day I received a call from the Madison police. It seems that as commuters were waiting for the train, it started raining wood ducks. They had caught all 10 and put them in a box – the mother was still there – could I help? The nearest pond was two blocks away. I suggested carrying the babies and maybe mom would follow. I must be real important as I had a four-police-car escort and the road was closed as a one-duck, one-woman parade made its way down the street. The mother duck made it for a block and a half and then it was too much for her and she flew away. So the babies came home with me to grow up and be banded by the Refuge and then released.

Woodies are a special duck with an attitude – and so are the people who get them out of harm’s way and bring them to me. I wish I could remember who gave my kids those ducklings 30 years ago so I could thank them for helping me become Mrs. Duck.



PHOTO CONTEST A SUCCESS—NOW FOR NEXT YEAR

By Ray Lord

We would like to thank the 28 photographers who submitted over 250 pictures in our 2004 amateur photo contest. These photos will be used by the Friends to fulfill our education and environmental missions. A special thank you to our volunteer judge, professional photographer and naturalist, Blaine Rothauser for his hard work in judging and critiquing the photos.

The photographers captured the essence of the Great Swamp from winter to late spring. If you were unable to attend the presentation at the Fall Festival, or would just like to view it again, DVD's are available for loan from the Friends Library.

Because of the tremendous response, we anticipate running a similar competition next year. It looks like any pictures taken from June 1, 2004 will be eligible for entry in our 2005 photo contest, so keep taking those pictures.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT FALL FESTIVAL

By Blaine Rothauser, *Natural Eyes, Wildlife & Landscape Photography*

It was an absolute pleasure to be involved in the process of judging all of the entries submitted to the Friends this year. The photography that this contest has produced continues to get better and tougher to assess as the years go by. The Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge is my favorite place to ambulate in the world. It is truly awe-inspiring to walk through a marsh, forest, meadow and swamp all in the same day witnessing the panoply of life unfold before us as we ramble. The photographers this year did a superb job of capturing on film some of the players and wonders representing the swamp's tapestry.

Judging these photos was no small task and I did not take it lightly. I want all who submitted photos to understand that the creative application involved in wildlife and landscape photography is a process. The skills involved in learning the technical aspects of equipment along with the compositional ability of the photographer take time to nurture and develop. As I perused the entries I had to constantly remind myself what these photos signify to the person who took the time and effort to submit them.

When viewing the adult submittals, I emphasized proper equipment technique, lighting, and subject composition. I also took into account my knowledge of natural history and how difficult certain subjects are to find as well as their tolerance to having their picture taken.

In the youth category I was aware of limitations imposed by equipment and access to all that the Great Swamp Refuge has to offer. My emphasis with the youth category dealt more with composition and less with techniques that professional wildlife photographers use to capture great shots of the living world.

We apologize to all of you who entered photos into the "Activities" category. We were unable to judge this category for lack of a reasonable number of entries. There were no photos submitted in the Youth "Landscape" category.

Thank you all again for granting me the wonderful experience of judging the 2004 competition.

2004 Photo Contest Winners Announced at Fall Festival

Winners received a \$50 gift certificate to the Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop while 2nd place winners received a \$25 gift certificate.



Photo—Bill Bell — Great Blue Heron

Winners—Adult Group—Wildlife

1st place—Bill Bell—Green Heron—Leg-up

2nd place—Bill Bell—Great Blue Heron

Winners—Adult Group—Landscape

1st place—Charles DeBevoise—Snow-covered wind blown, stump

2nd place—David Barbara—Swamp scenic

Winners—Youth Group—Wildlife

1st place—Dante Callahan—Water snake-coiled up

2nd place—Rachel Ostrand—Mallard female on nest

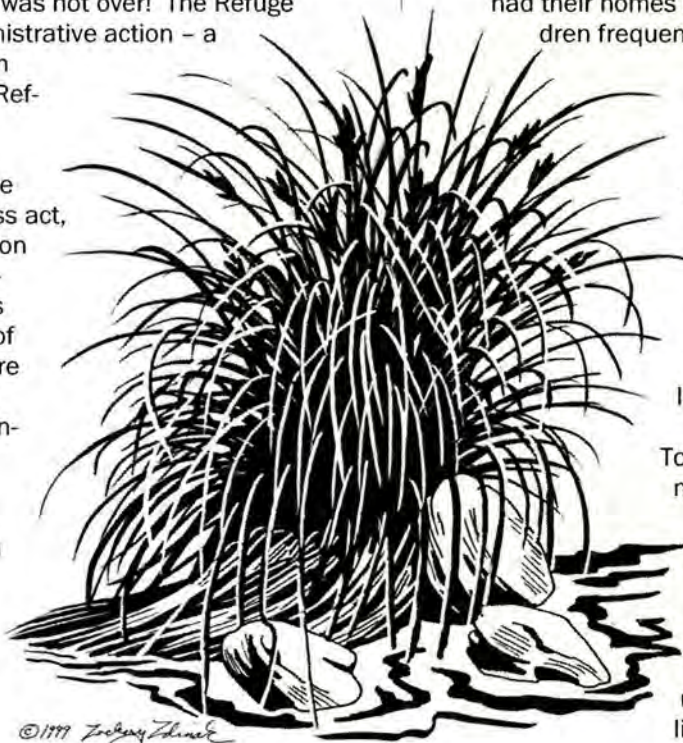
GREAT SWAMP WILDERNESS AREA

(continued from page 1)

Nine million acres of U.S. Forest Service land were automatically designated as wilderness areas by the Wilderness Act itself. However, each subsequent proposal to establish a wilderness area required a separate act of Congress with mandatory congressional hearings and local public hearings. Two huge U.S. Forest Service primitive areas in California were the first wilderness areas to be enacted by Congress. The next area to be designated as wilderness was at Great Swamp. But it wasn't a slam-dunk.

The Refuge itself was created in 1960 when local citizens turned over nearly 3,000 acres to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, thereby preventing the land from becoming the fifth regional jetport as proposed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. However, it became apparent to these local citizens that the threat of a jetport was still present. Headlines in the local papers in December 1966 announced "PA Study Renews Bid for Jetport in Morris". The fight to save Great Swamp was not over! The Refuge had been created by administrative action – a future administrative action could adversely affect the Refuge.

These local citizens became aware of the new wilderness act, which would make protection of the Refuge more permanent. Creating a wilderness area would require an act of Congress (and would require another act of Congress to undo). With the help of Congressman Peter Frelinghuysen, a bill was introduced in Congress to create a wilderness area in the Great Swamp. The path to the signing of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Act on September 28, 1968 was a long one, blazing trails the entire way.



- ✓ The proposed wilderness area was only 3,750 acres, with a long history of use—and abuse! There were doubts that it had all the characteristics of wilderness as defined in the law; results proved that it did.
- ✓ There was a 200 year old road bisecting the proposed wilderness area – local officials agreed to close the road, and take down the houses in order to create a true wilderness. And they did – following the passage of the act, the road and houses were removed and today it's a nature trail—the Orange Trail follows the route of the old Meyersville Road. A precedent was set that a road could be incorporated into a wilderness area.
- ✓ At the Congressional hearings, corporate lobbyists, normally opposed to wilderness areas, stepped forward to testify for the Great Swamp—astonishing committee members. But many executives of large corporations had their homes near the Great Swamp and their children frequented the swamp for school classes.

✓ Over 1,000 people attended public hearings in 1967—all but one speaker supported the proposal, and more than 6,000 written comments were received, overwhelmingly in support.

✓ The success of this grassroots effort became a model demonstrating the power of citizen concern and local action in making a difference.

Today you can hike on any of the 8 miles of marked trails in the 3,660 acre Great Swamp Wilderness Area or you can hike off-trail (take a compass and phone). By law, mechanized equipment and motorized vehicles are prohibited. These trails are maintained by Refuge volunteers who replace trail markers, do light clipping, and pick up litter. Most of the time, you will not see another person as you hike through this area and savor the solitude of nature.

*"A wilderness...is hereby recognized
as an area where the earth and its community of life
are untrammelled by man,
where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."*

FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Friends of Great Swamp is an independent, non-profit organization organized in 1999. Our operations and activities are managed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. As our mission statement indicates, our focus is Refuge-centric — we support the goals, projects, and mission of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

To become a member of the Friends of Great Swamp, fill out the information on this form, and mail with your check to:

Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
241 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
Ask about our school or group memberships.

Annual Membership

Membership Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual—\$15
Gift	<input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual—\$15
Renewal?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Donation—Thank You! \$ _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State, Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Gift Membership From: _____

(If this is a gift, please include your full name on the line above so we may notify the recipient)

We need more friends . . .



**Members are important!
Give a gift of membership
to a friend.**

Memberships help support the mission and projects at Great Swamp.

Members also receive the following benefits:

- Quarterly Newsletter
- 10% discount in Bookstore & Gift Shop
- Notification of coming events
- Feeling of accomplishment in supporting the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Gift Memberships will include a coupon redeemable at the Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop for a Friends of Great Swamp Water Bottle -or- a Ron Orlando Great Swamp Centennial Poster.

Friends of Great Swamp
National Wildlife Refuge

Is an independent, non profit organization
dedicated to

Promoting the conservation of the natural
resources of the Refuge

Fostering public understanding and
appreciation of the Refuge, and

Engaging in activities that will support the mission of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Friends of
Great Swamp
National Wildlife Refuge

OCTOBER 2004

Friends of Great Swamp NWR
241 Pleasant Plains Road
Basking Ridge NJ 07920



Holiday Double Discount Day

Sunday - December 5 - 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friends of Great Swamp Bookstore & Gift Shop

10% discount on purchases

20% discount for members!

Avoid crowds! / Ample free parking!

Unique & original gift items / Nature books & games / Sweatshirts, hats & more

All purchases support Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

- Free refreshments all day
- Fun filled activities for kids in the Discovery Den
- Create your own custom gift box

Mark Your Calendar

Turkey Walk

Saturday, November 27, 2:00 pm

Join us for a walk into the management area of the Refuge. You never know what we'll see... like this beautiful Northern Harrier!

Refreshments and Refuge Photo Slide Show.

Second Sunday... Getting ready for winter

Sunday, December 11, 2:00 pm

What do you do when you can't put on a coat or turn up the heat? Come find out how the animals get ready for winter. Short program followed by an outside walk. Kids activities & refreshments.

All programs at Bookstore & Gift Shop, 197 Pleasant Plains Road



Potluck Dinner & Annual Member Meeting

You are invited to the Friends of Great Swamp Annual Member Meeting.
Bring a friend - new members or prospective members are welcome!

Date: Sunday, December 5, 2004
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Friends of Great Swamp Offices, Bookstore & Gift Shop, 197 Pleasant Plains Road,
(Harding Township, NJ; mailing address Basking Ridge, NJ 07920)

5:30 p.m.

Annual meeting (everyone is welcome - only members may vote)

- Review of the Year - Financials, Accomplishments, Highlights, Looking ahead
- Election of Directors
- Approval of changes to Bylaws

6:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner

Bring your favorite dish to share - half the fun is not knowing if we'll have all vegetables - or all desserts!!!
Cold & hot beverages will be provided.

7:30 p.m.

Movie - Pale Male

All are welcome to stay for this funny and moving hour-long movie about red-tailed hawks who take up residence in New York City's Central Park - and the people who watch them.

Join us for a little business, a chance to reflect on our achievements, some good food and conversation.
All in all, a fun evening with Friends!

Remember - the Bookstore & Gift Shop will remain open for evening shopping
- and the double discounts still apply!!

Notice of proposed changes to Bylaws

Article IV - Section 1. Annual Meeting

Action: change the dates of the annual meeting from "between September 1 and November 30 of each year" to "between September 1 and December 31 of each year".

Explanation: The Board is continuing to look for ways to attract more members to the annual member meeting; this change provides more options for selecting meeting dates to achieve that end.

Article V - Section 2 - Number and Election

Action: change the number of directors from: "There shall be nine directors" to "There shall be no less than 9 and no greater than 15 directors".

Explanation: As our organization matures and the scope of our activities and projects expand, we may need additional skills and people for the Board; this change provides that flexibility.

A copy of the current Bylaws is available on the Friends website (www.friendsofgreatswamp.org)

