

FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Spring Homestead Cleanup	3
Refuge Grows by 35 Acres	3
Name this Newsletter Contest	4
Federal Duck Stamps	4
Refuge Birding News	5
Mimic Thrushes of the Swamp	6
Two Women of Note	7
Eastern Painted Turtle	8

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A RECORD 8,147.5 HOURS DONATED TO GREAT SWAMP IN 2006 CONGRATULATIONS VOLUNTEERS!

By Laurel Gould

Volunteers at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge sure were busy last year. They picked up debris and litter, removed invasive species, mowed, pruned, and clipped! They welcomed visitors at the Wildlife Observation Center and at the Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop. They did surveys, monitored the bluebird trail, put up nest boxes and cleaned them out. They hosted educational events for the public, and welcomed school, youth, and adult groups. And lots more. The Refuge depends on volunteers to help out in many different areas—and help they do!



Volunteer Award Recipients for 2006 (front row, l-r) Robert Furstner, Pete Axelrod, Kathy Woodward, Judy Schmidt, Laurel Gould, Dorothy Smullen, Steve Henry, (back row, l-r) Chris Hildebrand, Teri Catalano, Linda Byland, Marilyn Kitchell, Dennis Branden, Pat Giaimo, Bob Brandt.

Photo by Steve Byland

Each year, volunteers are invited to celebrate at an awards ceremony where all are recognized. This year's event was held on April 20, 2007 at the North Maple Inn with a record attendance of 100 volunteers, refuge staff, and guests, including volunteers from the newly formed Friends of Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge. The event was co-sponsored by the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of Great Swamp NWR.

Outdoor Recreation Planner Tom McFadden, master of ceremonies, told the full house that the hours of donated service went up 5% to a record 8,147.5 hours with 169 active volunteers. These hours are reported to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. and are part of the formula used to provide funding for the various regions.

Continued on page 9

KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS & THE REFUGE—NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

AS WE'VE HEARD TELL ... A HISTORY NOTE

The Friends' Board has upped the activity level of its local history function by appointing Board member Chuck Whitmore as chairman of the History Committee. With other Board members, Chuck has plunged into the task of sorting out the many themes and sources of local history. Our geographical framework is the Great Swamp and closely surrounding area, and our cultural framework includes not only the largest single current landowner, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but also the long succession of prior landowning families and individuals.

The primary goal of the History Committee is preservation and presentation of information about the people who have lived here, some of the activities that they have been involved in, and the environment that they shaped. We intend to continue the program of oral history collection that was begun several years ago. We will also integrate material from many other sources into a collection that will reflect and enhance our interest in and enjoyment of this special part of Morris County. We hope to include selections of our results in this space from time to time, and to develop displays for the new visitor center. We welcome contributions of information or artifacts and suggestions from anyone who shares our interest.

IN MEMORIAM—ROBERT C. (BOB) THOMPSON

By Kathy Woodward

We will miss Bob Thompson. He was there with us from the beginning when we formed a Friends group. He supported us with his dedication and wonderful sense of humor. His Mickey Mouse sweatshirt was his "uniform" for homestead and



Bob (third from left) was always recognizable in his "Mickey Mouse" sweatshirt

roadside clean-ups. At the Wildlife Observation Center, Bob welcomed our visitors and shared his extensive knowledge of nature.

According to Tom McFadden, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bob had accumulated 350.5 hours since he first began volunteering for the Refuge. Bob was proud of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the Refuge System.

Bob died suddenly on February 4, 2007. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Nancy, and their family.

THANK YOU

Thank you to **The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township** for their generous donation and continued support. Thank you to volunteers **Leo Hollein** and **Chuck Whitmore** who directed donations from the **ExxonMobil Foundation** to the Friends of Great Swamp. ExxonMobil recognizes volunteer hours through their Volunteer Involvement Program. To all of you who added a donation to your membership renewals—thank you: Ursula Sommer, Jackie O'Mara, C. Graydon and Mary E. Rogers, Marisa Wohl, Shirlee Cashen, Bill Boyle and Karen Thompson, Robert W. Schwaneberg, Steve Henry, John Kozimbo, John and Donna Raab, Steve and Terry Burdick, Janet and Gene Bolla.

In Memory of **Bob Thompson**: Kathy and Carl Woodward, Charles and Laurel Gould.

In Memory of **Rich Schneck**: Herbert Schneck, Martha Minchak, Mark and Lisa Brosko, Alexander and Eileen Brosko, Kathleen M. Schneck.

KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS & THE REFUGE—NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

SPRING HOMESTEAD CLEANUP—FENCING REMOVED ALONG PLEASANT PLAINS ROAD

It was a beautiful spring day—perfect for the spring Homestead Cleanup. Thirty-four volunteers showed up to do Craig Bitler's bidding, including two boy scouts and ten students from Drew University's Earth House. Craig is the Refuge wildlife biologist and today the assignment was to remove the fencing from along Pleasant Plains Road, stretching from the North gate to the new visitor center site, a distance of more than three-tenths of a mile.

Now, this was really old fence, very rusty and long overgrown by multi-flora rose, small trees, and poison ivy. The fence was also located on the far side of the ditch—which, due to recent rains, was full of water. The fence had to be cut loose from posts and from surrounding vegetation, and then pulled out across the ditch and loaded in the truck for disposal.



After a morning of hard work, water-logged boots, and lots of scratches, the fencing was gone.

The removal of fencing such as this facilitates the movement of wildlife and, of course, looks much better for the visitors too.

Join us for the Fall Homestead Cleanup—who knows what we'll be assigned, but it's guaranteed to make a positive difference for the wildlife of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Homestead Cleanup volunteers along Pleasant Plains Road
Photo by Navjot Singh

REFUGE GROWS BY 35 ACRES WITH ACQUISITION OF BAJDA PROPERTY

By Steve Henry, Deputy Refuge Manager

After years of on-again, off-again negotiations, in late-January the refuge succeeded in acquiring the 35 acre Bajda property. The property is located on the western edge of the refuge and is bordered by White Bridge Road to the south, refuge lands and Black Brook to the north and east, and the Passaic River and Somerset County parklands to the west. The land was purchased for \$325,000 with funds derived largely from compensatory mitigation for natural resource damage occurring in the lower Passaic drainage.

The property has great value for wildlife. Three distinct wetland habitat types are present: herbaceous, deciduous scrub/shrub, and deciduous wooded which transition from the bank of the Passaic River to the more upland, interior areas of the parcel. Hunting previously occurred on the property and this land will be integrated into the annual refuge deer hunt this year.

The Bajda property is an important acquisition for the refuge. With this purchase, Great Swamp NWR has grown to 7,725 acres.

NAME OUR NEWSLETTER CONTEST!!! ENTRIES DUE BY AUGUST 1, 2007*By George Helmke, artwork design by Lisa Molinari*

Most newspapers and newsletters have names. Ours, for Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, does not.

Why not? Probably because we haven't thought about it—or thought it necessary.

Some newsletters have catchy names, like Habi-Chat, the newsletter of Florida's Merritt Island Wildlife Association. Or Piping Plover from the Chincoteague Natural History Association. Or Marsh Musings from Friends of Heinz Refuge.

To find a name for this newsletter, our Board has initiated a naming contest. Members may suggest up to three names. The Board will select the winning name which will be announced at the Fall Festival, with the winner to be awarded a Friends sweatshirt. Should the winning name have been proposed by several contestants, all will receive sweatshirts.

Please give this matter some serious thought. A great name must be out there waiting for us to claim it.

Be sure to submit your newsletter names by August 1. You may send an e-mail to webmaster@friendsofgreatswamp.org, mail your ideas to the Friends at 241 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920, or stop by the Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop open weekends from 11-5 through June 30. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number.

DO YOUR PART—BUY A FEDERAL DUCK STAMP*By Laurel Gould*

So... you enjoy watching birds, and you want to be sure that the habitat they need continues to be acquired and protected. Well, there's an easy way to do your part. Just buy a \$15 Federal Duck Stamp each year.

Established in 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp program is one of the oldest and most effective conservation programs ever developed. A whopping 98% of the proceeds from the sales of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which is used to purchase and lease wetland habitats for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Initially devised as a license for hunting migratory waterfowl, the stamp has evolved into a way for birders and other conservationists to contribute to wetland preservation. Although the primary emphasis is waterfowl, numerous other bird, mammal, fish, reptile, and amphibian species that rely on wetland habitats have also benefited. Further, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, "an estimated one-third of the Nation's endangered and threatened species find food or shelter in refuges established using Federal Duck Stamp funds".



Richard Clifton, of Milford Delaware, is the winner of this year's Federal Duck Stamp contest and his design of two ring-necked ducks will be depicted on the 2007-2008 stamp. His entry was selected from a field of 297 entries with artists representing 49 states.

The Federal Duck Stamp goes on sale in late June and provides free entry to any national wildlife refuge for one year. You can purchase duck stamps from many post offices or the web sites www.usps.com and www.duckstamp.com.

The Friends of Great Swamp NWR also sell the Federal Duck Stamp. You can purchase a stamp in the Bookstore, open weekends from 11:00—5:00 through June 30. Since the Bookstore is closed during July and August, we have created a special offer. Send a check for \$15 to Friends of Great Swamp, 241 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, NJ and we'll mail you the current duck stamp along with a special duck stamp holder.

So if you enjoy watching birds—don't wait—do your part today.

REFUGE BIRDING & BIRDERS NEWS & NOTES

By Pat Gaiamo

Birding at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is a popular pastime.

There are many experienced birders and then there are some to whom this is a newer addiction. One of the outstanding traits of all the birders at the Refuge is their willingness to share. They share where they have found birds, their knowledge, their spotting scopes, and their time. One of the newer birders, who is very willing to carry and share her scope, is Nancy Felicito. Here is her story.



BIRTH OF A BIRDER *By Nancy Felicito*

I have always loved nature. I was one of those weird kids who had a wildflower garden and who liked to wander off in the woods by myself. As a natural progression, I majored in Biology, but then I let other interests take over my life. Unfortunately I was unable to convince my husband, children, or friends to share in my love of the great outdoors. A few years ago, when my husband and I owned a travel agency, I was able to travel to the Amazon, Costa Rica, and to the Galapagos Islands. Those trips served as a reminder as to what was really missing in my life.

About two years ago I began coming to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and found that when I arrived here I would actually let out a sigh of relief and feel myself relaxing. I became fascinated with the variety of birds I was seeing. I guess that's the advantage of a refuge for migrating birds. There's always something new to see or hear. I soon found that binoculars weren't enough, so I bought a spotting scope. I then found that merely watching the birds wasn't enough, so I began taking photos through the scope (digiscoping).

Late last winter, when the pond next to the refuge headquarters miraculously appeared, I discovered the fascinating world of ducks. I had already fallen in love with our ever-present wood duck (still my favorite), but I had never even heard of northern pintails, green-winged teal, or northern shovelers. At the end of Pleasant Plains Road by the bridge, I'd search for hooded mergansers, ring-necks, coot, black ducks, and common mergansers.

This past winter, the first time I had frequented the Swamp all season, I realized that many of these ducks stay here all winter. One of the best places for viewing them was at the Friend's Blind, where the moving water in the distance remained unfrozen most of the time. During the very cold spell, they seemed to congregate in the pond off Long Hill Road. (Unfortunately there is no parking there, and the trek along the road from the Wildlife Observation Center parking area is not something I would suggest.)

Now that the spring migration is approaching, I find myself looking forward to the arrival of the warblers. The scope is not much of a help though because they move too quickly. I think I will have to invest in a new digital SLR camera if I want to try to capture some of them. Oh well, what's a little \$\$ when I'm doing what I love! (Sorry, Dear, I hope you hadn't planned on using that money for something else.)

Happy Birding! Try to locate the pileated woodpeckers in the woods near the Friend's Blind at the Wildlife Observation Center. What a sight to see!

10TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT (GBBC)

By Pat Gaiamo

If you drove by the Friend's Bookstore last February 17 and 18, you probably saw people staring out the window. If you wondered what they were doing, they were counting! Every year on President's Day weekend the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology sponsor the Great Backyard Bird Count to collect data from around the country.

The Friends were doing their part to help answer many questions. How do cold and snow influence bird populations? What are the differences in bird diversity in suburban, rural, natural or urban areas? Are there noticeable declines in a species?

The procedure is to count the number of each species you see at any one time and report the highest number to the GBBC. Here at the Swamp we saw 25 species with the most numerous being the red-winged blackbird with 60 birds under the feeder at one time. In addition to the feeder birds, people reported red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, mallards, and turkeys. For more information check the GBBC web site (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>). And next year, plan on helping us count at the Great Swamp and consider doing your own backyard count.

MIMIC THRUSHES OF THE SWAMP

Story and photos by Leo Hollein

All three of the mimic thrushes found in New Jersey breed in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The gray catbird, northern mockingbird and brown thrasher can imitate the songs of many other bird species. All three can be observed singing their repertoires from exposed perches, especially in the spring. The brown thrasher is sometimes called the "ditto bird" as it repeats a song twice before switching to another one. The mockingbird usually repeats a song three or more times before continuing its medley. The catbird gets its name from the sound it makes that is similar to the mewing of a cat.

The mimic thrushes are similar in shape. They have slender bodies and long tails. The brown thrasher has a distinctively larger curved bill that is used to probe on the ground for food. The coloration of the catbird and thrasher are incorporated in their names. The catbird as shown above has a slate-gray overall color with a black cap and a rusty undertail that is not always visible. The brown thrasher is nearly solid brown above and has streaked underparts. The mockingbird is gray on top and pale underneath. It is easily identified by the large white wing patch that it reveals when flying. Mockingbirds are year round residents of the Refuge. Catbirds and brown thrashers migrate to warmer climates in the winter.



Of the mimic thrushes, the catbird is the most abundant breeder in the swamp and also one of the most common breeding birds on the Refuge. Even so, their nests are still a challenge to locate. They nest in dense shrubs usually 3 to 5 feet above the ground. Catbirds do not fly directly to or from their nests; they approach the bushes containing their nest at ground level. Once inside the plant cover they go up to their nest. When leaving the nest, they retrace their path. The mockingbird, like the catbird, nests in dense shrubs not far off the ground. Brown thrashers nest on or near the ground in dense vegetation.

Catbirds make a bulky nest of sticks and plant material as do the other mimic thrushes. A typical catbird clutch consists of four blue eggs as shown below. Both mockingbirds and brown thrashers lay eggs that are pale blue or green and covered with brown splotches. A catbird nest with four developing hatchlings is shown in the right-hand photo below. They are demonstrating the typical frozen posture defense mechanism of nestlings when they feel threatened. The adult catbirds were calling and performing distraction displays while the picture was being taken. While Japanese barberries are an invasive introduced plant species, they are providing a nesting habitat for these catbirds, as shown by the leaves surrounding the nest below.



TWO WOMEN OF NOTE—RACHEL L. CARSON (1907 – 2007) & HELEN C. FENSKE (1922 – 2007)

May 27 marks the 100th anniversary of Rachel Carson's birth and although she is not as well known today, her work *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, is "credited with launching the contemporary environmental movements and awakening concern by Americans about the environment". The book, which is still in print, urged the government to review their pesticide policy and find alternatives to the use of DDT and other dangerous pesticides. A direct result of that review was a ban on the use of DDT.

Most people don't realize that Rachel Carson spent 15 years as an employee of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service writing and editing information pamphlets and bulletins on conservation. One of the best known was a series called *Conservation in Action* devoted to exploring wildlife and ecology on our national wildlife refuges. She personally authored several of the pamphlets in this series traveling to various national wildlife refuges, including Parker River (Mass.), Chincoteague (Va.), Bear River (Utah), and Mattamuskeet (N.C.) to do first-hand research. The often-used quote that is frequently associated with Rachel Carson is printed at the beginning of many of the publications in this series.

"If you travel much in the wilder sections of our country, sooner or later you are likely to meet the sign of the flying goose—the emblem of the National Wildlife Refuges."

The Friends of Great Swamp NWR will be hosting a Rachel Carson Family Discovery Event on May 27 and will focus on her legacy again during National Wildlife Refuge Week in October. To learn more about Rachel Carson, read her excellent biography by Linda Lear, or pick up one of her earlier books: *Under the Sea Wind* (1941), *The Sea Around Us* (1951), and *The Edge of the Sea* (1956). Or visit the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge on the coast of Maine near Carson's summer home. Additional information is available on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov/rachelpcarson/>.

Helen Fenske, who died on January 19, 2007, is a name well-known to anyone familiar with the history of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge but her accomplishments didn't end with that victory. She went on to become an environmental legend with monumental and far-reaching achievements... but it all started with that battle to save the Great Swamp from becoming an international jetport, nearly 50 years ago.

In 1959, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey announced plans to build a 10,000 acre jetport which would have completely obliterated the Great Swamp. Helen Fenske led a citizen's battle against the Port Authority, mobilizing local and national support to buy land in the Great Swamp for donation to the Federal government as a wildlife refuge. Although there were hundreds of people involved in the four-year long fight to save the Great Swamp, Helen Fenske's name is the one that is synonymous with this amazing success story which resulted in the donation of 2,600 acres to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall in 1964 when the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was formally dedicated.

"Helen was indefatigable. She just wouldn't take the word no. She is the classic example of a local activist who makes it happen."

Not content to sit back and savor the victory, Helen Fenske played a major role in the creation of the Great Swamp Wilderness Area. She and her team petitioned members of Congress, visiting representatives of the New Jersey Congressional delegation and Congressional committee chairs to lobby for the creation of a wilderness area in New Jersey. In 1968, the bill creating the 3,660 acre Great Swamp Wilderness Area was signed into law, creating the first designated wilderness area in the Department of the Interior and the first on a national wildlife refuge. According to Rupert Cutler, then Assistant Director of the Wilderness Society, who worked closely with Helen and her team during this time, "Helen was indefatigable; she just wouldn't take the word no. She is the classic example of a local activist who makes it happen."

Helen Fenske became a statewide environmental advocate, serving as the Assistant Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, an agency she helped create. In this role, she promoted the creation of the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, created clean water and clean air regulations, championed the preservation of open space, and fostered the creation of numerous local environmental commissions. She received many awards including the U.S. Department of the Interior's Conservation Service Award.

She is recognized as a prime example of what can be achieved for environmental conservation through citizen action. She is a role model demonstrating the power of the individual and the importance and real strength of the local activist. She was instrumental in changing the way the State of New Jersey approached environmental issues—a legacy that will continue into the future.

NATURE PROFILE—EASTERN PAINTED TURTLE

By Charlie Gould

Ever wonder what kind of turtle you just saw sunning itself on a log in the middle of a pond? Good chance it was an eastern painted turtle (or *Chrysemys picta picta*, for you Latin majors). The eastern painted turtle is one of four subspecies of the painted turtle family and the only one that ranges across the North American continent. The eastern painted turtle is most readily identifiable by the yellow spots behind its eyes and also its plastron (underside of the shell) which is a solid yellow in color.



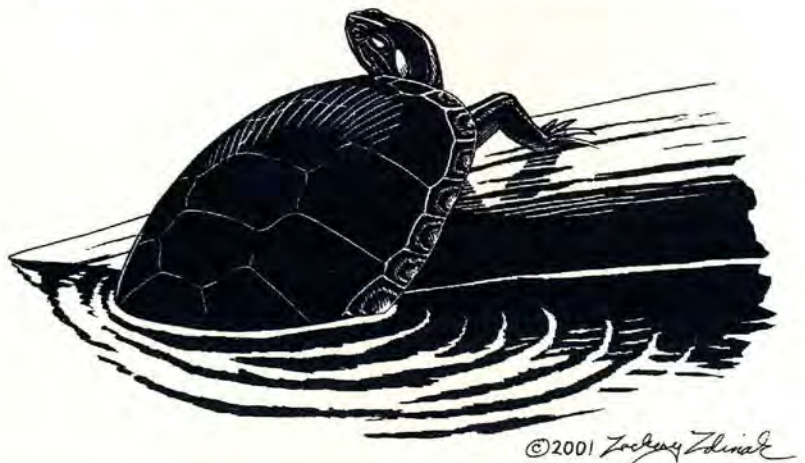
Eastern painted turtles
Photo by Barbara Wingel

The turtles are most active from March to October. As the temperatures become colder they become less active. They actually stop feeding when the water temperature gets between 50 to 60 degrees and remain more or less dormant until the water warms. Because they can absorb oxygen through their skin (in addition to their lungs) they usually lie on the bottom of the pond all winter (sometimes burrowing into the mud) and wait for the spring thaw. In the warmer months the turtles are diurnal. They'll spend the night sleeping on the pond bottom and then become active around sunrise. They will typically bask in the sun for several hours to raise their body temperature before beginning to forage. They are one of the few turtles in the northeast that bask. After a late morning feeding they will then bask again in the afternoon sunshine. The eastern painted turtle is an omnivore and will eat small animal matter (living or dead) as well as plant vegetation. Late in the day they will start to forage again and continue until dark when they will return to the bottom of the pond to sleep.

The turtles will frequently bask with other turtles, related or not. Each basking period lasts about two hours. In the wild there does not appear to be any social hierarchy, but in captivity a hierarchy quickly appears. The dominant turtles will feed first and the least aggressive ones will eat last. In courtship the male chases after the female (on land or in the water). When he finally reaches her he then turns and faces her nose to nose. The male then strokes the female's head with his front claws and if she's interested she strokes him back. The male then swims away encouraging the female to follow. If she's still interested she'll then swim to the bottom of the pond where the male will join her.

The female will dig out a nest for her eggs usually on land within 200 yards of the pond. She will lay anywhere from 2 to 15 eggs. The eggs are normally elliptical in shape and have a white to cream color. The eggs are very pliable when first laid but become firmer as they absorb water from the atmosphere. The eggs will hatch in about 60 to 70 days and the hatchlings will make their way to the pond. Some hatchlings that are born in the late autumn will actually remain in the nest (buried under 6-8 inches of soil) during the winter and will emerge from the nest when the warm temperatures of spring arrive.

An adult turtle can reach about seven inches in length and weigh as much as two pounds. They can live 20 years or more in captivity but their life expectancy in the wild is much shorter. The two major predators of the turtles are raccoons and man.



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VOLUNTEERS ARE RECOGNIZED *(Continued from page 1)*

The Awards

100 Hour Club: Volunteers who have achieved a cumulative total of 100 hours or more become members of the 100 Hour Club and receive a key chain and an engraved volunteer name tag. Recipients this year were: Patrick Amorosa, Pete Axelrod, Linda Byland, Teri Catalano, Bill Filce, Susan Friedman, Steve Henry, Chris Hildebrand, Marilyn Kitchell, Christopher Klaube, Scott Kuhn, Mike Newlon, Blaine Rothauser.

Pins are awarded to volunteers for various levels of cumulative hours:

250 hour pin: Dennis Branden, Robert Furstner, Pat Giaimo, Marilyn Kitchell, Christopher Klaube, Scott Kuhn.

500 hour pin: Bob Brandt

1,000 hour pin: Kathy Woodward, Dorothy Smullen

2,000 hour pin: Laurel Gould

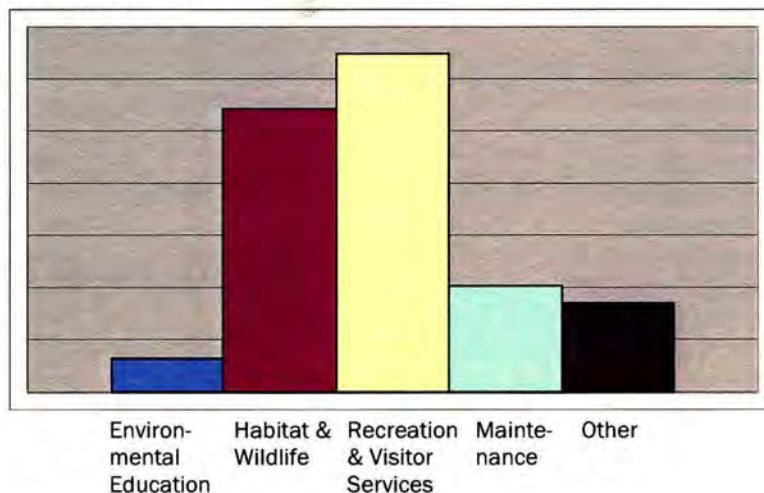
2,500 hour pin: Judy Schmidt

4,500 hour pin: Jean Sebesta!!

Following these awards, Bill Koch, Refuge manager, presented each volunteer with a personal Certificate of Appreciation. Volunteers could also choose a gift from the volunteer gift table, loaded this year with the most popular Judy-Schmidt hand-made mugs, Great Swamp NWR t-shirts with the Ron Orlando design, and an assortment of other gift items. It's always a fun evening with opportunities to meet other volunteers and refuge staff, find out what other people do for the Refuge, learn about new volunteer opportunities, and catch up with old friends.

VOLUNTEERS HELP THE REFUGE IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS

This chart shows the proportion of volunteer hours donated in each of five areas. Recreation and Visitor Services, the largest area, includes migration staffing, leading group tours, staffing the bookstore and preparing Discovery Den exhibits. Habitat and wildlife activities include invasive species removal, pruning, cutting, planting, wildlife surveys, monitoring the nest boxes, cleaning out the wood duck boxes, and assisting with the deer hunt. Maintenance activities include mowing, painting or staining. Environmental education activities include the Volunteer Training and the Swamp in a Box loan program.



Volunteer opportunities are varied, challenging, and constantly changing. At the present time, volunteers are needed in the following areas. If you are interested, let us know (call, mail, stop by, or fill out the form on our web site).

Gardenkeepers: Do you enjoy gardening? There are two native plant gardens that the Friends maintain—one at Refuge Headquarters and one at the Friends Bookstore. When we move into the new visitor center, we'll be adding more. All these gardens need weeding and pruning during the growing season. Weekday and weekend hours available.

Pleasant Plains Road Crew: In 2005, the Friends adopted Pleasant Plains Road. We clear vegetation from around the signs, clear out the ditches, and remove invasive species. This is largely a weekend volunteer activity.

Second Sunday Program Committee: Our regular Second Sunday events now take place all year long. We

need people to help with refreshments; we also need volunteers to lead walks—or to be a "sweeper", making sure no visitors are left behind!

Migration Staffing at Wildlife Observation Center (and Overlook): Spring and Fall migration are the busiest seasons at the Refuge—for wildlife and for visitors. Volunteers staff the Friends Information Center greeting visitors and providing maps and information. They maintain the sightings board, hand out Boardwalk Bingo games, and station themselves along the boardwalk trails to help point out interesting wildlife sightings. It's fun, easy, and flexible. Volunteer opportunities are Thursday through Sunday—and we'd increase the number of days if we had enough volunteers!

8,147.5 HOURS DONATED IN FISCAL YEAR 2006—THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

(continued from page 1)

Between October 1, 2005 and September 30, 2006, volunteers donated 8,147.5 hours to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Listed below are the active volunteers in fiscal year 2006 with the cumulative hours contributed to Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge since first becoming a volunteer.

Patrick Amorosa (240)	Bill Filce (230)	David Kitchell (10)	Candance Paska (4)
Joann Apgar (50)	Karen Finan (15.5)	Marilyn Kitchell (439.5)	Louis Pisane (437.5)
AT&T (40)	Tom Finan (15.5)	Christopher Klaube (440)	Lori Prosser (118.5)
Pete Axelrod (141.5)	Ralph Fischer (27)	Neil Klingenburg (27)	Sandra Pruzansky (45.5)
Bill Ayres (244)	Pete Formichella (4.5)	Scott Kuhn (480)	Gail Rapaport (235.5)
Brenda Ayres (191)	Susan Friedman (104.5)	John Kunkel (583.5)	Hanina Rawnicki (242)
Matt Bocker (28)	Larry Fuhro (61.5)	Bonnie Kushnerick (4)	Shirley Richardson (39.5)
Dennis Branden (415)	Laura Fuhro (69)	Eric Lahman (3.5)	Edythe Risberg (203)
Bob Brandt (516.5)	Robert Furstner (270.5)	Jen Lahman (3.5)	Ashley Roberts (12.5)
Christine Brown (4)	Garden Club of Morristown &	Merris Larkin (120)	Blaine Rothauser (118)
Erin Brown (4)	Garden Club of the Oranges	Kathy Lawson (72.5)	Deb Scala (393)
Rachel Brown (4)	(21)	Ray Lord (126)	Joe Scala (32)
Sara Brown (4)	Jane George (75.5)	Ann McCord (46.5)	Nancy Schenck (444)
Bill Burress (19.5)	Spencer George (34.5)	Don McCord (45.5)	Judy Schmidt (2,672)
Nancy Burtnett (1)	Pat Giaimo (412.5)	Bob McDonald (9.5)	Mary Ann Schmit (26.5)
Linda Byland (109)	Ellen Goldberg (37)	Don McLellan (7)	Jean Sebesta (4,786)
Steve Byland (653.5)	Charlie Gould (120)	Jeane McLellan (11)	Marvin Sebesta (914)
Steve Carroll (3.5)	Laurel Gould (2,161)	Emily McQueen (32)	Willard Shearin (399)
Terry Carruthers (35.5)	Steve Gruber (119.5)	John Miller (4.5)	Frank Shyers (76.5)
Shirlee Cashen (17)	George Helmke (226.5)	Lisa Molinari (681)	Gina Smith (43.5)
Corinna Catalano (17)	Greg Henderson (45.5)	Laura Morrison (480)	Bill Smullen (73.5)
Mark Catalano (28)	Steve Henry (107.5)	Alberta Mount (370)	Dorothy Smullen (1,050.5)
Teri Catalano (120)	Mariana Hernandez (54.5)	Roz Mytelka (162.5)	George Solovay (850.5)
Al Cossa (392)	Jack Higgins (657)	Joe Nally (56)	Christine Stadtmueller (77)
Betsy Coyne (41.5)	Maryann Higgins (9.5)	Laura Nally (373)	Robert Stanton (328.5)
George Coyne (55)	Chris Hildebrand (110.5)	Carol Newlon (25)	Matt Steffens (43.5)
Robin Crusellas (11)	Bob Hofmann (36)	Mike Newlon (106)	Meredith Swenson (5.5)
Emily Cullen (52)	Leo Hollein (1,346.5)	Melinda Nye (80.5)	Bob Thompson (350.5)
Jen Czar (3)	Louise Jensen (178.5)	Lillian O'Brien (58.5)	Kevin Ward (5.5)
Janene DePalo (13)	Corey Johnson (25.5)	Pilar Ojea (14)	Esther Warner (33)
Jim Detizio (590.5)	Elmer Johnson III (60)	Rich Olsen (28.5)	Elaine Weyuker (39.5)
David Dietz (15)	Ken Johnson (73)	Brian Osborn (14)	Chuck Whitmore (156.6)
Rich Dufort (166.5)	Mocella Johnson (3)	Claudia Osborn (26)	John Wilmot (484.5)
Roger Edwards (211.5)	Susan Katz (50)	Peter Osborn (12)	Barbara Wingel (272.5)
John Engelhart (49.5)	Jane Kendall (89)	Tom Ostrand (47.5)	Carl Woodward (208)
Karen English (35)	Terri Kenner (3)	Ruben Owens (20)	Kathy Woodward (1,028.5)
Monica Felsing (5)	Anastasia Kidd (19)	Sandy Parr (21.5)	

*"The lasting pleasures of contact with the natural world
are not reserved for scientists
but are available to anyone who will place himself
under the influence of earth, sea and sky
and their amazing life."*

...Rachel Carson

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.

Become one of the 390 members of the Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

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 certificate redeemable at the Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop for a Great Swamp pin or patch.

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

MAY 2007

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

