



The Swamp Scene

friends of great swamp national wildlife refuge

ISSUE THIRTY FOUR
JULY 2010

Highlights

Refuge Update	3
Nature Detective Trail	4
Volunteers donate 14,584 hours	6
Dove Banding at Great Swamp	8
Learning About GSNWR	9

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NEW VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS WILL BE READY FOR FALL FESTIVAL

Last year, it was the new Visitor Center. This year, Fall Festival will be your first chance to see the new Visitor Center permanent exhibits. Nearly a year in the works, these exhibits will provide an exciting up-close look at the National Wildlife Refuge System, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and the animals and plants that are found here.

A dead tree model will have flip doors and secret stations with realistic animal and insect models. In the center of Exhibit Room will be a huge map of the Refuge showing boundaries, trails, waterways, habitats, and places for visitors to see. There will be seasonal dioramas, a history display that tells the story of the jetport that wasn't, and a bird nest cam exhibit. Colorful photos, many from local photographers, will illustrate the plants, animals, habitats, and visitors at Great Swamp. Don't miss these new exhibits!

EBIRD TRAIL TRACKER TO BE INSTALLED



A new computer kiosk will house Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird Trail Tracker funded by a donation to the Friends from The Wildwood Foundation. eBird Trail Tracker is an online bird checklist—and a whole lot more! Visitors can:

- See which birds are being reported on the Refuge.
- Find out where birds were sighted using a Refuge map.
- Record their own observations to share.
- View photos, audio, and life histories of birds found here.

Sightings entered at Great Swamp become part of eBird, an online program accessible to all Internet users to study bird sightings and data across North America. This is truly citizen science at work.

Now Renting: DEAD TREE APARTMENTS

Dead trees provide homes for many animals.



Dead trees may seem useless, but they are actually very important. They provide homes for many animals, including raccoons, birds, and insects. The hollowed-out trunks of dead trees are perfect for animals to live in, and they also provide a place for animals to hide from predators.



Blue jays love to live in dead trees. They use the hollowed-out trunks as homes for themselves and their young. They also use the trees to store food for the winter.



Carolina tanagers love to live in dead trees. They use the hollowed-out trunks as homes for themselves and their young. They also use the trees to store food for the winter.



The raccoon is a very common animal found in dead trees. It uses the hollowed-out trunks as homes for itself and its young. It also uses the trees to store food for the winter.

SAVE THE DATE—SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010, 10:00—3:00

GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

FALL FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

WALKS, EXHIBITS, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE
FREE FOOD, NATURE RUMMAGE SALE, AND MORE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Laura Nally

This past March, I attended a 3-day Northeast Region Friends Workshop at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia along with Refuge Manager Bill Koch and fellow Friends Board members Pat Giaimo and Kathy Woodward. The purpose of the conference was to learn about the priorities of the Refuges in our Region, priorities that included budget constraints and climate change studies, as well as to attend training and shar-

ing sessions on a variety of topics. Pat and I made two separate presentations on the Junior Refuge Manager program which was developed by our own Friends organization and was introduced at Great Swamp NWR last year. The biggest benefit of the conference however is the opportunity to network with other Friends' members. It is a great way to learn about their refuges, their challenges, and what types of volunteer projects and activities they are doing.



Representing Great Swamp NWR (from left): Bill Koch, Refuge Manager; Laura Nally, Friends President; Board members Kathy Woodward and Pat Giaimo.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the refuge system. NWRA coordinates this type of conference for Friends organizations. Friends organizations and volunteers are an important part of the National Wildlife Refuge System performing ~20% of the work of refuges nationwide (Dolin, Eric Jay, 2003, Smithsonian Book of National Wildlife Refuges, Washington, Smithsonian Books). At Great Swamp NWR welcoming visitors at the Wildlife Observation Center and the Visitor Center, removing invasive plant species, and leading tours of school groups are among some of the activities that volunteers do that significantly assist Refuge staff.

In Fiscal Year 2009, a record 168 people volunteered over 14,000 hours to Great Swamp NWR, equivalent to seven refuge employees. At the conference many people were impressed at the accomplishments, commitment, and enthusiasm of our Friends of Great Swamp volunteers as evident in our newsletter, the creation of the Junior Refuge Manager program, and the number of active volunteers. Thanks to all of you, our Friends and volunteers.

BOARD APPROVES FY2010 PROJECT BUDGET

At the March 10, 2010 Friends of Great Swamp NWR Board Meeting, the following projects were approved.

- 4-sided kiosk and interpretive panels for trailhead at Visitor Center.
- Nest cam for bluebird nest box at Visitor Center.
- Updated Refuge map panels for kiosks at Wildlife Observation Center, Overlook, and other kiosk locations.
- Kiosk for old Friends Bookstore parking lot.
- Visitor Center kitchen storage cabinet.
- Visitor Center Dedication.
- Public address system and group audio system.

At the April 14, 2010 Board meeting, the purchase of eBird Trail Tracker kiosk and software was approved after the Board was notified that the Refuge's Challenge Cost Share Grant application to fund this exhibit would not be approved.

2010-2011 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP ON SALE

It's a win-win

- Your purchase helps buy wetlands for refuges.
- Wetlands support waterfowl and other wildlife.
- Refuges provide recreational and birding opportunities for you—and other visitors.
- And if that isn't enough, the current Federal Duck Stamp is your annual pass to Refuges nationwide.

Do your part... buy a Federal Duck Stamp for yourself... and for your refuge.



Available for \$15.00
at the
Friends Nature Shop
and at
Refuge Headquarters.

AROUND THE REFUGE... WITH DEPUTY REFUGE MANAGER STEVE HENRY

Interviewer, Laurel Gould

GULF COAST OIL SPILL - #1 PRIORITY

Responding to the Gulf Coast oil spill is now a number one priority within the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and all employees are being encouraged to make themselves available to assist. Several of the staff at Great Swamp have responded with their availability and it is likely that some staff will be assigned for a 2-week detail during the summer. Although Refuges along the Gulf Coast are a priority, employees may also work off refuge land. This is a long term need and will stretch on for many months.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Invasive species control work is underway on a number of fronts. In December and February, students from Fairleigh Dickinson University tackled multiflora rose and autumn olive at the Overlook, opening up the view for wildlife observation. From May through October, the Friends have scheduled work days on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month, focused mainly on the grounds around the Visitor Center. New volunteers are always welcome to join them. Earlier this year, the Refuge collaborated with the Great Swamp Watershed Association to host three corporate work groups, two from Goldman Sachs and one from Royal Canadian Bank. These volunteers worked to clear a number of invasive species from the north end of the Wilderness Area's Orange Trail. Subsequently, Refuge staff planted native trees and shrubs in the understory to promote site restoration in this area. In mid-August, two interns from the Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team will be surveying the Refuge for the presence of new invasive species with the goal of eradicating these plants before they spread and become established.

SUMMER PROJECTS AND SUMMER SURVEYS

There will be a number of surveys conducted on the Refuge this summer—including ticks, swamp sparrows, Indiana bats, turtles—and even visitors. Researchers from the Smithsonian and University of Western Georgia will be studying swamp sparrows at the Refuge and other locations around the region to examine a possible divergence between coastal and inland populations. A graduate student from the University of Maine will be collecting ticks as part of a study to determine factors influencing Lyme Disease risk in the New York metropolitan area. Indiana bat research will continue for the fifth summer with special attention being paid to monitoring for evidence of White-Nose Syndrome which began affecting Refuge bat populations in 2009. Dr. Kurt Buhlmann from the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory is back again this summer assisting with turtle research. Radio-tracking of wood turtles continues to provide valuable insights in habitat use and movement patterns. Intensive monitoring of the Refuge's turtle nest mound took place this spring with four wood turtles and one box turtle nesting on the mound. Their nests have been protected and are being monitored for hatchlings. Bog turtles are a primary focus of research efforts and includes radio-tracking of these small turtles. A second bog turtle site has been confirmed on the Refuge, a very exciting find for this State-endangered/Federally threatened species.

A visitor service survey, led by the U.S. Geological Survey, will be conducted in the Fall of 2010 and Spring of 2011 with assistance from the Friends. Great Swamp is one of only about 50 refuges (from more than 500) across the nation selected to participate in this national survey. Survey results will provide refuge managers, planners, and visitor services specialists with data about National Wildlife Refuge visitors allowing for a better understanding of visitors' recreational, educational, and informational experiences and will measure satisfaction with current services, access, and facilities. The survey will provide valuable information for Great Swamp NWR's Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) a major planning effort which is underway with public scoping meetings tentatively scheduled for late July in Chatham.

BANDING WORK AND NEST BOX PROGRAMS

Volunteers continue to do an excellent job overseeing the Refuge's wood duck and bluebird nest box programs. Screech owls found in wood duck boxes during annual box maintenance in the winter are banded. Mourning doves will be banded again this summer as part of a state-wide program to assess their population status. Waterfowl banding will begin in August and run through September. Duck captures were up significantly last summer after changes were made to trapping methods.

MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENTS, AND ADDITIONS

Visitor Center exhibits are in production with installation scheduled for August. A Dedication ceremony is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2010. Administrative signs have been installed along the access road and grounds around the Visitor Center to inform the public of open and closed areas. Volunteers will perform maintenance on bridges in the Wilderness Area this summer including the installation of railings on higher bridges as a safety precaution. Several projects were recently completed with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act "Stimulus" funds. Work on replacing a large failing water control structure was completed in June. The old Friends Bookstore & Gift Shop was demolished in April although the parking lot will remain for visitor use. A vault toilet was acquired for free through transfer from another Refuge and will be installed at the site later this year. The South Gate entrance to the Refuge is being replaced.

INTERNS PROVIDE VALUABLE SUMMER HELP

Eight interns will be on hand this summer to help in a number of areas. Four interns will be assisting with the Indiana bat survey project. Two interns, sponsored by Friends of Great Swamp and the Mushett Family Foundation, will be dedicated to biological work including turtle surveys and monitoring. Two visitor service interns, sponsored by the Student Conservation Association, will be assisting with staffing the visitor center as well as developing new educational and interpretive programs. The Friends have scheduled a "Meet the Interns" program for the public to be held on July 25; it will be a good opportunity to meet these bright young people and to learn more about the many ways they are assisting the Refuge.

NATURE DETECTIVE TRAIL WELL UNDER WAY THANKS TO A LOT OF HELP

By Judy Schmidt and Dorothy Smullen, Discovery Den Team Members

The Friends' Discovery Den Team has been working on a new project at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. It's called the "Nature Detective Trail" and it will be a place where young children can use their senses to explore nature at various stations set up along the trail. The trail will be located behind the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center and will loop through woods, field, and wetland habitats.

The idea began when we noticed that young children were having a hard time seeing things from the boardwalks at the Wildlife Observation Center. What if there was a place where youngsters could really examine things up close, where they could touch and feel them, use their sense of smell, and learn how to listen? We approached the Refuge staff who liked the idea and helped pick a location for the trail. During the winter, Discovery Den team members Judy Schmidt, Dorothy Smullen, Deb Scala, and Gail Rapaport started work on the nine signs that would describe each of the stops along the trail: signs such as "Ready, Set, Grow" about seeds; "Earth music"; and "Likeable Lichens". Children will be encouraged to touch, feel, smell, and really use their senses to discover things in nature first hand.

You start with a dream of developing a trail for young children and you never know where help for your plan will come from. The area chosen for the trail was totally overgrown with invasive plants so volunteers spent two of their Invasive Species Removal Work Days getting rid of huge multiflora rose bushes and other non-native plants. The Discovery Den team then laid out the path, meandering through the woods and field, identifying the nine stops. More help arrived on June 2 when ten students from Madison High School arrived to start covering the path with black plastic and woodchips as part of a service day for the school. These young people worked hard on a day when the temperature was over 80 degrees. At the end of the day about one-third of the trail was completed. Yet more help arrived on June 23, when 18 employees from L'Oreal USA in Berkeley Heights volunteered as part of a "day of giving". The day was again hot, heading for 90 degrees but the group pitched right in, putting down plastic and covering it with woodchips and removing some old man-made debris that had been dumped in the area. The work ethic of this group was wonderful. We told them what to do and it got done—no questions. The Friends of Great Swamp were fortunate to have all this help from volunteers from Madison High School and our new neighbor L'Oreal. Thanks too to Tree-Tech of Randolph who donated the wood chips. The permanent signs for each stop are being funded by the Friends and a member donation.

There is still a lot left to do, but soon we will have a wonderful new place to introduce children to nature—a major part of our Friends' mission.



Students from Madison High School Get the Trail Started (Photos by Dorothy Smullen)



Employees from L'Oreal Moved a Lot of Wood Chips (Photos by Laurel Gould)

FRIENDS HOST MACRO INVERTEBRATE WORKSHOP

Anthony Henehan, Biological Intern, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

On Saturday May 22, 2010, Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge hosted a day-long advanced volunteer workshop on aquatic macro invertebrates and their relation to water quality. The workshop was presented by Adam Osborn, a Watershed Ambassador for AmeriCorps.



Instructor Adam Osborn and participant Sarah do the "watershed shuffle" dance to loosen bottom dwelling macro invertebrates that will get caught in the net held by author Tony Henehan.
(Photo by Dorothy Smullen)

An invertebrate is an organism without a backbone, such as insects, crustaceans and clams. A macro invertebrate is a classification of invertebrate: one which can be seen without the aid of a magnifying device. Many invertebrates call freshwater aquatic systems home: mollusks, clams, insects, worms. When found in an aquatic system, many of these invertebrates are at an immature stage in their life cycle, nymphs or larvae, depending on how they grow into adult invertebrates. Larvae become adults through complete metamorphosis, as seen in caterpillars becoming butterflies. That is to say, the young look completely different than the adult. Nymphs become adults through a different life cycle called incomplete metamorphosis. This can be seen in cicadas, as young they resemble adults and gradually grow larger, eventually "hatching" from their immature body into a very similar looking adult. Many of

these invertebrates spend the majority of their lives as nymphs and larvae underwater.

People who collect water samples are very interested in the larvae and nymphs because of the amount of time these invertebrates spend in the aquatic

environments. Specific invertebrates are indicative of different quality waters, some being pollution tolerant, some pollution sensitive and some pollution intolerant. Many of the pollution intolerant species are those that are important as staple fish foods, such as stoneflies, mayflies and caddis flies. An abundance of these species indicates excellent water quality capable of supporting wide arrays of other spe-

cies. Some species found within the pollution sensitive group are crayfish, scuds (a type of freshwater shrimp), and dragonflies. These species can tolerate slight amounts of pollution and may be indicative of fair to good water quality. Pollution tolerant species have adapted to living in water that is not suitable for species in the other groups, although they, too, may be found in fair to excellent quality water. These are represented by lunged snails, leeches, and aquatic worms.

Sampling a section of stream employs an array of tools including a 1 by 1 meter kick net, gloves, thermometer, meter stick, measuring tape, invertebrate identification sheet,



Nymph stage of one of the many species of mayfly (Photo by Dorothy Smullen)

and knee/hip boots. By holding the kick net flush with the streambed, the sampler disturbs the streambed upstream and flushes invertebrates into the net. Invertebrates are identified and sorted in the field so they can be released back into the stream.

For the workshop, invertebrates were collected from a section of the Passaic River and sorted. The participants were delighted to find a variety of stream insects including snail, water penny, riffle beetle, crayfish, aquatic worms and several different fly larvae. After all invertebrates were sorted into their respective groups, a total tally was taken to confirm the quality of the water sampled. For the Passaic River, a value of Excellent was determined. Many thanks to the Friends for hosting the very informative and exciting workshop, and to Adam Osborn for leading the program with expert guidance and knowledge.



Workshop participants separate the macro invertebrates using a flow chart to identify the species. (From left) Ruth Lloyd, Dorothy Smullen, Georgia Eisenhart.
(Photo by Claudia Osborn)

CELEBRATING 14, 584 DONATED VOLUNTEER HOURS AT GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The twenty-fourth annual Volunteer & Friends Recognition Event was held on Friday April 16, 2010 to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contribution of volunteers at Great Swamp. This year's event was held at the Green Village Volunteer Fire House with a dinner catered by Local Smoke LLC. Over 100 volunteers, Refuge staff, invited guests, and families attended the event. This year, for the first time, Tom McFadden, retired Outdoor Recreation Plan-

ner, was in the audience as a guest instead of behind the microphone. Tom started the volunteer program at Great Swamp in 1981 when there were 17 volunteers donating 2,352.5 hours.

Refuge Manager Bill Koch presided with help from Friends President Laura Nally handing out awards, certificates, plaques and pins to the volunteers in attendance. It was an evening of fun and camaraderie for all.



A few of the 100 Hour Club (left to right): George Cevera, Bridget Goldsmith, Joann Apgar, Greg Cooper, Ruth Zippler, Ralph Fischer, Ruth Morgan, Bill Smullen



Some of the volunteers receiving the 500 Hour Pin Award (left to right)
Adam Osborn, Karen English, Susan Garretson Friedman

NOTABLE VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

100 HOUR CLUB

Joann Apgar, George Cevera, Tom Clifford, Greg Cooper, Amy Dubruiel, Ralph Fischer, Paul Ford, Bridget Goldsmith, Greg Henderson, Kira Kranzler, Ruth Morgan, Sandra Pruzansky, Dick Ryan, Carolyn Severs, Bill Smullen, Mallory St Pierre, Mary Jane Walsh, Ruth Zippler

250 HOUR PIN

Pete Axelrod, George Cevera, Tom Clifford, Greg Cooper, Amy Dubruiel, Rich Dufort, Nancy Felicito, Bridget Goldsmith, Eloise Gorski, Neil Klingenburg, Kira Kranzler, Ruth Lloyd, David Mracek, Roz Mytelka, Lillian O'Brien, Candace Paska, Carolyn Severs, Mallory St Pierre

500 HOUR PIN

Tom Clifford, Amy Dubruiel, Karen English, Nancy Felicito, Susan Garretson Friedman, Bridget Goldsmith, Jane Kendall, Kira Kranzler, Adam Osborn, Carolyn Severs, Mallory St Pierre

1,000 HOUR PIN

Jack Higgins, Laura Nally, Deb Scala

1,500 HOUR PIN

Pat Giaimo, Louis Pisane

2,000 HOUR PIN

Leo Hollein, Dorothy Smullen, Kathy Woodward

3,500 HOUR PIN

Laurel Gould

4,000 HOUR PIN

Judy Schmidt

ACTIVE REFUGE VOLUNTEERS DONATE RECORD 14,584 HOURS IN FISCAL YEAR 2009

Listed below are the active volunteers for Fiscal Year 2009 (October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009).

The number in parentheses is the total number of hours contributed to Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge since first becoming a volunteer.

James Ahlstrom (24.5)	Pat Giaimo (1,654.5)
George Apgar (14)	Jerry Giordano (7)
Joann Apgar (117)	Ellen Goldberg (83)
Autumn Aulicky (15)	Bridget Goldsmith (521)
Carly Aulicky (29)	Eloise Gorski (321.5)
Pete Axelrod (280.5)	Charles Gould (139)
Bill Ayres (393)	Laurel Gould (3,546)
Brenda Ayres (215)	Steve Gruber (315.5)
Heather Barrett (490.5)	Anne Hebenstreit (20.5)
Austin Bitler (14)	Kathy Heeney (9.5)
Clay Bitler (14)	George Helmke (769)
Moira Blake (13.5)	Greg Henderson (130)
Ashley Boyle (5)	Mariana Hernandez (99)
Bill Boyle (5)	Jack Higgins (1,047.5)
Dennis Branden (933)	Maryann Higgins (49)
Rachel Brown (7)	Chris Hildebrand (169.5)
Bill Burress (120)	Mike Hiotis (45)
Steve Byland (794.5)	Bob Hofmann (170.5)
Joan Carpinello (25)	Leo Hollein (2,384)
Terry Carruthers (51.5)	David Kaplan (12)
Teri Catalano (405)	Jane Kendall (696.5)
George Cevera (391.5)	Kate Kim (3)
Tom Clifford (648.5)	Kenny Kim (2)
Greg Cooper (450)	Neil Klingenburg (288.5)
Lora Cooper (4)	Lauretta Koch (96.5)
Betsy Coyne (228)	Ryan Koch (37.5)
George Coyne (206.5)	Travis Koch (33)
Jonathan Curry (19)	Kathy Kopec (15)
Dawn Del Guercio (17)	Ken Kopec (3.5)
Lee Delitzscher (64.5)	Rebecca Kotsonis (2.5)
Janene DePalo (60.5)	Kira Kranzler (640)
Jim Detizio (770)	John Kunkel (593.5)
Peter Detizio (10)	Lauren Kunkel (10)
David Dietz (51)	Bonnie Kushnerick (59)
Amy Dubruiel (640)	Lorrie Lane (98.5)
Rich Dufort (282)	Caryl Leong (24.5)
Roger Edwards (283)	Ruth Lloyd (287)
Nancy Egan (68)	Ray Lord (163)
Georgia Eisenhart (72)	Eric Mazer (100)
Randi Emmer (45.5)	Bob McDonald (70)
Karen English (733.5)	Don McLellan (48.5)
Clare Entwistle (6)	Jeane McLellan (45)
Grace Entwistle (6)	Pat Miller (7.5)
Katie Entwistle (6)	Lisa Molinari (705.5)
Nancy Felicito (522)	Ruth Morgan (172.5)
Ralph Fischer (102)	Bridget Mracek (196.5)
Paul Ford (126)	David Mracek (300)
Joanne Foster (53)	Bob Muska (3.5)
Charlie Friedman (15.5)	Roz Mytelka (291.5)
Susan Garretson Friedman (794)	Joe Nally (214.5)
Nichole Furia (3.5)	Laura Nally (1,335.5)
Robert Furstner (321.5)	Melinda Nye (197)
Jane George (98)	Lillian O'Brien (333.5)
Spencer George (49.5)	Emilia O'Leary (4)
	Adam Osborn (520)



Some of the volunteers receiving a 250 Hour Pin Award
(from left to right)

Roz Mytelka, Pete Axelrod, Ruth Lloyd, Neil Klingenburg

Claudia Osborn (99.5)	Diane Smullen (16)
Hanina Osborn (365.5)	Dorothy Smullen (2,007)
Peter Osborn (68.5)	Mike Snyder (9)
Tom Ostrand (130)	George Solovay (940)
Ruben Owens (27)	Mallory St Pierre (636)
Donna Paino (24.5)	Janet Stadelmeier (34.5)
Candace Paska (296.5)	Chris Stadtmueller (167.5)
Chris Petrillo (67.5)	Bob Stanton (385)
Gail Petrillo (70.5)	Matt Steffens (136.5)
Louis Pisane (1,685)	Roger Story (55)
Lori Prosser (158.5)	Meridith Swenson (28)
Sandra Pruzansky (108)	Tyler Swenson (6)
Lisa Quartararo (29.5)	Elaine Taub (78)
John Raab (287.5)	Mary Jane Walsh (113.5)
Gail Rapaport (477.5)	Kevin Ward (38)
Brian Redick (28)	Esther Warner (173.5)
Dot Reutlinger (9.5)	Samantha Watson (3)
Spencer Rice (3)	Andrew Weiner (2)
Shirley Richardson (99.5)	Ira Weiner (11)
Edythe Risberg (393.5)	Elaine Weyuker (84.5)
Roz Rothman (13.5)	Anna Whistler (28)
Dick Ryan (137)	Barbara Whitmore (30)
Mary Sanko (68.5)	Chuck Whitmore (932.5)
Deb Scala (1,059.5)	Kitty Wilkin (15)
Joe Scala (165.5)	John Wilmot, Sr. (736.5)
Nancy Schenck (851)	Barbara Wingel (362.5)
Judy Schmidt (4,214.5)	Carl Woodward (270)
Mary Ann Schmit (34)	Kathy Woodward (2,315)
Nick Sciara (3.5)	Ruth Zippler (155)
Carolyn Severs (584)	
Bill Smullen (126.5)	

DOVE BANDING INITIATED AT GREAT SWAMP IN 2009

Story by *Leo Hollein*

At the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mourning doves (*zenaida macroura*) were trapped and banded at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge for the first time in July and August 2009. The objective was to obtain data on doves in states that do not currently have a dove hunting season. Since mourning doves are somewhat migratory, birds banded in New Jersey could be recovered by hunters in other states. The banding would also provide baseline population data that would be desirable in the event a dove hunting season were introduced. Since New Jersey currently is not sanctioning a hunt to control the burgeoning black bear population, it seems unlikely that a hunt to harvest peaceful but very tasty doves would be permitted.

Forty one states including California have dove hunting seasons. Mourning doves are the most popular game bird in America. About 20 million doves are harvested every year. Mourning doves are abundant throughout their range which encompasses most of North America and are able to sustain the hunting pressure due to their prolific breeding habits. In New Jersey mourning doves raise multiple clutches. In the

southern states mourning doves can raise up to six broods a year.

Mourning doves are named for their mournful call. Their wings make whistling sounds as they fly off. Mourning doves are about 12 inches long and weigh around 4 ounces. They are basically tan with pointed tails with white edges. They also have spotted backs, blue eye rings and reddish legs. Adult male doves (see photo above) have slate blue heads and napes as well as pink tinged breasts. Hatch year birds can be distinguished from adults by the presence of beige tips on the primary wing coverts as shown by arrow 1 in the photo below. Arrow 2 points to a molting (replacement) primary feather. The ten primary feathers are molted sequentially from the inside out. The beige tips of the coverts are lost when the dove completes molting the primary feathers and their coverts.

DOVES TRAPPED IN OPEN AREAS

Mourning doves are ground feeders that primarily eat seeds in fields, farmlands and suburbs. They are very common at bird feeders. Their population has benefited from the increase in open areas from agriculture and residential development. In the Refuge, traps were located in open areas that also contain gravel that doves imbibe (gritting) to aid in digesting seeds. Mourning doves eat entire seeds unlike titmice, chickadees, finches and sparrows that first remove the seed husk.

The mourning dove traps are two feet by two feet square cages about eight inches high. They have two tunnel like entrances that are easy for birds to enter but hard to exit. The traps are baited with white millet that doves and other birds relish. Blue jays, cardinals, cowbirds, grackles and red-winged blackbirds were



Mourning Dove at feeder (photo by L. Hollein)

trapped along with doves. Sparrows, finches and chipmunks feed on the millet but are small enough to enter and leave through the sides of the wire mesh traps. Both rabbits and squirrels were also trapped.

Mourning doves were the most wary of all the birds trapped as they first scour the area around the trap to consume any millet that is on the outside. Trapped birds especially blackbirds become agitated once they realize they have been trapped and unintentionally spread millet outside the trap by flapping their wings. Doves enter the traps when the only available millet is inside. A total of 99 doves were banded. About seventy percent were hatch year birds. About 22% were adult males. Only 7% were adult females. Hatch year birds are still learning to feed themselves and are probably hungry. This makes them most susceptible to being trapped. One juvenile bird was re-trapped four times. This dove was either very dumb for repeatedly being trapped or very smart because it enjoyed a lot of free meals and knew that someone would free it in an hour or so.



Hatch year Mourning Dove
Photo by M. Nye © 2009

Second Sunday... with Friends
August 8, 1:30–3:30
Bird Banding at Great Swamp

Learn more about bird banding at Great Swamp with Leo Hollein and watch a live dove banding demonstration.

At the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center

LEARNING ABOUT GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—REWARDING FOR ALL

By Judy Schmidt, Photos by Sandy Walker

If Friends of Great Swamp NWR had a wish list, the thing I would put in 1st place is that every member have the opportunity to take a child for a walk on the boardwalks at the Wildlife Observation Center. It is always a unique and rewarding experience.

This spring the Friends' Walk Team gave interpretive walks to 643 students and teachers from 15 schools, and 60 scouts and parents from three scout troops. On three of the days that we were giving walks, there were two additional buses with teachers and students doing self guided walks, and colleges often bring groups to use the boardwalks. So you can see that the Wildlife Observation Center is indeed the place to learn about nature.

The highlights of course are the frogs, snakes and turtles, but the children also learn about Great Swamp, the refuge system, trees, plants, insects, fungi and different habitats.

I asked the Walk Team what they liked most about taking children for a walk on the boardwalk.

Laura Nally *"I like their expressions as they learn about new things in nature."*

Dorothy Smullen *"I learn something new from each experience."*

Pat Giaimo *"The wonder in their eyes when you introduce them to something new."*

Nancy Schenck *"I love turning kids on to nature."*

Deb Scala *"It is refreshing to see the world of nature through their eyes."*

Betsy Coyne *"When a child says wow! it makes me want to learn more about nature."*

If you take a child for a walk in nature you will see more, learn more, and have fun. So if you can, take a child for a walk on the boardwalk. The rewards are great.



Now, what do you suppose is so interesting down there?



School group starting their guided walk at the Wildlife Observation Center

SPRING AT THE WILDLIFE OBSERVATION CENTER By Pat Giaimo

The Wildlife Observation Center was a busy place this spring. There were foxes and groundhogs, turtles and frogs, birds and snakes. But mostly there were people. Fifty volunteers donated anywhere from 3 hours to 50 hours greeting almost 9,000 visitors of all ages. There were school groups from pre-school to college as well as family and church groups. Many of the visitors were at Great Swamp for the first time and the volunteers explained the boardwalks and told them the reported sightings that day. Both volunteers and visitors had a wonderful spring.

Fall Migration staffing starts August 29th and we're always looking for more help greeting visitors at the Wildlife Observation Center. It's fun, easy, a great way to see nature up close—and you meet the nicest people.

Volunteer Orientation is August 28. Come find out what it's all about. "The rewards are great."

BRICKS AND BEYOND—WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT ALL ABOUT?

By Mary Jane Walsh & Betsy Boles, Friends Development Team Members

Statistics may bore you silly but check this out: you, the individual members of Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, gave more than 14,500 hours of work last year and contributed \$20,000—about one third of Friends' annual income! In addition, close to 90 individuals and families have given \$15,000 for dedicated bricks in the Visitor Center patio, moving this fund-raising campaign well on its way to success.

It is this history of individual generosity that the Friends of Great Swamp Development Team uses to create awareness of the organization's needs and for soliciting support from private foundations, small businesses, public entities and corporations. These larger prospective donors are more likely to respond to our appeals when they see evidence of broad-based individual support such as from the Friends.

"The history of giving from individuals, and the great job the Board of Directors and Finance Committee have done in positioning us for future development and fund-raising make our work possible," says Jane Kendall who leads the Development Team. Working with her are Betsy Boles, Karen English, Susan Garretson Friedman, Eloise Gorski and Mary Jane Walsh.

The team is focused on increasing financial contributions to the Friends in order to further the goals of this vital refuge—maintaining habitat for migratory and resident birds and other species, providing valuable environmental education, and offering recreational programs compatible with wildlife.

Statistics may be boring, but those from the Friends are so impressive they are helping to get the development job done. The Development Team extends its thanks to all involved.



BRICKS TO ARRIVE FOR PLACEMENT THIS SUMMER

If all goes as scheduled, the 100+ dedicated bricks ordered in June should be laid in the Visitor Center patio this summer.

The Buy a Brick campaign will continue to accommodate Great Swamp supporters who have not yet purchased one or who wish to buy additional bricks. The extended campaign also will provide more time for the Development Team to approach prospective buyers.

The brick purchase form is available on the Friends website: www.friendsofgreatswamp.org or pick up a copy at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Donations made to Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge make up a significant portion of the Friends annual income and provide funding for 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 recent donations to the Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
Mr & Mrs C. Graydon Rogers
Peter & Susan Gillim
Julia F. Averett Peet

IN FOND MEMORY OF
Barbara Posunko
• Adele & Lynn Fellows

IN HONOR OF
Anchor Haring
• Deborah Scala

IN MEMORY OF
Ernest Stapperfenne Sr.
• Judy Griswold and Family
• Jean Marchegiani

MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS
To all members who added an additional donation to your membership renewals, thank you.

Bill & Una Phelan
Faith A. Robinson
Susan Woelzl
Deb & Joe Scala
Jean Scott &
Richard Wittenborn
Bryant Lee
Edythe Risberg
Don & Ann McCord
Laura & Joe Nally
Cletus E. Nolde
Jane M. Dorsey

Candace Paska
Frank J. Wolff
Rosemarie Widmer
Karen English
Patricia Bell
David Hall Burton
Jane Kendall & David Dietz

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:

- Swamp Scene Newsletter
- 10% discount in 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 Great Swamp patch.



*Friends of Great Swamp
National Wildlife Refuge*

THE SWAMP SCENE JULY 2010

Please Note: The Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center will be closed from August 16 through August 27 for the installation of permanent exhibits.

Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
Is an independent, volunteer, non-profit organization
dedicated to

Promoting stewardship of the natural resources of the Refuge,
Inspiring an appreciation of nature through education and outreach,
Engaging in partnership activities that support and enhance the Great Swamp National
Wildlife Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System.