



the Swamp Scene

friends of great swamp national wildlife refuge

ISSUE THIRTY SEVEN
SEPTEMBER 2011

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NATIVE PLANT BUTTERFLY GARDEN ESTABLISHED AT VISITOR CENTER

By Karen English, Friends GardenKeepers Committee Chair

During last year's Fall Festival, parents and children studied the "lifecycle of a butterfly" display with great interest and then watched in awe as a perfect Monarch butterfly emerged from its beautiful chrysalis. After spreading its wings and taking stock of its new surroundings the butterfly went to a flowering bee balm nearby. We don't know where that butterfly spent the winter, what adventure it went on, but we are hoping that it, or its offspring, come back for a visit.

The Friends GardenKeepers spent this past winter planning a butterfly garden. A long list of native New Jersey species was researched and matched against the key ingredients for a successful butterfly garden—some plants that supply nectar, others for food and shelter for caterpillars.

During the spring, Refuge staff member Tony Cullen rototilled the 60 by 20 foot garden area. Volunteers spread topsoil and mulch and planted more than 35 species of flowering plants. The new garden features some very healthy milkweed that was grown from seed gathered from plants in the refuge and transplanted to an interim location by visiting junior garden keepers during the 2010 Fall Fest. Some of the other 'hot' butterfly attractions are asters of all shapes and sizes, summer phlox, butterfly weed, false indigo, columbine and turtlehead.

Early admirers of the garden are the roving flock of turkeys that stop by to take a dust bath and enjoy a light salad of baby greens in the setting sun. Wee toads are already taking pleasure in the shade and the damp ground.

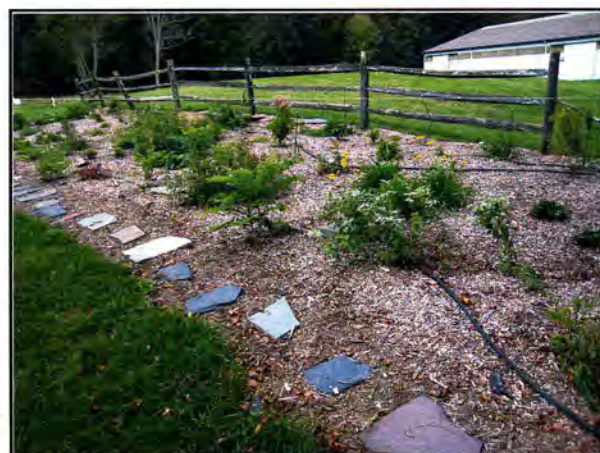
The garden is edged with reclaimed slate and will have an overwintering shelter assembled from old split rail fence. The butterflies will have a veritable full service spa with sunning areas, low profile water and puddling features, and nectar to sip on the side.

The GardenKeepers have done a tremendous job and we hope that visitors who are partial to butterflies, plants, and birds will enjoy this garden for years to come. A winter project will be a complete listing of the plants and their attributes available for visitors in the spring.

Flutter by next spring. It promises to be an eye popping season of color and activity.



Monarch—less than 15 minutes old!
Note chrysalises still hanging in background.
Photo by Nancy Felicito.



FRIENDS 2011 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT FALL FESTIVAL

The winners of the 2011 Friends of Great Swamp NWR Photo Contest were announced at the 12th annual Fall Festival held on September 10. The awards were presented to winners by Visitor Services Manager Jonathan Rosenberg and Friends Board Member Laurel Gould. As they received their awards, many of the winners entertained the audience with the "story behind the photo." Prizes were gift certificates to the Friends Nature Shop.

More than 100 entries were submitted to the contest. All winning photos will be on display in the Visitor Center during

the month of October and will also be available on the Friends web site. A slide show, which includes all of the photos entered in the contest, runs continuously in the Visitor Center Library. Stop by if you can.

The Friends would like to thank all of the entrants for their fabulous photos of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. A special thank you to judges Jonathan Rosenberg and Jim Gilbert for making the tough decisions. Ray Lord also receives a special thank you for organizing, labeling, and producing the photo contest DVD for our use.

The 2012 Photo Contest has begun! Entry forms are available on the Friends web site and at the Visitor Center. In the meantime, *start your cameras...*!



Jim Mulvey accepts his award for "Wintry Wonder" (Photo by Jane Kendall)

FRIENDS 2011 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



BIRDS

First place:
Robert Lin,

Blue Winged Warbler (shown)

Second place:

Christine Barton, *Baby bird*

Honorable mention:

Jim Mulvey,
Juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk



LANDSCAPE

First place:

T.C. Chiang,
Sentinels – A Pair of Trees (shown)

Second place: Jim

Mulvey, *Wintry Wonder – Great Swamp 1-12-11*

Honorable mention:
Brendon Duffy, *Sunrise*



PLANTS

First place:
Marianne Ofenloch,
Flag of the Great Swamp (shown)

Second place:

Dorothy Smullen,
Pickernelweed

Honorable mention:
Margaret Whiting, *Leaf*



WILDLIFE

First place:

Robert Lin, *Spring Peeper (shown)*

Second place:

Mary Kate Duffy,
Dragonfly

Honorable mention:
Thomas Gorman,
Groundhog—Pleasant Plains Road



PEOPLE

First place:
Mayra Henry,
Winter at the Swamp (shown)

(No other winners in this category)

YOUTH CATEGORY

There were too few entries in this category, so all youth entrants received an award and gift certificate to the Friends Nature Shop. How can we get more young people to submit photos? Encourage your kids, neighbors, and young friends to take some pictures and enter them in the 2012 contest. Thank you to young entrants Kate Leib, Samantha Moy, and Andrea Ibarra.

REFUGE UPDATE... WITH STEVE HENRY, DEPUTY REFUGE MANAGER

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL

More comings and goings at the Refuge: **Craig Bitler**, long-time Wildlife Biologist at the Refuge, retired in June. **Dr. Dorothy Fecske** has been hired as our new biologist and will report in late September. Dorothy is currently working at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Maine and brings a diverse background of wildlife management expertise to the position. We're excited to welcome Dorothy to Great Swamp. **Tony Cullen**, Maintenance Worker, left for graduate school in Texas. We'll be recruiting for Tony's replacement shortly. Our Refuge Law Enforcement Officer, "Tric" Tricoulis, will be transferring to Cape May National Wildlife Refuge in September. We're working out the details of his replacement and expect to have a new officer on board shortly. **Colin Osborn's** term biotech position came to an unexpected end in June. Andrew Ferreira, a refuge intern from last summer, was hired temporarily to assist during the busy summer months. Andrew did a great job and has remained on as an intern following the end of his temporary appointment. We are currently re-advertising the biotech job as a position shared among Great Swamp NWR, Wallkill River NWR, and Cherry Valley NWR. The position will continue to focus on the conservation of rare reptiles and amphibians such as bog and wood turtles and blue-spotted salamanders.

We had four great summer interns. Read about Nick Scobel, Frances Owen, and Nicole Gerard on page 5. Monica Patel's assignment focused on developing a monitoring program to improve stewardship of the refuge's Wilderness Area and is part of a national wilderness monitoring pilot project.

COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN (CCP)

A CCP Core Team meeting was held in July to develop draft management alternatives based on feedback received from the public. The alternatives are being refined and a draft CCP should be released for public comment in early 2012; the draft will be available on our website and for review at local libraries, Refuge Headquarters, and the Visitor

Center. Following this, there will be another round of public meetings soliciting feedback. We are also working on a Wilderness Review which involves assessing refuge lands for their potential to be added to the Wilderness Area. With Monica's help, we have a preliminary draft which will be refined this winter. As always, anyone interested in staying informed should contact Refuge Headquarters and ask to be added to the mailing list. Current information may also be found from the CCP link on the refuge's website.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS & UPDATES

The vault toilet at the Bluebird Parking Lot has developed problems with the waste holding vault and will be closed for the foreseeable future. A "port-a-potty" has been placed in the lot in the meantime. A new kiosk has been installed at the entrance to the Visitor Center. Next spring the septic mound will be replanted with a native warm season grass and wildflower mix to complement the nearby butterfly garden and to reduce the amount of mowing. Earlier this summer the pipe running under the driveway entrance to the Wildlife Observation Center was replaced to alleviate a drainage problem. The entrance apron will be repaved this fall. Also this fall, the HVAC and lighting systems in Headquarters will be upgraded to improve energy efficiency. Please excuse our mess while work is underway! A solar system is being designed for the roof but will be held pending funding. The tenant house and barn near the Visitor Center will be demolished as soon as historical clearance and asbestos removal have been completed. Options to replace the bridge over Great Brook are still being investigated but will require an expensive historical study before anything more can be done.

PUBLIC USE

Annual Deer Hunt: The youth hunt is scheduled for November 5; the Management Area will be closed to the public, however the Wilderness Area will remain open. During the regular deer hunt, from November 9 to 12, the entire refuge is closed to all non-hunters. On scouting

days, the normal public use areas remain open for visitors, but access to the normally closed sections of the Management Area is for permitted hunters only.

National Visitor Service Survey: Final results of the survey will be provided by the U.S. Geological Survey this fall and will be used in developing CCP alternatives. Preliminary data indicated that the public greatly enjoys and appreciates all the refuge has to offer. A thank you to all visitors who took the time to complete the survey.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

This season, the Friends' invasive plant control volunteers have worked around the Visitor Center and in the Wilderness Area. They have begun removing common and glossy buckthorn, shrubs identified as an emerging threat by last summer's NJ Strike Team reconnaissance. Interns have been busy pulling mile-a-minute, another emerging threat. As part of the habitat management plan, 155 acres of grassland are scheduled to be mowed this fall.

WILDLIFE POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Dr. Kurt Buhlmann was back again this summer assisting with turtle research thanks to generous support from the Friends. Artificial nest mounds were monitored and radio tracking of bog and wood turtles continues to provide valuable insights in habitat use and movement patterns. We're excited about a new "headstart" project where hatchling turtles are reared indoors to reduce overwinter mortality. Fifty percent of this year's wood turtle hatchlings are being delivered to a high school in Massachusetts where faculty and students have had experience and success in rearing hatchling turtles. Our hatchlings will continue to grow all winter and, with this "head start", they will be returned to Great Swamp next spring. Our hope is to develop the same capacity with a local school next year. Volunteers continue to do an excellent job assisting with waterfowl banding. Mourning dove banding, also overseen by volunteers, continues to go well and will be wrapping up soon with results being reported to the State.

NEST BOX CAMERAS INSTALLED AT VISITOR CENTER ARE A HUGE SUCCESS

By Leo Hollein

The long awaited nest box cameras were installed in two song bird boxes in April 2011, later than the target date of February due to severe winter weather.



Two songbird nest boxes with cameras inside are clearly visible from Exhibit Room windows (Photo by Leo Hollein)

After researching options, it was decided to use a hard wired system for powering the cameras in the two nest boxes. A wireless system for each box using batteries or a solar panel was more expensive and likely to require more maintenance. The power/video lines are routed underground in single plastic conduit from the boxes to the Visitor Center. The signal from the boxes goes to a video screen in the visitor center Exhibit Room. The video screen shows continuous live action from either of the two boxes. The signal can be switched from one box to the other.

The two nest boxes (photo above) were located close to the Visitor Center near the native plant garden to minimize the length of the trench and cabling. Bluebirds in the past have nested in approximately the same area. This location also enables visitors to view adult birds entering the box and then to turn and view the same bird inside the box on the video screen.

Tree swallows were the first to nest in one of the boxes. They built their typical straw and feather nest. The first egg was laid on May 12. The female laid an egg each morning on the next four days

completing a clutch of 5 white, oblong eggs. A typical tree swallow clutch is 5 or 6 eggs. After the clutch was completed, the female began brooding her eggs.

The eggs hatched 14 days later on May 30. The small, naked, blind hatchlings developed quickly as their parents fed them regularly. The hatchlings were the size of their parents when they fledged June 20.

We were delighted when a pair of bluebirds took up residence in the second box. The first egg was laid on June 10. The female completed her clutch of 5 blue eggs on June 14. The nest timing indicates this was the second nesting of this season for this pair of bluebirds. The boxes were not installed when bluebirds were selecting their home for their first clutch. The eggs hatched on June 27. All the hatchlings eventually fledged.

Observers of the action in the nest box found it fascinating. Visitors were amazed to learn that they were watching real time video! Even those volunteers who regularly monitor the refuge nest boxes enjoyed the view. Nest box monitors often open boxes and find tree swallows brooding eggs or young hatchlings. These tree swallows are very reluctant to leave their nest and seem frozen in place. However, watching on the video screen, it became apparent that the female tree swallow is in near constant motion turning her eggs to keep them at the proper temperature.

Many people were involved in the nest cam project. The Friends promoted



Tree swallow bringing food to young (Photo by Leo Hollein)

the idea and funded the effort. The bluebird team selected the site for the boxes and the vendor for the nest box and nest cam package. The Refuge staff dug the trench, laid the cabling and installed the inside video screen. A special thanks to the tree swallows and bluebirds that occupied the boxes and entertained so many visitors over the spring and summer. Hopefully they will remember to return next season.



The video monitor inside the Visitor Center shows young tree swallows inside the nest box waiting for their next meal (Photo by Laurel Gould)

FOUR INTERNS ASSIST AT GREAT SWAMP IN 2011 *by Kathy Woodward*

Interns serve a vital role in helping the National Wildlife Refuge System fulfill its mission to conserve, protect and enhance America's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Working with refuge staff and volunteers, interns provide much needed assistance with refuge projects while gaining valuable field experience.

This past summer, Great Swamp NWR had the benefit of four interns for three months. Following the practice of the past eight years, the Friends of Great Swamp and the Mushett Family Foundation each provided funding for biological interns. This summer, the Friends also

sponsored a combination visitor services/biological intern. A Wilderness Character Monitoring fellow was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Inventory and Monitoring Program.

Meet the Interns was the Second Sunday program hosted by Friends of Great Swamp and held on July 10, 2011. Biological Science Interns, Frances Owen from Iowa and Nick Scobel from Michigan, gave an update on the ongoing turtle research at Great Swamp NWR. Attendees had an opportunity to try the tracking devices used to find turtles in the field. Nicole Gerard, a New Jersey

native, explained her summer projects including turtle research and visitor services programs. Wilderness Character Monitoring fellow, Monica Patel, also from New Jersey, reviewed aspects of "wilderness character" and explained how information from Great Swamp NWR's Wilderness Area will help set standards for evaluation and planning on wilderness throughout the refuge system and other government agencies. The interns enjoyed sharing their experiences and the audience learned more about the intricacies of management of the Refuge.



Over the course of the past three months, I've been able to partake in a wide range of experiences that I won't soon forget. Wildlife conservation is my passion, and being able to work closely with biologists on conservation projects involving rare & endangered species like Wood Turtles and Bog Turtles has been exciting, challenging, and rewarding. In addition, working with volunteers from Friends of Great Swamp has been truly delightful. All of you have a strong passion for environmental issues and do amazing work here at the swamp; it's been a pleasure working side by side with you.

Nick Scobel, Biological Intern 2011—
Friends of Great Swamp NWR



You have given me the chance to gain more skill and knowledge in my field of study. Every day I have learned something new that will stay with me forever. ... On a daily basis I was able to see first hand how turtle populations are monitored and protected by refuge staff. During visitor services work, I enjoyed welcoming visitors and informing them about the purpose of the refuge and the work the staff accomplishes. My creative side was brought out on assigned projects including designing and making bulletin boards and signs. ...not to mention making many new and meaningful friendships. My intern experience at Great Swamp has been very rewarding and beyond my expectations. I could not thank you enough for the great opportunity.

Nicole Gerard, Visitor Services/Biological
Intern 2011
Friends of Great Swamp NWR



This has been one of the best summers of my adult life. It has been an incredible leap for me to come from Iowa (where I have lived my entire life) and live in New Jersey for three months. This internship has given me more experiences than I had expected. I currently plan to pursue a master's degree in conservation biology in the fall of 2012. The experiences and connections I have made during my three months at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge will help me as I continue further into my career. None of this would have been possible without your generous support.

Frances Owen, Biological Intern,
2011—Mushett Family Foundation

CELEBRATING 15,145 DONATED VOLUNTEER HOURS AT GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The twenty-fifth annual Volunteer & Friends Recognition Event was held on Saturday, June 4, 2011 to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contribution of volunteers and Friends at Great Swamp. This year's event was held in the pavilion at the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center. Over 100 volunteers, Refuge staff, invited guests, and families attended.

Refuge Manager Bill Koch presided with help from new Visitor Services Manager, Jonathan Rosenberg. Attendees enjoyed a buffet dinner and blue goose cake! The 15,145 hours donated between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010 is a new record. Bill thanked the volunteers who are an invaluable resource and are so generous with their time.



500 Hour Awards—(Left to right) Gail Rapaport, Andrew Ferreira, Edythe Risberg (Photo by David Sagan)



1,000 Hour Awards—(Left to right) George Solovay, Nancy Schenck, Susan Garretson Friedman (Photo by David Sagan)

NOTABLE VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

100 HOUR CLUB

Betsy Boles, Georgia Eisenhart, Randi Emmer, Paul Fenske, Jane George, Lorrie Lane, Mariana Hernandez, Claudia Osborn, Shirley Richardson, Elaine Taub, Elaine Weyuker

250 HOUR PIN

DeAndre Augustus, Kim Barrett, Greg Cooper, Betsy Coyne, George Coyne, Randi Emmer, Andrew Ferreira, Bill Filce, Anthony Henahan, Ruth Morgan, Paula O'Briant, Dick Ryan, Alex Schaich-Borg, Emily Thornton, Ruth Zippler

500 HOUR PIN

Kim Barrett, Andrew Ferreira, Anthony Henahan

500 HOUR PIN & PLAQUE

Gail Rapaport, Edythe Risberg

1,000 HOUR PIN & GIFT

Tom Clifford, Susan Garretson Friedman, Jane Kendall, Nancy Schenck, George Solovay

1,500 HOUR PIN

Laura Nally

2,000 HOUR PIN

Pat Giaimo, Louis Pisane

2,500 HOUR PIN

Leo Hollein, Kathy Woodward

4,000 HOUR PIN

Laurel Gould



2,000 Hour & 2,500 Hour Awards—(Left to right) Leo Hollein, Kathy Woodward, Pat Giaimo, Louis Pisane (Photo by David Sagan)

REFUGE VOLUNTEERS DONATE RECORD 15,145 HOURS IN FISCAL YEAR 2010

Listed below are the active volunteers for Fiscal Year 2010 (October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010)

The number in parentheses is the total number of hours contributed since first becoming a volunteer.

Satoka Abe (38)	Paul Fenske (192.5)
James Ahlstrom (28)	Andrew Ferreira (537)
Garry Annibal (5)	Bill Filce (303)
George Apgar (22)	Tom Finan (26.5)
Joann Apgar (149)	Evelyn Fischer (18)
DeAndre Augustus (471.5)	Ralph Fischer (143)
Pete Axelrod (313.5)	Paul Ford (149)
Bill Ayres (410.5)	Joanne Foster (61)
Brenda Ayres (221)	Charlie Friedman (18.5)
Heather Barrett (492.5)	Susan Friedman (1,141.5)
Kim Barrett (530)	Larry Fuhro (72.5)
Austin Bitler (24)	Laura Fuhro (80)
Clay Bitler (24)	Robert Furstner (327.5)
Moir Blake (20.5)	Bob Gaston (6)
Betsy Boles (136.5)	Daniel Gaston (6)
Dennis Branden (968.5)	Jane George (106)
Eloise Branden (330)	Spencer George (55.5)
John Breault (69)	Pat Giaimo (2,173.5)
Bill Burress (133.5)	Lynda Goldschein (6)
Steve Byland (916.5)	Charles Gould (159)
Ann Campbell (14)	Laurel Gould (4,579)
Pat Carruthers (3)	Melissa Grossman (16)
Terry Carruthers (96)	Steve Gruber (401)
Teri Catalano (430.5)	Maggie Hall (3)
George Cevera (493.5)	David Hands (2)
Tom Clifford (1,050)	Sam Hands (5.5)
Janis Cole (3)	Mary Beth Hansbury (36)
Jason Colflesh (2)	Anne Hebenstreit (75)
Mira Colflesh (2)	George Helmke (885)
Garrett Collins (3)	Greg Henderson (141.5)
Sue Collins (9)	Anthony Henahan (522)
Zach Collins (3)	Justin Henry (3.5)
Greg Cooper (453.5)	Stephen Herdman (8.5)
Lora Cooper (40.5)	Mariana Hernandez (114)
Hope Coppinger (3)	Jack Higgins (1,215)
Betsy Coyne (322.5)	Maryann Higgins (64)
George Coyne (259)	Chris Hildebrand (183)
Jonathan Curry (23)	Bob Hofmann (209)
Jennifer Dawson (6)	Leo Hollein (2,822.5)
Dawn Del Guercio (27.5)	Beverly Karcher (4)
Ted Del Guercio (10)	Jane Kendall (1,187)
Lee Delitzscher (76.5)	Missy Klingenburg (3)
Janene DePalo (66.5)	Neil Klingenburg (324)
Jim Detizio (830)	Kathy Kopec (25.5)
Peter Detizio (12)	Shmuel Korengut (19.5)
David Dietz (71)	Bonnie Kushnerick (72)
Rich Dufort (339)	Lorrie Lane (153.5)
May Duttenhoeffer (5)	Caryl Leong (53)
Roger Edwards (291)	Michael Liu (3)
Georgia Eisenhart (120.5)	Ruth Lloyd (460.5)
Randi Emmer (256.5)	Ed Longo (5)
Karen English (989.5)	Ray Lord (181)
Nancy Felicito (678.5)	



Volunteers in the 100 Hour Club receive their permanent name tag!
(Left to right) Elaine Weyuker, Mariana Hernandez, Claudia Osborn, Georgia Eisenhart, Elaine Taub, Paul Fenske, Jane George, Randi Emmer, Lorrie Lane, Dick Ryan (Photo by David Sagan)

Miles Luo (20)	Sandra Pruzansky (111)	Janet Stadelmeier (38.5)
Tom McFadden (7)	Lisa Quartararo (32.5)	Chris Stadtmueller (189.5)
Don McLellan (60.5)	Gail Rapaport (513.5)	Bob Stanton (388)
Jeane McLellan (48.5)	Brian Redick (43)	Matt Steffens (143.5)
Sheldon Mittleman (69.5)	Marjorie Remeika (9)	Roger Story (93.5)
Ruth Morgan (275.5)	Dot Reutlinger (17.5)	Elaine Taub (132)
Bridget Mracek (212.5)	Shirley Richardson (129.5)	Emily Thornton (465)
David Mracek (325.5)	Edythe Risberg (550.5)	Vitina Varone (6.5)
Roz Mytelka (337)	Dick Ryan (270)	Seneca Velling (3)
Joe Nally (220.5)	Mary Sanko (81)	Zach Velling (3)
Laura Nally (1,999.5)	Deb Scala (1,120)	Mary Jane Walsh (179)
Kevin Naranjo (11)	Joe Scala (219.5)	Esther Warner (201)
Melinda Nye (226.5)	Alex Schaich-Borg (485)	Jesse Weiland (3)
Paula O'Brian (488)	Nancy Schenck (1,082)	Elaine Weyuker (101.5)
Lillian O'Brien (478)	Judy Schmidt (4,735.5)	Barbara Whitmore (42)
Wyatt O'Leary (3.5)	Donna Sharpe (7.5)	Chuck Whitmore (956.5)
Sarah Ongaro (36.5)	Nancy Skinner (8.5)	John Wilmot, Sr. (909)
Brian Osborn (31.5)	Jann Slapin (3)	Jeff Wilson (3)
Claudia Osborn (118.5)	Gina Smith (70.5)	Barbara Wingel (389.5)
Hanina Osborn (399)	Bill Smullen (148.5)	Carl Woodward (326.5)
Peter Osborn (90.5)	Dorothy Smullen (2,312.5)	Kathy Woodward (2,981.5)
Tom Ostrand (141)	Mike Snyder (12)	Gavin Wright (3)
Donna Paino (53)	Regina Snyder-Heater (3.5)	Ruth Zippler (309.5)
Candace Paska (362.5)	George Solovay (1,026.5)	
Chris Petrillo (84.5)	George Spiliotis (6.5)	
Gail Petrillo (87.5)		
Louis Pisane (2,338)		
Lori Prosser (178.5)		

12TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL—A GREAT SUCCESS *Photos by Jane Kendall*



Bug Bungalow—Learning where insects live and how they make their homes... One of the many educational and fun activities for kids.

Even though the forecast was ominous and Pleasant Plains Road from the south was closed due to flooding, 600 visitors made their way to the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center for the 12th annual Fall Festival! Eight partners joined the Friends and the Refuge in a day filled with exciting exhibits, interpretive walks, face painting, crafts for kids, heavy equipment, puppet shows, and of course free hot dogs and the new fall crop of apples. Join us next year—Saturday, September 8, 2012!



Volunteer Chris Stadtmueller at the GardenKeepers table where visitors could view the butterfly garden and see Monarchs emerging from a chrysalis—and watch their release.



Junior Refuge Manager Justin Henry, along with his father, Deputy Refuge Manager Steve Henry, led a popular tree identification walk.

REFUGE SYSTEM SETS GOALS FOR NEXT DECADE *By Kathy Woodward*



Steve Henry, Deputy Manager, Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and Kathy Woodward, Friends of Great Swamp NWR were among 1,000 professionals and citizen conservationists who attended the National Wildlife Refuge

System *Conserving the Future* conference in Madison, WI. July 11-14, 2011. The conference—one of the nation's largest gatherings of conservationists—was the culmination of a process to create a reinvigorated vision for the Refuge System. Over the past six months, Americans submitted more than 10,000 comments to the draft vision, posted online at <http://americaswildlife.org>.

Our Friends group was one of more than 100 non-profit Refuge System Friends organizations and partners at the conference. Kathy participated in workshops and facilitated discussion about the future direction of the Refuge System.

The Refuge System, managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the nation's largest network of federal lands and waters dedicated to the protection of wildlife and the habitat on which it depends. The Refuge System is composed of 553 national wildlife refuges covering 150 million acres. More than 44 million people visit wildlife refuges each year.

The new vision will help the Refuge System implement the best wildlife conservation practices guided by the latest science. The Refuge System's new vision recognizes the rapid social and environmental changes and the need to anticipate and respond to these factors.

NEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2011 TO MARCH 2012 NOW AVAILABLE

Check out the new Calendar of Events—we've kept many of the regular programs but we've added some new ones you won't want to miss! The popular Second Sunday programs will continue but we've added: 1st Thursdays—Nature on Film, a movie and discussion (bring your own "green bag" lunch); and 1st Sunday Refuge Rambles, informal hour-long

guided walks with staff or volunteers; and 4th Sundays, Let's go exploring with Ranger Dave—indoor/outdoor programs geared to children with a new topic each month. Download the Calendar from our website or stop by the Visitor Center and pick up a copy. There's something for everyone!

FALL FESTIVAL VISITORS ENJOY A SNEAK PEEK OF THE NEW NATURE DETECTIVE TRAIL



It's been two years of planning and hard work by many volunteers and Refuge staff, and it's not quite done yet, but the Nature Detective Trail opened for a first look by visitors at the Fall Festival on September 10.

This is a trail that is meant to encourage young children to use their senses and find out more about nature—up close and personal. There are no “Do Not Touch” signs on this trail. Children are encouraged to smell, touch, turn over, and explore using their senses of smell, touch, hearing, and of course sight.

Eleven colorful signs help explain what's important. Then there are recycled pieces of slate each painted with life-sized tracks of birds and animals that can be seen on the refuge. The trail winds through the woods with interpretive stops along the way, each challenging children to learn more by touching, feeling, smelling, listening, and looking closely.

Sure there's more to be done. But take a look at the comments heard at Fall Festival and you'll think, like we do, that the Nature Detective Trail is already fulfilling its vision!



Nature's Recyclers: Be a nature detective—turn over a log. Look for beetles, ants, worms...

*“Is that red fungi real?
That is so cool!”*



This colorful sign encourages children to touch and feel tree bark—is it smooth, shaggy, bumpy, rough, or full of ridges? The shagbark hickory tree is right nearby for a close-up look and feel!

“Wow, I never felt bark like this before!”



Other comments from the guided tours of the Nature Detective Trail on September 10...

Kids were running ahead to discover the next woodland footprint slate:

“Look, another track!”

At the “Made in the Shade” stop: *“I like feeling the moss. I didn't know it was so soft.”*

At the “Earth Music” stop where you're encouraged to listen for bird or frog sounds... *“I hear the mosquitoes.”*

At the “Ready! Set! Grow!” stop where visitors are introduced to various forms of seeds and seed packages, including jewelweed seed pods:

“I never knew flowers could explode!”

And more...

“I like how this plant smells.”

“Dad, these are the coolest fossils!”

“Look at the size of that worm. I never saw such a big one.”

“Wow—can we visit again next season?”



Bear footprints on slate—one of many woodland creature slates placed along the trail.

“Look Dad, the bear's footprint is as big as mine!”

PETER H. B. FRELINGHUYSEN—A CHAMPION IN THE BATTLE TO SAVE GREAT SWAMP

By Laura Nally

On May 23, 2011, Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen Jr. died at his home at the age of 95. The Frelinghuysen family has a long and distinctive history of public service in New Jersey. Peter exemplified this commitment by serving 11 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives until his retirement in 1975. During his time in Washington, he served on the Education and Labor Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. One of his most significant contributions however, was the role he played in helping create Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge when the Port Authority of New York announced plans to build a fifth area jetport on 10,000 acres in Morris County.

On December 3, 1959 the headline of the Newark Evening News read: "PLANS JETPORT IN MORRIS COUNTY". At the news of the threat to their community and lifestyle, there was significant local opposition to the plan. Congressman Frelinghuysen immediately began coordinating the opposition to the jetport. "He sent telegrams to fifty-three state and local officials in four counties asking them to meet on December 17, 1959 at the Chatham firehouse to discuss ways to deal with the immediate threat." At that meeting, an anti-jetport committee was established consisting of private citizens and local officials. Thus the Jersey Jetport Association was created. This committee was instrumental in preventing the Port Authority from imposing its will on the community. Peter Frelinghuysen participated personally in the initial hearings with the Port Authority and New Jersey Governor Robert Meyer on the justification for the jetport.

In 1961 the Jersey Jetport Association was disbanded. In its place the Great Swamp Committee was created. Peter Frelinghuysen supported the movement throughout the cam-

paign and attended the dinner with Secretary of Interior Stuart Udall when he accepted the initial 2,081 acres as part of the National Wildlife Refuge system. On February 17, 1967 a public hearing was held to discuss the proposal to declare a portion of the Great Swamp as Wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964. There were so many people interested in the meeting they had to move it to a larger venue. Congressman Frelinghuysen spoke in favor of the wilderness status at this meeting. On April 25, 1968, Congressman Frelinghuysen introduced "A Bill to Designate the Great Swamp as Wilderness" (H.R. 16771) which was cosponsored by every member of the New Jersey congressional delegation. While passage was not without controversy, President Lyndon Johnson signed it into law on September 30, 1968.

While the initial 3,000 acres were protected, it was felt that the mechanism to raise funds to acquire land could be valuable for the conservation movement in New Jersey. On October 13, 1964, 11 people including Peter H. B. Frelinghuysen signed the incorporation for the Great Swamp Conservation Foundation. This organization continued to support the Great Swamp but eventually broadened its focus and became the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

Peter Frelinghuysen used his significant influence and love of the area to preserve the land that became Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Without his support the outcome could have been very different.

Note: Quotes and most of the facts in this article are from the excellent and comprehensive history of the Great Swamp:

Saving the Great Swamp, by Cam Cavanaugh, c1978.

The Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge would like to thank the Frelinghuysen Family for designating our organization as a recipient of memorial gifts in memory of Peter H.B. Frelinghuysen Jr. We would also like to express our appreciation for all of the generous donations that we have received in memory of Congressman Frelinghuysen.

GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF, AND IN HONOR OF, PETER H. B. FRELINGHUYSEN, JR.

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

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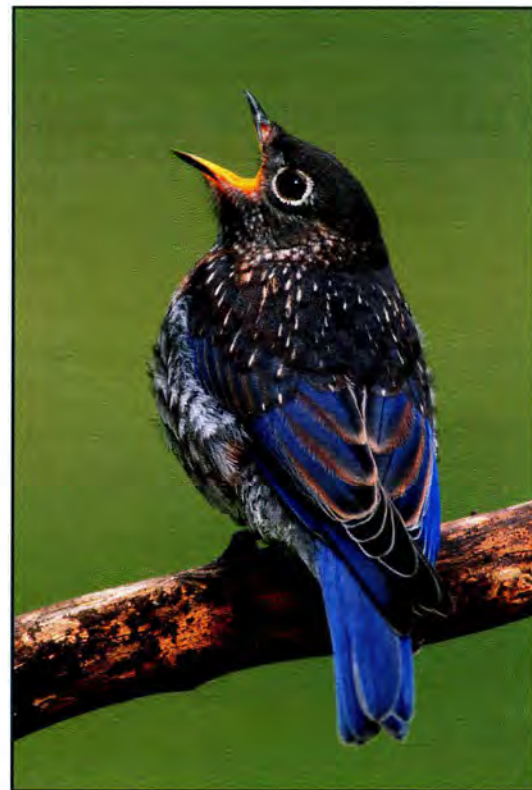
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Is an independent, volunteer, non-profit organization
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Promoting stewardship of the natural resources of the Refuge,

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