



the Swamp Scene

friends of great swamp national wildlife refuge

ISSUE THIRTY ONE
AUGUST 2009

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Friends launch fundraising campaign

CREATING A PATH TO THE FUTURE... ONE BRICK AT A TIME

You are invited to participate in this unique opportunity to mark your legacy at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The Friends of Great Swamp are launching a fundraising campaign by selling engraved commemorative bricks for placement at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center. Perhaps you'd like to honor someone who has inspired you? Or maybe you could purchase a brick in memory of friends or loved ones? You may want to memorialize Helen Fenske's legacy or to share a favorite quote which has provided inspiration.

Engraved bricks can display messages, special dates, accolades or memorials along walkways or pathways where visitors can read and enjoy them.



One potential location for the placement of commemorative bricks at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center.

Photo by Karen English

Your donation will help fund

- interactive and educational exhibits to welcome, orient, and educate visitors;
- landscaping and demonstration gardens to help visitors learn about native plants, habitat diversity, invasive species, and attracting wildlife;
- a self-guided nature trail along the Passaic River with observation blinds and viewing scopes;
- exciting educational and interpretive programs for school and scout groups, families, and adults.

The bricks are available in three different formats: a 4-inch by 8-inch brick with up to three lines of text for \$150; an 8-inch by 8-inch brick with up to 6 lines of text for \$300; an 8-inch by 8-inch brick with an engraved blue goose along with 4 lines of text for \$350. A laser engraving technique is used which burns into the face of the brick creating an engraving that is naturally dark and completely permanent. You may wish to purchase one brick, or several. Individuals, groups, and organizations are welcome to purchase bricks. Bricks will be sold through December 2010.

Although the Friends will officially launch this campaign at the Fall Festival on September 12, orders are being accepted now. Contributions are tax deductible. Use the enclosed Brick Campaign Order Form to reserve your brick. The members of the Friends Board of Directors have already purchased their bricks as well as a special "blue goose" brick to commemorate the 10th anniversary (1999 – 2009) of the Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; it is intended that these bricks be on display at the Fall Festival.

Won't you join us and be part of this unique opportunity to support the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and to leave a personalized message for future generations.

JUNIOR REFUGE MANAGER PROGRAM COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL FIRST SEASON

By Judy Schmidt

With the close of the first season of the Junior Refuge Manager program, we are proud to announce that there are now eight official Junior Refuge Managers at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. All eight completed their Activity Books and were sworn in by the Swamp Nature Guide volunteers during the spring 2009 season. And there are many more children who are still working on their Activity Books. Here are photos of a few of the members of the Junior Refuge Manager Class of Spring 2009!

It was a fun and exciting first season for the new program and we couldn't have done it without the 23 Swamp Nature Guide volunteers who spent hours on the boardwalks at the Wildlife Observation Center answering questions and certifying Activity Book pages for the aspiring Junior Refuge Managers. We now have many more children aware of the refuge and nature—and our volunteers learned a lot too.

Good ideas just seemed to happen—one day the scope was set up and focused on the nest of a blue gray gnatcatcher. This was near the Junior Refuge Manager sign-in table and everyone, young and old, stopped to look through the scope as the parent gnatcatchers fed their babies. Many of these visitors then purchased an Activity Book and got started on the program. The next week the birds were gone but we had turtle shells to display and insects under a magnifying glass and that worked just as well to attract children and their parents to this new program.



When a child finishes their book they are given a badge and sworn in. They are then asked to please wear their badge when they visit and to help other people learn about nature. When asked, one young lady replied as she was sworn in: "I would be honored". I think that says it all about what it means to be a Junior Refuge Manager.



The Junior Refuge Manager program will return in the fall. It has been suggested that we use fewer Swamp Nature Guide volunteers each day. This means that we could have volunteers available on more days to assist aspiring Junior Refuge Managers at the Wildlife Observation Center. Junior Refuge Manager Activity Books cost \$2.00 and are available at the Wildlife Observation Center during September and October as well as at the Friends' Nature Shop in the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Donations made to the Friends of Great Swamp make up a significant portion of our annual income and allow us to fund a variety of projects and programs which benefit the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, its wildlife, and its visitors. Thank you to all who have made a recent donation to the Friends, including all of our anonymous donors who fill the donation boxes at the Wildlife Observation Center and the Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop.

Individual donations: The Magura's for turtle research; Employees of Mount Hope Office Administration Facility, Tilcon New York, in celebration of Earth Day; Mary Youngberg; Janet Stadelmeier; Udayan & Sheela Vinod Foundation; Betsy Abruzzo.

ExxonMobil Foundation: In recognition of the volunteer hours donated by Jack Higgins and Leo Hollein—thank you.

Membership Donations: To all of you who added an additional donation to your membership renewals, thank you.

Faith A. Robinson, Laura & Joe Nally, David Achille, Maryann Leonardis Trevena, Nancy & Flo Brown Foley, Deborah Lewinson, Susan Woelzl, Cletus Nolde, Peter Savino, Grant Price & Frances Wu, Arnold & Roz Mytelka, Marcia Hall, Rosemarie Widmer, Patricia Bell, Joseph & Marianne Cummins, Bryant Lee, Jane Dorsey, Neil & Christy Morganstein, Bonnie Kushnerick, David Dietz & Jane Kendall.

VOLUNTEERS HELP IMPROVE VIEWING BLIND AT WILDLIFE OBSERVATION CENTER



Volunteers Steve Gruber (left) and George Solovay (right) add fencing along Friends' blind

One of the best places to look for ducks, herons and egrets, and muskrats is from the Friends observation blind at the Wildlife Observation Center. The blind, funded by the Friends of Great Swamp, looks out over the Pool 2 impoundment area where flocks of ducks gather, wading birds feed, and muskrats are busy swimming back and forth. Unfortunately, birds and wildlife were often startled as



visitors approached the blind. Volunteers Steve Gruber and George Solovay built some fencing adjacent to the blind so visitors approaching from the woods would not disturb the wildlife. Thank you Steve and George.

Have you purchased your new Federal Duck Stamp?

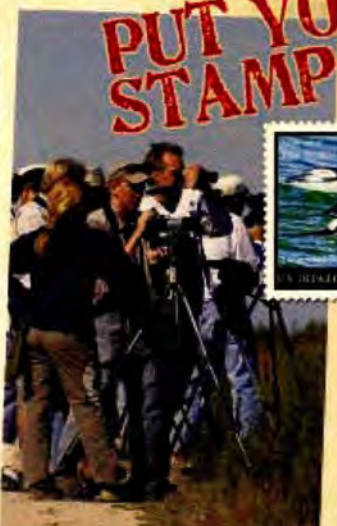
FEDERAL DUCK STAMPS—PUT YOUR STAMP ON THE FUTURE

By Laurel Gould

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps," are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They were originally created in 1934 serving as the federal license required for hunting migratory waterfowl; over the years the market has expanded to include birders, conservationists, refuge visitors, and stamp collectors. Sales of these stamps generate a vital source of revenue to support the continuing purchase of wetlands for refuges. Last year funds were approved to add more than 3,500 acres to the National Wildlife Refuge System and since 1934, more than \$700 million in duck stamp funds have been used to acquire 5.3 million acres of habitat for refuges. In New Jersey, more than 50,000 acres have been purchased through this program for the five national wildlife refuges, 2,808 of these acres at Great Swamp.

A new series of public service announcements (PSAs) is being launched to promote the Federal Duck Stamp and its benefits in an effort to increase stamp sales and conservation dollars. The PSA below is one example from this new series—look for others in local and national publications and future issues of this newsletter.

PUT YOUR STAMP ON



...and preserve the future of birding.


If you have a deep and lasting love for wildlife and the future of migratory bird habitats, the time has come to stand up and be counted. Put your stamp on the future of a great American asset. Through the purchase of this year's Federal Duck Stamp, you can play a major role in the acquisition of migratory bird habitats across the country. The stamp, officially called the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, has generated funds for the acquisition of over 5.3 million acres of wetland and grassland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System. With your help, these efforts will continue.

\$15

Your purchase helps protect the best habitats, shows that you care and serves as your pass to all National Wildlife Refuges. Display it with pride and put your stamp on the future!

Available at most U.S. Post Offices, staffed National Wildlife Refuges, better sporting goods stores, or online.

fws.gov/duckstamps



If you enjoy visiting Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and other refuges around the country, then here's a chance to say thank you with the purchase of a Federal Duck Stamp. It's valid as an entry pass to any National Wildlife Refuge that charges a fee. Collecting duck stamps is a great hobby—there are special frames made to hold a decade's worth of stamps. Limited-edition prints of the winning design make great collectibles and stunning art on your wall. Best of all, you are helping ensure the future of wetlands and waterfowl.

Federal Duck Stamps sell for \$15 and are sold at many post offices and online. They are also available at the Friends Nature Shop and at Refuge Headquarters.

HELEN C. FENSKE VISITOR CENTER OFFICIALLY OPENS ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2009



It's been a long time coming... but on September 12, 2009, the long-awaited Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge will officially open with the 10th annual Fall Festival. Regular visitor center hours, at least to start, will be:

- Thursday & Friday: Noon—4:00 pm
- Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 am—4:00 pm

Access from the North will be from Lee's Hill Road via a new refuge road. Signs will be posted at the entrance. Access from the South will be restricted to specific hours. On an experimental basis, North Gate on Pleasant Plains Road will be open weekdays from 10:00 am—3:00 pm and weekends from sunrise to sunset.

Check our web site for directions and for changes in hours of access or visitor center operations.

Exhibits create a fun and engaging way to convey a wealth of information. The Friends and Refuge staff have been working with a design firm, Taylor Studios, to develop concepts for exhibits at the visitor center. The objective is to spark curiosity, encourage self-discovery, and enhance the visitor experience. The exhibits are being funded in part by the Federal stimulus package; the Friends will be raising money for the balance of these exhibits. The drawing (right) is one of the proposed designs, a realistic diorama depicting a cattail marsh transitioning through the seasons with plant and animal models, interactive flip doors, and push buttons to activate sound. An interactive topographic map of the Refuge holds center stage and a realistic model of a dead tree tells a story of life and decay. This concept is just one of many which have been developed.



The Friends Discovery Den is also moving to the visitor center. There is already a new display (pictured at left) which challenges visitors to seek out objects hidden in the leaf litter. There will be more displays, games, and crafts, and of course the very popular *Who's Scat is That?* The Discovery Den will continue to provide seasonal exhibits and hands-on activities for kids to augment and enhance the outdoor experiences.

The GardenKeepers committee has been busy creating a native plant bird feeding garden which will be clearly visible from the exhibit room and there is a greenhouse ready for starting native plants from seed. Second Sunday event visitors will be delighted with the new auditorium and state-of the art projection system.

The Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop will reopen in the visitor center with a new look... and a new name—The Nature Shop. The new shop is smaller but will make more efficient use of available space. The fixtures and shelving are white and the lighting is much improved. The shop will open on September 12 with new merchandise as well as the popular pottery, jewelry, photographs, and art prints from local artists. Shop hours will be dependent on the availability of volunteers. If you are interested in working at the new shop, please let us know—on-the-job training will be provided and hours are very flexible both weekdays and weekends. As before, all proceeds from the shop help support Refuge projects.

Photo at left: Volunteers install the display fixtures at the new shop (left to right) Bob McDonald, Charlie Friedman, Bill Smullen (missing from photo Joe Nally).



HELEN C. FENSKE VISITOR CENTER OFFICIALLY OPENS ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2009



A large viewing screen will be mounted above a mantel on this fireplace wall in the library.



A smiling swamp frog awaits library visitors

Moving to the visitor center will allow the Friends to fulfill dreams they have had for several years. As our young Friends group thought about how to reach and teach more visitors and volunteers, we decided improved audio-visual equipment would be a big help. Initially we showed "filmstrips" on a torn screen in the "auditorium". With the increased use of DVDs and computers to enhance presentations, our setup became more antiquated. In 2004 and again in 2008, the Friends applied for and received grants from the Borman Foundation for up-to-date equipment.

In the library of the visitor center, there will be seating for small groups to watch DVDs about Great Swamp NWR, the Refuge System and related subjects on a 32" wall mounted screen. In the auditorium, a 52" high definition screen with internet hook-up will be used by presenters. Staff and volunteers can also view web-based seminars from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners. Both systems have built-in Blu-ray players.

The Friends thank the Borman Foundation and Neil Borman, a past Friends Board member, and his wife Cathy, both loyal volunteers before their move to the West Coast, for enhancing our outreach to visitors to Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

HELEN C. FENSKE—THE WOMAN BEHIND THE NAME

By *Laura Nally*

The new Visitor Center at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is named after Helen C. Fenske. Who is this woman and what did she do to earn this honor?

In 1959, Helen Fenske was a housewife living in Green Village when the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey threatened to build a jetport on what is now the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The Port Authority was very powerful and had never been defeated. Helen joined the Great Swamp Committee that was formed to stop the airport.

She began by educating people about the importance of the land and its wildlife. She would bring an old slide projector to any group that would listen. A small group of people worked together, often meeting at Helen's house around her kitchen table. They realized that while it was important to fight the airport, there had to be something else to replace it. The concept of establishing a national wildlife refuge at Great Swamp was born. Helen traveled to the regional office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to present this idea. Despite

initial reluctance, once Helen had presented her slide show she convinced them that Great Swamp should be a national wildlife refuge. The next challenge was to raise funds to purchase 3,000 acres that could be turned over to the U.S. Department of the Interior. Helen played a role in acquiring the necessary funds.



It is said the Helen was a warrior who never took "no" for an answer. She educated herself on every issue that surfaced in the battle and found a way to win. The Refuge was not truly safe from development until the wilderness designation was secured. She worked with powerful people in Congress to get the wilder-

ness designation. In 1968, Congress, under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964, designated 3,660 acres as the Great Swamp Wilderness Area.

While Helen Fenske did not win the battle by herself, she is largely credited with saving the Great Swamp and that is why the new Visitor Center has been named for her.

September 12, 2009—10th Annual Fall Festival at Great Swamp NWR

PLAY ON THE WILD SIDE—CONNECT WITH NATURE

September brings Labor Day, back to school time, and the annual Fall Festival at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. This year the Fall Festival will be the inaugural event at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center located at 32 Pleasant Plains Road in Harding Township. Festival hours are from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Join us for a full day of fun, food, and activities for the whole family.

Here's some of what we have planned:

- Interpretive nature walks: bird walk leaves at 10:15 am, other walks for butterflies, dragonflies, wildflowers, and invasive plants.
- Cool exhibits: Who's scat is that? Heads and tails, Big Bugs (under the microscope), Water critters... and more.
- Tours: Visitor center, native plant garden, greenhouse, new nature trail.
- Partners on Display: The Raptor Trust, Great Swamp Watershed Association, New Jersey Audubon, Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge
- Learn more about black bears and bats; try your hand at seining on the Passaic.
- Great bargains: Huge used book sale with some great natural history treasures.
- Just for kids: Refuge heavy equipment, Great Swamp toss game, make butterfly fans and rings, learn to use binoculars and scopes, catch the monarch hatching (if you're lucky), try your hand at fly casting, Wild side passports—with prizes.
- Grand opening of the Friends Nature Shop—author Steven Richman will be on hand to autograph his book *The Great Swamp* (2:00—3:00 pm);
- Artist Ron Orlando will autograph the 2009 tee-shirts with this year's fabulous new great blue heron design which he donated to the Friends. Ron will also have his artwork for sale.
- Sing Happy Birthday and enjoy a piece of cake—the Friends are 10!
- Check out our new fundraising campaign and be one of the first to buy a commemorative brick.



Free Food, Free admission, Fun for all—Join us!

Check our web site for directions and a map. We'll add a detailed program as soon as events are scheduled.

Doesn't this look
like fun?



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 the Friends Nature 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 Nature Shop for a free Great Swamp pin or patch.



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**friends of great swamp
national wildlife refuge**

AUGUST 2009

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.



Creating a path to the future... One brick at a time.

As the long-awaited Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge becomes a reality, you can help us in creating a path to the future... one brick at a time.



The Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge are pleased to offer a unique opportunity to mark your legacy at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge by purchasing a personalized commemorative brick which will be prominently placed at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center. Your gift will help fund visitor exhibits, landscaping, demonstration gardens, trails, and new educational and interpretive programs. Your engraved brick will be a lasting reminder of your support for the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The engraved bricks may be purchased in honor of or in memory of friends or loved ones, to honor Helen Fenske's legacy, or may contain your favorite quote to inspire visitors – the choice is up to you.



Opening in the fall of 2009, the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center will be housed in a renovated century-old farmhouse located on Pleasant Plains Road in Harding Township. The facility will provide visitor services, cool interactive exhibits, meeting space, and offices. The Friends' Discovery Den, library and gift shop will be re-located to the new facility. There will also be an interpretive nature trail leading to the Passaic River which borders the property. The new facility will allow for expanded programs for school and scout groups and for families and adults.

You may wish to buy one brick or several. You will receive a letter of acknowledgement for tax purposes. All contributions are 100% tax deductible.

Help us in creating a path to the future... one brick at a time.

Engraved bricks are available in three options:

4" x 8" brick with three lines of text - \$150

8" x 8" brick with six lines of text - \$300

8" x 8" brick with Blue Goose logo
and four lines of text - \$350



Friends of Great Swamp
National Wildlife Refuge



Friends of Great Swamp NWR Brick Campaign

Purchaser Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Please check one:

- ☐ Brick order, payment, and inscription information
☐ Brick order and payment only, inscription to follow
☐ I've already ordered my brick(s). Here is the inscription information

Payment Information

Yes! You can purchase your brick now and decide on the inscription later. Just mail your check and this order form; check appropriate box above and make a copy or use another form to mail the inscription when you have made your decision on the wording.

Brick size	Number ordered	Amount
4" x 8" brick with 3 lines of text - \$150		
8" x 8" brick with 6 lines of text - \$300		
8" x 8" brick with Blue Goose logo and 4 lines of text - \$350		
Total Bricks		
Additional Donation		
Total Enclosed		

If paying by check, make check payable to:
 FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP NWR and mail to:
 Friends of Great Swamp NWR Attn: Bricks
 241 Pleasant Plains Road
 Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920

Credit card payments happily accepted at:
 Friends of Great Swamp NWR Nature Shop
 32 Pleasant Plains Road
 Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
 Check web site www.friendsofgreatswamp.org for hours
 Questions: development@friendsofgreatswamp.org

Brick Inscription

ANY KEYBOARD SYMBOL IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE (. - , &) ALL TEXT WILL BE CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

If you are ordering more than one brick, please use an additional form or photocopy this form for the inscription

OK to leave blank if you are purchasing your brick now and will decide later on the inscription

4 x 8 Brick 18 CHARACTERS PER LINE - PLEASE USE COMPLETE WORDS NOT ABBREVIATIONS

8 x 8 Brick 18 CHARACTERS PER LINE - PLEASE USE COMPLETE WORDS NOT ABBREVIATIONS

8 x 8 Brick with Blue Goose Logo 18 CHARACTERS PER LINE - PLEASE USE COMPLETE WORDS NOT ABBREVIATIONS

